

Cannabis Regulatory Commission

Regular Meeting

Thursday August 7, 2025, 6:30 pm

1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, City Hall, Council Chambers
Oakland, CA 94612

AGENDA

Reminder: This meeting will take place in person. Members of the public can observe and participate remotely via zoom as well.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION INSTRUCTIONS

TO OBSERVE:

When: **Aug 7, 2025 06:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

Topic: **CRC Meeting**

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88260148706>

Phone one-tap:

+16699006833,,84447716065# US (San Jose) 14086380968,,84447716065# US
+(San Jose)

Webinar ID: **882 6014 8706**

International numbers available: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/kdlHAwhdTK>

After calling any of these phone numbers, if you are asked for a participant ID or code, press #. Instructions on how to join a meeting by phone are available at: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362663>, which is a webpage entitled “Joining a Meeting By Phone.”

TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT: There are two ways to make public comment within the time allotted for public comment on an eligible Agenda item.

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Questions or concerns regarding this agenda, or to review any agenda-related materials, please contact the Cannabis Regulatory Commission at (510) 238-6370.

If you have any questions about these protocols, please e-mail Kat Torio, at ktorio@oaklandca.gov

Members:

Samantha Sage	District 1	Hellen Harvey	District 7
M. Chaz Walker	District 2	Vacant	At Large
Vacant	District 3	Yulie Padmore	Mayor
Tariq Ikharo	District 4	TiYanna L. Smith	City Auditor
Linda Grant	District 5	Vacant	City Administrator
Vacant	District 6		

Available on-line at: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/boards-commissions/cannabis-regulatory-commission>

MEETING AGENDA

- A. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum
- B. Approval of the Draft Minutes from the CRC Meeting on March 13 and June 5, 2025
- C. Reports for Discussion and Possible Action
 - 1. Update on CRC's Annual Report to the City Council
 - 2. Special Meetings & Subcommittee Status
 - 3. Go Biz 6 Report
 - 4. Implementation Update on State Grants
- D. Review of the Pending List and Additions to Next Month's Agenda
- E. Open Forum / Public Comment
- F. Announcements
 - 1. Update on Cannabis Permitting Process
 - 2. Apply to serve on CRC here:
<https://oakland.granicus.com/boards/w/8552f8c4c0e15460/boards/6697>
- G. Adjournment

Cannabis Regulatory Commission

Special Meeting

Thursday March 13, 2025, 6:30 pm
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, City Hall, Hearing Room 2
Oakland, CA 94612

MINUTES

Reminder: This meeting will take place in person. Members of the public can observe and participate remotely via zoom as well.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION INSTRUCTIONS

TO OBSERVE:

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81123074108>

Phone one-tap:
+16694449171,,81123074108# US
+16699006833,,81123074108# US (San Jose)

Webinar ID: 811 2307 4108

International numbers available: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/kdlHAwhdTK>

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M. Chaz Walker	District 2	Vacant	At Large
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Vacant	District 6		

