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MUSKEGON SOCIAL EQUITY PROGRAM

EFFECTIVE: October 2024



The City of Muskegon is dedicated to giving back to the community. We are offering grant and loan opportunities to those who have been affected by marihuana-related criminal charges in the past and need help funding education, training, business expenses, marihuana facility equipment, and marihuana facility licenses. We are also offering a façade grant program to commercial properties within one (1) mile of a marihuana related business, to upgrade the look and function, by encouraging tenant businesses or building owners to make exterior improvements. These improvements will enhance the individual property's value; and uplift the block in which the property is located.

Please complete the information below, select one of the following programs on pages 2-6, and complete the information for that program. Completed application should be turned in to the Planning Department at City Hall, 933 Terrace Street, Room 202, Muskegon, Michigan 49440, or email the application to:

planning@shorelinecity.com

Please include the following documents with your application

- For proof of residency:
 - Driver's License or State ID
- For proof of conviction (one of the following):
 - Judgement of Sentence
 - Order on Application to Set Aside Conviction, if expunged
 - Other conviction documents (documents must include name and marihuana conviction)
- For the Marihuana License Grant, please provide proof of Michigan Social Equity Program approval
- For the Façade Grant please provide the following:
 - Photos
 - Project Plans
 - Two Competitive Bids

Additional Information:

- Applicant is not eligible if they have any non-marihuana related felonies within the past 5 years
- Expenses may not be incurred before the application is approved

| CONTACT INFORMATION | | |
|---------------------|--|--------|
| Applicant Name: | | |
| | | |
| Address: | | |
| | | |
| Phone Number: | | Email: |
| | | |
| Signature: | | Date: |
| | | |



Education/Training Scholarship

Applicants may receive up to \$5,000 in educational scholarships for any type of career/industry. The educational costs (i.e., tuition, job skills training) will be paid with grant funds upon completion of the courses/training. Applicants attending a college or university must have filed a Free Application Federal Student Aid and received eligible federal aid, this scholarship is intended to cover a portion of the balance. The applicant must pass the course to be eligible for reimbursement.

Name of College/University/Training Program:

| Course/Training Title | Credit Hours | Cost of Tuition | Begin Date | End Date |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------|----------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Total Cost: | | | | |
| Amount of Federal Aid: | | | | |
| Total Cost after Federal Aid Applied: | | | | |



City of Muskegon Social Equity Program

Marihuana Industry Training Scholarship

Eligibility: Applicants must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- You are a current resident of the City and have been a resident for at least five cumulative years.
- You are a current resident of the City and have had a misdemeanor conviction of a marihuana-related offense (or had a parent have a previous low-level marihuana conviction while in school).
- You are a current resident of the City and you were registered as a caregiver under the MMMA for at least two years.

Applicants may receive up to \$5,000 in training toward a career in the marihuana industry. Institutions providing courses will be vetted by City staff. Scholarships will either work as a reimbursement payment to the applicant or will be paid directly to the institution to cover the cost of the training upfront.

If necessary, describe your previous low-level marihuana conviction (including date of conviction):

Name and Cost of Training Program:



City of Muskegon Social Equity Program

Business Start-Up Grant

Eligibility: Applicants must have had a previous low-level marihuana conviction (or had a parent have a previous low-level marihuana conviction while in school) to be eligible.

Applicants may receive up to \$5,000 in assistance towards hard costs (i.e., equipment, etc.), soft costs (i.e., business plan development, architecture fees, engineered drawings, formative business documents, business training courses, etc.) or rental assistance associated with opening a business in the City. The grant will be paid by reimbursement after the applicant provides receipt of payment for the related costs.

Describe your previous low-level marihuana conviction (including date of conviction):

Describe you proposed business (including proposed location):

Describe the soft costs associated with opening your proposed business for which you seek to be reimbursed:

| Item: | Cost: |
|--------------------|-------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| Total Cost: | |



City of Muskegon Social Equity Program

Business Start-Up Loan

Eligibility: Applicants must have been a resident of the City of Muskegon at least 12 months out of the past 48 months and have had a previous low-level marihuana conviction (or had a parent have a previous low-level marihuana conviction while in school) to be eligible.

Applicants may receive interest-free gap loans up to \$25,000 to supplement traditional financing with a third party. All loans must be paid back within 60 months.

Describe your previous low-level marihuana conviction (including date of conviction):

Describe you proposed business (including proposed location):

Amount of Loan Requested (not to exceed \$25,000):

Duration of Load Requested (not to exceed 60 months):

Describe the need for funding and how the loan will be used:

This loan must be used in conjunction with traditional financing. Describe what other methods of financing are being used to fund the project.



City of Muskegon Social Equity Program

Marihuana License Grant

Eligibility: Applicants must have been a resident of the City of Muskegon for at least 12 months out of the past 48 months and designated as a social equity applicant by the State of Michigan*.

Applicants may receive up to \$10,000 in assistance for the fees associated with obtaining a local or state marihuana license. For local application fees, a credit will be given to the applicant, waiving the \$5,000 application fee (fee waived for the first year only). For State license fees, the grant will be paid by reimbursement after the applicant provides receipt of payment for the State application fee.

*To be designated as a social equity applicant by the State of Michigan (application found at www.michigan.gov), an individual must meet one of the following criteria:

- Residency – Residency in a disproportionately impacted community for at least 5 cumulative years.
- Marihuana Conviction – Conviction of a marihuana-related offense.
- Caregiver Status – Registration as a primary caregiver under the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act.

Describe your previous low-level marihuana conviction (including date of conviction):

Describe you proposed business (including proposed location):

Grant Amount Requested (not to exceed \$10,000):

Describe the need for funding and how the loan will be used:



City of Muskegon Social Equity Program

2024-2025 Building Façade Improvement Grant Guidelines

Goal:

To upgrade the look and function of commercial buildings within one mile of any City of Muskegon licensed marihuana business by encouraging tenant businesses or building owners to make exterior improvements. These improvements will enhance the individual property's value; reduce blight, and beautify our commercial corridors.

Available Funding:

Funding is provided by the Muskegon Social Equity Program (MSEP). The MSEP is funded through revenues received from the Marihuana Retailers Excise Tax. Please note that funds are available on a rolling basis and are not guaranteed. This program is first-come-first-serve and once funds are depleted grant applications will no longer be accepted.

Terms:

The Building Façade Improvement Grants are for up to \$10,000. This is a reimbursement-oriented program to ensure that the proposed work is done appropriately and consistent with the character of the neighboring area. Funds are available on a first-come-first-serve basis and must receive approval from the Planning Department before any money is spent. Two competitive bids are required at the time of application.

Eligibility:

- Located within one mile of a City of Muskegon Marihuana Retailer
- The property must be either a commercial, industrial business or non-profit
- The property must be current on all taxes
- All required permits must be obtained (if necessary)
- All City regulations and ordinances must be followed
- A timeframe of all proposed work must be included at the time of application



City of Muskegon Social Equity Program

2024-2025 Building Façade Improvement Grant Application

Applicant Name:

Business Address:

Email:

Project Address:

Phone:

Parcel Number:

Requested Amount:

Total Façade Project Cost:

Statement of Intent/Need for Funding:

Description of Project (Attach: Photos, Project Plans, & Two Competitive Bids):

Project Timeline/Estimated Completion Date:

By signing the grant application, if awarded, the applicant commits to future property maintenance and certifies the ability to fund the project to completion before grant fund reimbursements are made.

Applicant Signature & Date:

