

About the Good to Grow Grants Program

Where does this money come from?

Nevada County has received funding from the California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz). The County Board of Supervisors has instructed the Cannabis Compliance Division (CCD), and contracted with Sierra Business Council (SBC,) to distribute these funds to local cannabis growers and business owners.

How much funding is available through this program?

The 2025 Good to Grow Grant Program includes \$444,000 in funding.

Will I need to pay any of the money back? Is this a grant or a loan?

This is a grant program, not a loan, so you will not need to pay the money back. The only exception is if you do not use all the funds, or if you do not use them in the manner stated on your application.

What are the sizes of the awards?

Funds will be split evenly amongst qualified applicants and are expected to be around \$5,000.

What can funds be spent on?

Grant funds can be used to support a broad variety of associated business and operational costs, as well as local and state permitting costs. These funds may also cover state and county fees, services of qualified professionals for site planning, development cost, or required studies fees. Applicants must use grant funds for the purposes listed in your application and may be required to submit receipts upon request.

Are funds allocated on a first come, first served basis for qualified applicants?

No. While applications will be evaluated as they are submitted, due to the nature of allocating the grant funds, final award amounts will not be set or distributed until after the application period has closed on October 30th at 5p.m. PST and SBC can determine the total number of qualified applicants.

Eligibility

How do I know if I'm eligible for funding?

Before applying, everyone must go through an eligibility screening process, which will determine whether or not they are eligible to apply. If you are deemed eligible, then you will be automatically directed to the application. You can begin the eligibility screening and application process when the grant opens.

If you are deemed eligible, you will be automatically directed to the application. If you are deemed ineligible, you will not be able to proceed to the application. If you believe you have been deemed ineligible in error, after reviewing the eligibility criteria below please call Sierra Business Council at 530-582-4800 x123 for assistance.

Eligibility requirements for the 2025 Good to Grow Grant Program:

Applicants must meet one of the below “basic” eligibility criteria, as well as be the authorized representative or owner of a cultivation site in unincorporated Nevada County.

Eligibility Criteria:

- **Conviction and/or Arrest:**
 - Any individual who has obtained or applied for a commercial cannabis permit in Nevada County, or who has worked in or currently works in the cannabis industry and was arrested and/or convicted of a non-violent cannabis-related offense or was subject to asset forfeiture arising from a cannabis-related event.
- **Family Conviction and/or Arrest:**
 - Have a parent, sibling, or child who was arrested for or convicted of the sale, possession, use, manufacture, or cultivation of cannabis (including as a juvenile).
- **Low Income Status:**
 - Any individual and/or entity that has obtained or applied for a commercial cannabis permit, and the permit is for a business located in an area in Nevada County with a poverty rate higher than the State of California, or any individual who can demonstrate their annual income is below the Nevada County median income of \$87,200

Applying for the Grant

How do I apply?

You can apply online at the Sierra Business Council Grants Portal, which will be posted here on Sep 30th at 10am.

When does the application open? What is the deadline?

The application period opens on September 30th at 10am. The period will close on October 30th at 5pm, after which no applications will be accepted. This is NOT a “first come, first served” program, so you can complete your application at any time before the deadline. You can save your in-progress application, so it does not need to be completed in one sitting. Please take your time to complete the application. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted.

Does the application save once I have started it?

Your application will AUTOMATICALLY save once you start it. You can leave the application or close the browser at any point, and the application will be automatically saved when you return.

You can also click the “SAVE APPLICATION” button at the bottom of the form to see a summary of your in-progress application.

Do I have to apply online?

All applications must be filled out online. No physical applications will be accepted. Applications can be filled out with a mobile phone. If you need help accessing a computer with Internet access, please visit your local library for free access.

How can I get help with my application?

If you need assistance, you can contact Sierra Business Council, the grant administrator, at 530-582-4800 x123 or grants@sierrabusiness.org.

I have multiple licenses covering multiple locations, can I apply more than once?

Applicants are treated as individuals, not as licenses. If you hold multiple licenses or permits, please select *one* to include in your application. Individuals are only eligible for one grant.

If I’m declined, may I reapply?

You may not reapply if your application is declined. Please make sure you complete the application accurately and completely. A decline will likely be for ineligibility or incomplete applications. Please see eligibility information above.

What documentation will I need to submit my application?

You will need to submit an IRS form W-9, as SBC must issue 1099s to grantees. If you need to create a W-9, you can click to fill out a blank W-9 Form [in English](#) or [in Spanish](#).

Do applicants receive confirmation that they submitted their application?

Yes, you will receive a confirmation email upon submission of your application.

Applying for the Grant

Are funds allocated on a first-come, first-served basis for qualified applicants?

No. While applications will be evaluated as they are submitted, due to the nature of allocating the grant funds, final award amounts will not be set or distributed until after the application period has closed on October 30th at 5pm PST and SBC can determine the total number of qualified applicants.

How will applications be selected to receive funding?

All applications received between September 30th and October 30th at 5pm Pacific Time WILL be considered. This is NOT a “first come first served” program. Applications will be evaluated, with the grant funds to be distributed between all applicants *found eligible* according to the manner described above.

Receiving Grant Funds

How will I be contacted or know if I will receive a grant?

You will be notified by email in early to mid November. Be sure to check your email regularly, including your spam folders. Emails to applicants will come from Sierra Business Council or Nevada County Good to Grow Grant Program <administrator@grantinterface.com>.

Will I be contacted if I do not receive a grant?

Yes, you will be notified by email whether or not you receive a grant.

If I am selected to receive a grant, how much money will I get?

If you are deemed eligible under the basic criteria for the 2025 Good to Grow program, you will receive a grant amount based on the total applicants eligible for the award.

How will I receive funds?

A paper check will be sent to the MAILING Address on your application.

Am I required to set up a new bank account specifically for these funds?

No.

Will there be more grants available in the future?

It is the intent of the Nevada County Cannabis Compliance Division to apply for similar funding from California agencies. If Nevada County CCD is awarded such funds in the future, it may run a second round of grants, possibly with different criteria.

Is my small business taxed on this grant?

Neither SBC nor the Good to Grow Grant Program can provide tax advice to those who receive payments, particularly given the sensitive nature of cannabis finances. The administrators recommend that claimants consult with personal tax advisors for any questions regarding tax liability for these payments. Any taxes associated with accepting or using the grant funds are the responsibility of the awardee.

Using Grant Funding

If my business receives a grant, what can I use the money for? What can't I use the money for?

GO-Biz funds can be used to support associated business and operational costs, local and state permitting costs. These funds may also include state and county fees, county, services of qualified professionals for site planning, development cost, or required studies fees.

What's required of me if I receive a grant? Are there any strings attached?

You must use the grant funds for the purposes listed in your application. Funds may not be used for a different business or personal expenses. Funding is not transferable. Receipts may be required upon request.

Do I have to pay the money back, like a loan?

No. The funds you receive are a grant, not a loan, and do not need to be paid back.

Other Questions

If I have questions after reading this FAQ, what do I do?

If you need assistance, you can contact Sierra Business Council, the grant administrator, at grants@sierrabusiness.org