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MEETING AGENDA

- A. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum
Present Members, Sage, Walker, Gayner, Ikharo, Grant, Harvey, Padmore and Smith
- B. Approval of the Draft Minutes from the CRC Meeting on January 9, 2025
Chair Smith made motion to approve minutes, second by Member Walker, motion passed unanimously
- C. Reports for Discussion and Possible Action
1. Form 700 Filers Training by City of the Clerk's Office- *No questions for the presenter*
 2. Request for CRC's Annual Report to the City Council –*Public comment Dale Sky Jones from Oaksterdam requested that the report include a request for tax relief and to not increase the excise tax from 15% to 19%. Member Sage offered to assist in the crafting of the commissions annual report. Member Smith suggested tax increases be an item to discuss at April meeting. Chair Smith suggested a shared work doc for members to work on collectively, City Administrator staff agreed.*
 3. Case 4 Cannabis (C4C) Update- *City staff made the commission aware that the contract for C4C has been discontinued but the City is hopeful to reinstate the program if funding becomes available. Member Walker asked if the intellectual property of the program could be shared. City Staff stated they recommended reviewing their website and the annual report and reaching out to C4C to discuss access to the curriculum. VC Walker made a motion to request C4C make a presentation at the April meeting, seconded by Member Sage. The motion passed unanimously. No public comment on this item.*
 4. Special Meetings & Subcommittee Status- *City Staff alerted Commissioner that they only need to be aligned with the Brown Act and the Sunshine Ordinance when meeting outside the regular monthly meeting. Commissioners discussed complications in the industry with the increased activity of the illicit markets through sessions. Member Ikharo stated the sales tax is a major barrier to growth of the cannabis industry. Member Grant stated the sessions are thriving in the community and may or may not want to be legal as there are too many barriers in the legal market. Member Gayner agreed taxes are too high. Member Padmore reiterated the need for staff to focus on cannabis. Asked what does the department of cannabis support and a subcommittee can grow the amount of people involved. Member Walker also would like to support the need for a subcommittee, stated business support and training and establishing international relations which could help build a solid industry as cannabis sister cities. Padmore stated connecting with veteran cannabis communities for establishing the variety of services for multiple types of business outside of those that already exist. Chair Smith requested an update on Greg's replacement. City Staff updated the Commission. Public speaker Robert Jenkins who stated the illicit market is heavily impacting the industry in Oakland. Requested more support from enforcement on this issue. Member Gayner asked about the enforcement procedures in place for cannabis. City Staff outlined the current process. Chair Smith asked for a roll call on interest in the subcommittee. Members, Walker, Grant, and Padmore elected to join. Member Sage reminded the Commissioner to adhere to Measure Z in their future actions.*

5. Implementation Update on State Grants - Go Biz 6 Announcement- *City staff presented changes in the grant report and announced Go-Biz 6 award. Member Sage offered to be a resource to help with the content creation for marketing to aid Equity businesses. Chair Smith and member Padmore asked for clarity on the staff portion of the grant. City Staff explained the usage and allotment.*

D. Review of the Pending List and Additions to Next Month's Agenda

- *Invitation to Oaksterdam – Chair Smith made a motion to invite Oaksterdam to the April meeting, seconded by VC Walker. The motion passed unanimously.*

E. Open Forum / Public Comment – *Public comment Dale Sky Jones offered that through March 31st technical assistance is still available to cannabis businesses. Robert Jenkins stated Oakland equity operators are resilient but need support to maintain their businesses. City Staff announced D2 CM Kaplan has asked to come before the Commission to present Resolution amendment pertaining to onsite consumption. Chair Smith made a motion to invite CM Kaplan to the April meeting, seconded by VC Walker. The motion passed unanimously.*

F. Announcements

1. Update on Cannabis Permitting Process – *City Staff updated Commissioner on Accela status*
2. Cannabis Café Onsite Consumption Update - *City Staff updated Commissioner on cannabis café status*
3. Apply to serve on CRC here: <https://oakland.granicus.com/boards/w/8552f8c4c0e15460/boards/6697>

G. Adjournment

Cannabis Regulatory Commission

Regular Meeting

Thursday June 5, 2025, 6:30 pm
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, City Hall, Council Chambers
Oakland, CA 94612

MINUTES

Reminder: This meeting will take place in person. Members of the public can observe and participate remotely via zoom as well.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION INSTRUCTIONS

TO OBSERVE:

When: **Jun 5, 2025 06:30 PM** Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Topic: **CRC Meeting**

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85977546146>

Phone one-tap:

+16694449171,,85977546146# US

+16699006833,,85977546146# US (San Jose)

Webinar ID: **859 7754 6146**

International numbers available: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/kc4gcoocU8>

After calling any of these phone numbers, if you are asked for a participant ID or code, press #. Instructions on how to join a meeting by phone are available at: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362663>, which is a webpage entitled "Joining a Meeting By Phone."

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MEETING AGENDA

A. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Present Chair Smith, Member Gaynor, Walker, Ikharo, Sage, Grant, Harvey

B. Approval of the Draft Minutes from the CRC Meeting on March 13, 2025

Chair Smith commented March minutes were missing from the packet, will be included in Aug packet for approval. Member Gaynor mentioned his inclusion in the subcommittee was not noted in March Minutes.

C. Reports for Discussion and Possible Action

1. Update on amendment to OMC for onsite consumption permits

City Staff reviewed and read the recently adopted new onsite consumption with combustion along with Fire and Planning and Building requirements. Chair Smith asked what the turn around on the addition of combustion to a permit. City staff stated it is dependent on all requirements being met. Member Gaynor asked if a need for an additional inspection from Planning or Fire. City staff stated that would be up to Fire and Planning.

