



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: November 16, 2021

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

4/5 Vote Required

**Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California,
Adopting the Sonoma County Cannabis Equity Assessment and Creating the Sonoma County
Cannabis Local Equity Program Pursuant to the California Cannabis Equity Act of 2018.**

Whereas, a wide range of cannabis activities have had a strong presence in Sonoma County for decades, with large amount of cultivation, eradication efforts by law enforcement, and medical cannabis activism; and

Whereas, the past criminalization of cannabis has had an impact on Sonoma County communities and residents and there is a need for the creation of an equity program that provides assistance to qualifying local equity applicants; and

Whereas, Sonoma County's Latinx and low-income populations have been disproportionately impacted by enforcement related to cannabis criminalization and the War on Drugs, yet those populations make up an increasing small portion of the County's legal cannabis industry; and

Whereas, Sonoma County's legacy small cultivation applicants have been disproportionately impacted by bottlenecks in the County's permitting process including organized neighbor opposition, the need to relocate, and high capital barriers to entry inclusive of the price of compliant real estate in the County; and

Whereas, the mounting inequity and economic problems related to the local cannabis businesses have had a significant negative impact on the county's population and overall economy; and

Whereas, the Board of Supervisors finds that supporting small scale and marginalized cultivators is necessary to improving the overall health, safety, and welfare of the County as a whole; and

Whereas, the California Cannabis Equity Act (SB 1294) was enacted to ensure that persons most harmed by cannabis criminalization and poverty be offered assistance to enter the multibillion dollar cannabis industry; and

Whereas, Sonoma County seeks to focus its cannabis local equity program on assisting small scale cannabis cultivators to overcome the identified barriers to entry, and build support for longer term viability through activities and implementation of supportive services; and

Whereas, the Board of Supervisors desires to use grant funds from the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) to assist local equity applicants and licensees through a new local equity program for commercial cannabis activities as described in its application for grant funds.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopts the Sonoma County Cannabis Local Equity Assessment, attached as Exhibit A, to focus on inclusion and support of individuals and communities in Sonoma County's cannabis industry who are linked to populations or neighborhoods that were negatively or disproportionately impacted by cannabis criminalization and who represent small legacy cultivators disproportionately impacted by high barriers to entry.
2. Creates the Sonoma County Cannabis Local Equity Program.

Supervisors:

Gorin: Rabbitt: Coursey: Gore: Hopkins:

Ayes: Noes: Absent: Abstain:

So Ordered.