

Cannabis Program



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Social Equity & Education Development (SEED) Initiatives

Launched in 2016, SEED Initiatives is supported by an ongoing \$1 million in cannabis tax revenue allocation and is a vehicle for single-source monitoring, measuring, and reporting on the city's cannabis tax revenue.

Portland City Council's decision to allocate ongoing funding to SEED Initiatives is one small step toward rectifying past racially-biased cannabis policies and disparate cannabis-related arrests. This commitment has the potential to begin to repair the lasting legal, social, economic, and inter-generational injuries past cannabis prohibition has had on Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color.

The SEED Grant Fund supports nonprofit and for-profit entities working on a range of projects, programs, and services within education, entrepreneurship, economic development, and record expungement for past cannabis convictions.

In alignment with the Ballot Measure 26-180 passed in 2016, the SEED Grant Fund prioritizes BIPOC-led and women-led small business initiatives and projects, programs or services that support economic and educational development of Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color, which were most impacted by cannabis prohibition.

Since the launch of SEED Grant, it has funded over three million dollars across a range of projects, programs, and services within the following designated priority areas:

Education

- Youth Training & Development
- Workforce Development
- Community Education
- Health Education
- STEAMM Education

Expungement

- Criminal justice reform projects and services
- Legal services and case management support
- Re-entry housing support and services

Entrepreneurship & Economic Development

- Business incubation & acceleration
- Business Support for Entrepreneurs
- Co-Working Spaces
- Networking & Mentorship

SEED Grant Projects Funded to Date

- Friends of Zenger Farms: The Building Portland's Food Justice Leaders project, developed by and for women of color who live primarily east of 82nd avenue, aims to eliminate barriers and provide direct access to land and nourishing fresh food for low-income Black and Brown people in Portland.
- Oregon Expungement Relief Project (OERP): OERP is committed to mitigating the impacts of racial bias and disparities in the criminal justice system impacting BIPOC and low-income communities in Oregon.

"This is vital work as we dismantle inequitable systems locally – in this case policies that historically punished Black, Indigenous, and Communities of Color for possessing and using Cannabis. Through SEED Initiatives, we are rebuilding new systems that will ensure Portlanders previously harmed by systemic racism will financially benefit from new policies. This is a historic moment for Portland as we transform our government to build equitable policies and programs for all communities, especially communities of color who continue to experience systemic racial inequities."

-Jo Ann Hardesty,
City Council Commissioner



2018 and 2019 SEED Grant recipient, Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center (POIC) helped to fund their Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program which prepares young adults of color and those from low-income communities for full-time construction apprenticeships and jobs in the construction industry.

- Jim Pepper Native Arts Council: Speak/Sing Native™ is an after-school music education program for grades 9-12 that aims to reduce both dropout and suicide rates, and to radically transform the educational experience of Native students and their non-Native peers.
- Building Blocks to Success (BB2S): BB2S is an in-school and after-school program that engages youth from underserved communities in unique opportunities to learn about STEM through the exciting world of LEGO Robotics. Students participate in hands-on activities and learn in-depth robotics principles by applying them to building and programming robots to complete challenging tasks. The organization primarily serves youth ages 4-14 identified as underserved, lower economic status, and have a priority focus on youth of color.
- Voz: Provides day laborers training to grow their soft skills such as teamwork, work ethic, and conflict resolution.
- Mink'a Program: Provides access to therapy, attorneys, mentorship, and after-school programs for Latinx youth who have been arrested for minor offenses or youth who are already in criminal justice system and their families.

The SEED Grant Fund is the City's start in acknowledging and addressing the decades of harm caused to communities of color by cannabis stigma and criminalization. Visit the SEED Initiatives website for more information: www.portland.gov/civic/cannabis/seed

Additional Questions?

Contact the Cannabis Program at SEED@portlandoregon.gov or website www.portland.gov/civic/cannabis/seed

Promote the Common Good: Civic Life is building stronger communities by supporting and em-powering Portlanders. We think, act, and partner with our communities to better understand and take care of their diverse needs. We invite you to join us in this continuous, much needed work to make our communities safer and more welcoming for all.