2. Case 4 Cannabis Annual Report ([link to video report](#))

City Staff encouraged Member to watch the link for CRC’s annual report. Member Walker stated there may be an opportunity to reach out to Morocco and maybe Germany to connect with CRC to possibly fund or advise a department of Cannabis for the City of Oakland.

3. Oaksterdam Presentation

Dale Sky made a presentation on the Oakland Equity public awareness campaign funded by BSCC Cohort 3. Stated July 16th they would be capturing for content for the campaign. Will begin the program with a survey to operators. Oaksterdam has launched new programs and classes in this year and overhauled many of the existing programs. Introduced the all access pass that provides an alternative subscription model for certifications. Luna made public comment celebrating and thanking Oaksterdam for the support and education which supported their business growth. Member Grant stated they are a graduate of Oaksterdam and asked who is funding the public awareness campaign. City staff explained a portion of BSCC cohort 3 a state grant has been allotted to support the campaign. Member Gaynor asked how many Oakland equity operators have participated in Oaksterdam programs or trainings. Sky stated many but it is an ongoing effort and expanding with the ability to customize the program. Both Gaynor and Sky mentioned that unions have and may continue have an interest in these programs. Chair Smith asked about any efforts to leverage AI in their work. Sky stated AI has a long way to go to understand the cannabis industry and be able to provide accurate information. VC Walker asked if events were a portion of the campaign, spoke on the need for cannabis tourism in Oakland, and using all resources available to create a department of cannabis in the City of Oakland. Sky stated in response that they will follow

up and are excited to connect on possibilities. Noted that events would be centered around equity operators in which Oaksterdam can support. City staff explained the state and local jurisdiction permits required for cannabis events and sales. Member Sage asked if there are materials to participate in the program. Sky stated the materials are in the works and will be released as soon as they are approved. Reiterated the importance of the survey feedback to drive the focus of the campaign.

4. Discussion on Cannabis tax increases

City staff spoke on the proposed 4% increase making 19% tax rate on cannabis and efforts to offset that increase until 2030. Public comment Javier Amas, former commissioner of the CRC. Stated the illicit market prices are difficult to compete with because of current regulatory taxes. Any increase will be detrimental to operators. Oakland equity business without access to capital are most at risk. Member Gaynor stated Local 5 lobbied at the state on this issue. Sky in public comment noted Cal Normal has a campaign on how to contact your rep to counter the tax increase.

5. Implementation Update on State Grants

City Staff gave updates on grants. Member Walker mentioned operators are seeking grant or loan funds and asked if any are available. City staff stated BSCC has security reimbursement grants available for equity and general applicants, also that GoBiz 5 grants are available to eligible equity applicants. Chair Smith questioned LJAG funds that are set to be returned. City Staff explained that much of the amount slated for return were allotted for staff which was not used and for CEQA review in which cannabis is exempt. Member Harvey asked about businesses without an address, City Staff stated all applications are accepted even with out an address as it can be added later.

D. Review of the Pending List and Additions to Next Month's Agenda

Member Gaynor asked how to invite the City Council to the CRC to discuss forming a Dept of Cannabis. City staff stated the pathway familiar is to submit a recommendation to council via a report. Chair Smith stated underground market is a challenge to the legal market but a proper way to enforce illicit cannabis is difficult to define but necessary to work at finding collectively. City staff stated discussing how to move a ballot measure forward to update CRC purpose and center it desire to create a dept of cannabis. Member Gaynor asked how nuisance laws can be modified, City staff stated it must be voted on in Council. Member Walker stated it is important not to scapegoat sessions what is needed is bank reform and access to capital for operators. Member Grant stated the equity program doesn't fund new businesses and questioned why? Member Gaynor asked if sessions can be permitted. City staff stated local jurisdiction follows state requirements for sales which are currently via dispensaries and cannabis special events. Suggested commissioners reach out to the County to advocate for changes in State law.

