

Social Equity & Education Development (SEED) Initiatives



Reinvesting in Portland Communities

Launched in 2017, SEED Initiatives is supported by an ongoing \$1 million in local cannabis tax revenue allocation and is a vehicle for single-source monitoring, measuring, and reporting on the city's cannabis tax revenue.

The SEED Initiatives supports the highest return on equity investment for the City's total cannabis tax revenue, prioritizing investment into historically disadvantaged communities. At its core is the SEED Grant Fund, which aims to aid, strengthen, and serve restorative justice, community reinvestment, and wealth creation in Black, Indigenous and other communities of color, which have been disproportionately impacted by over 80 years of cannabis prohibition. The grant's three priority areas are education, entrepreneurship and economic development, and social justice.

In the five cycles of the grant program, the SEED Grant Fund (formerly Cannabis Social Equity Grant) has awarded more than \$5.3M through more than 50 grants funding a range of projects, programs, and services.

SEED Initiatives Grants

Each year, \$1 million in cannabis tax revenue provides grants for nonprofits and businesses repairing the disproportionate harm cannabis prohibition has caused to Black, Latinx, and Indigenous communities.

The grant funds programs supporting the following areas:

- Education development
- Entrepreneurship and economic development
- Social justice

The image on the right shows an Elevate Oregon Teacher/Mentor celebrating her 5th grade students making the leap to middle school. Elevate Oregon works with students from 3rd grade up to high school graduation to help students achieve academic and personal success.

Their program helps students understand the requirements for graduation and plan their own path to post-secondary success.



Previous SEED Grant Recipients

Constructing Hope: Constructing Hope provides no-cost, ten-week foundational training in skilled construction trades, life skills, blueprint reading, and safety to Portland residents who are 100% low-income, 80% BIPOC, and 60% coming from the criminal justice system. Constructing Hope is also a 2022 grant recipient.

Portland Playhouse: Portland Playhouse's educational programs have made space for over 8,300 youth to share stories. Their work speaks to some of the most pressing issues facing BIPOC communities.

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.



SEED Public-Private Partnerships

Through public-private partnerships, our program can grow and continue to expand funding and resources. Current partners include Prosper Portland, which administers the Cannabis Business Development (CBD) program.

If your company is interested in partnering with SEED Initiatives, please reach out to the SEED Initiatives Coordinator at SEED@portlandoregon.gov.

SEED Technical Assistance Program

Expected to launch in 2023, SEED's Technical Assistance Program will provide City-funded technical and business support for grant recipients. The program will provide grant recipients opportunities for free or low-cost business basics education, while also helping SEED recipients remain compliant with their grant agreement reporting requirements.

If you or your company provides business services are interested in being included in our list of SEED providers/vendors, please reach out to the SEED Coordinator at SEED@portlandoregon.gov.

To find out more about the program, please visit our website: portland.gov/civic/cannabis/seed

Promote the Common Good: The Office of Community & Civic Life is building stronger communities by supporting and empowering 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. Find out more: www.portland.gov/civic