E. Open Forum / Public Comment

Javier Armas public comment on his past cannabis business and hardships encountered with partners and permitting. Stated there are predatory behaviors happening to equity applicants. Luce de la Riva and stated their hardships as equity cannabis businesses needing to meet the insurance requirements for grants. Chair Smith made a motion to vote to extend the meeting 15 minutes seconded by Walker motioned passed unanimously. Public comment stated issues with noticing for community meeting for Sobrante park, desire for lesser insurance requirements for grants and a desire for assistance navigating business relationships. City staff stated noticing requirements stipulated by the Brown Act and the Sunshine ordinance are followed for all community meetings. Technical assistance and lawyer fees are an eligible expense for grantees. Insurance requirements are City wide Council could alter the requirements if so moved.

F. Announcements

1. Update on Cannabis Permitting Process
2. Introduction of Conditional Permits for Cannabis in response to end of State Provisional Licenses
3. Apply to serve on CRC here: <https://oakland.granicus.com/boards/w/8552f8c4c0e15460/boards/6697>

G. Adjournment



Cannabis Regulatory Commission

TO: Cannabis Regulatory Commission

FROM: Kat Torio
Economic and Workforce
Development Department

SUBJECT: August 7, 2025 Agenda Items

DATE: July 30, 2025

ITEM C (1) UPDATE on CRC's Annual Report to the City Council

Measure Z requires that the CRC provide an annual report to the City Council on the CRC's activities. Last year's report is included in the agenda packet.

ITEM C (2) Special Meetings & Subcommittee status

ITEM C (3) Go Biz 6 Report

Survey results and proposed usage of funds.

ITEM C (4) Implementation Update on State Grants

Oakland's pioneering race and equity analysis of the cannabis industry and creation of an Equity Program inspired jurisdictions across the country to pursue and support similar programs. Then starting in 2019 the State of California set aside annual grant funding to support local jurisdictions' cannabis equity programs. **Table A** outlines the amount of funding the City has received from the State of California for its

Equity Program, Oakland's ranking among local jurisdictions each year, and the total amount of funding set aside by the State of California that year.

Table A: Oakland's Receipt of Local Equity Grant Funding

State Funding Agency	Fiscal Year (FY)	STATUS OF GRANT	Amount of Funding Received	Oakland's Ranking Among Local Jurisdictions	Total Amount of Funding Available Statewide
BCC ¹	FY 2019-2020	CLOSED	\$1,657,201.65	2nd	\$10 million
Go-Biz	FY 2019-2020	CLOSED	\$6,576,705.76	1st	\$30 million
Go-Biz	FY 2020-2021	CLOSED	\$2,434,712.51	1st	\$15 million
Go-Biz	FY 2021-2022	CLOSED	\$5,435,140.82	2nd	\$35 million
Go-Biz	FY 2022-2023	CLOSED	\$1,996,487.50	1st	\$15 million
Go-Biz	FY 2023-2024	ACTIVE	\$3,000,000.00	1st	\$15 million
Go-Biz	FY 2025-2026	Awarded	\$2,074,369.75	3rd	\$18.4 million

In addition to Go-Biz grants, in 2022 the City of Oakland received a three-year \$9,905,020 Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grant (LJAG) from the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC) to support the transition of cannabis operators from a provisional to an annual state license. Unfortunately, the DCC has denied the City's request to repurpose unspent funding on City staff towards grants to operators to bring their buildings into compliance, which makes it unlikely the City will disburse all funding.

Finally, in 2021 and 2023 the City received grants from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) to address the impacts of cannabis legalization. **Figures 1-3** provide status updates on these various state grants. The 3-year grant received in 2021 has since closed in October 2024.

¹ Initially the Bureau of Cannabis Control, the predecessor to the Department of Cannabis Control, disbursed Local Equity Grant funding.

Figure 1- Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grant (2022-2025)

	BUDGETED	REVISED BUDGET	DISBURSED	BALANCE
SECTION A				
SAP Tech	500,430.00	500,430.00	176,241.81	324,188.19
CEQA Review	27,710.00	27,710.00	-	27,710.00
Program Analyst	595,920.00	595,920.00	474,730.75	121,189.25
Process Coordinator	527,088.00	-	-	-
OT Civil Engineers	1,773,224.00	442,761.25	72,269.91	370,491.34
OT Code Enforcement	234,347.00	442,761.25	37,937.86	404,823.39
Hazardous Materials	580,638.00	-	-	-
OT Fire Plan Review	221,280.00	442,761.25	11,091.03	431,670.22
OT Fire Code Enforc.	185,472.00	442,761.25	-	442,761.25
OT SAP Inspectors	150,000.00	150,000.00	101,369.30	48,630.70
SUB-TOTALS	4,796,109.00	3,045,105.00	873,640.66	2,171,464.34
SECTION B				
Equity Grants	1,722,655.50	1,722,655.50	1,515,000.00	207,655.50
CPTED	3,600.00	3,600.00	1,516.00	2,084.00
Accela	430,000.00	200,000.00	99,763.75	100,236.25
Grants - Security	1,722,655.50	1,722,655.50	1,457,737.39	264,918.11
4Front	480,000.00	480,000.00	479,999.39	0.61
Knox & Ross	375,000.00	375,000.00	375,000.00	-
Oaksterdam	375,000.00	375,000.00	373,063.30	1,936.70
MT CREDIT			123,246.13	(123,246.13)
CPS Consulting			6,038.75	(6,038.75)
NWN Corp			5,594.12	(5,594.12)
SUB-TOTALS	5,108,911.00	4,878,911.00	4,436,958.83	441,952.17
GRAND TOTALS	9,905,020.00	7,924,016.00	5,310,599.49	2,613,416.51

Figure 2 – Proposition 64 Cohort three (2023-2028)

USES	YEAR 1 FY 23-24	YEAR 2 FY24-25	YEAR 3 FY25-26	YEAR 4 FY26-27	YEAR 5 FY27-28	TOTALS	DISBURSED TO DATE	BALANCE
Half of Program Analyst III		100,000	105,000	110,000	115,000	430,000	26,152.69	403,847.31
Equity Public Awareness Consultant	45,000.00	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	225,000	52,929.08	172,070.92
3rd Party Evaluator		20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	80,000		80,000.00
Financial Audit					20,000	20,000		20,000.00
Grants to Secure Facilities			300,000	300,000		600,000		600,000.00
Grants for Support Onsite Security	207,499.95		713,750		713,750	1,635,000	193,666.62	1,441,333.38
RFP Advertising	5,000.00					5,000	3,376.88	1,623.12
Equipment/Supplies			5,000.00			5,000		5,000.00
TOTALS:	257,499.95	165,000	1,188,750	475,000	913,750	3,000,000	276,125.27	2,723,874.73

Figure 3: 2024-2025 Go-Biz (GO-Biz 5) Grant Funds

	CATEGORY ALLOCATED	DISBURSED	BALANCE
Grants	\$2,851,952.50	\$1,733,830.50	\$1,118,122.00
Staff	\$148,047.50	\$53,144.64	\$94,902.86
TOTALS	\$3,000,000.00	\$1,786,975.14	\$1,213,024.86

ITEM F (1) Update on Cannabis Permitting Process

Below please find cannabis permitting statistics from 2017 to present day for the CRC's review, including additional categories as well as application and permit trend graphs.

Figure F-1: Application Totals

<i>APPLICATIONS</i>	TOTALS	PENDING
Total Complete & Incomplete Applications	1063	141
Total Complete Applications	1063	
Complete General Applications	283	
Equity Applications based on residency	185	
Equity Applications based on conviction	18	
Incubators	128	
Interested in Incubating	0	
Complete Application with property	486	
Complete Application without property (Equity)	203	
Complete Applicants without property (General)	103	

Figure F-2: Permit Applications by Category (With Addresses and Without Addresses)

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS BY BUSINESS TYPE (Address Only)	GENERAL	EQUITY
Delivery	52	61
Cultivator (Indoor)	132	23
Cultivator (Outdoor)	3	1
Distributor	55	61
Mfg. Volatile	15	1
Mfg. Non-Volatile	24	55
Transporter	2	2
Lab Testing	0	0
GRAND TOTALS	283	204

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS BY BUSINESS TYPE (No Address Only)	GENERAL	EQUITY
Delivery	26	115
Cultivator (Indoor)	33	85
Cultivator (Outdoor)	1	24
Distributor	17	109
Mfg. Volatile	7	33
Mfg. Non-Volatile	18	75
Transporter	1	26
Lab Testing	0	9
GRAND TOTALS	103	476

Figure F-3: Operators Issued Provisional and Annual Licenses

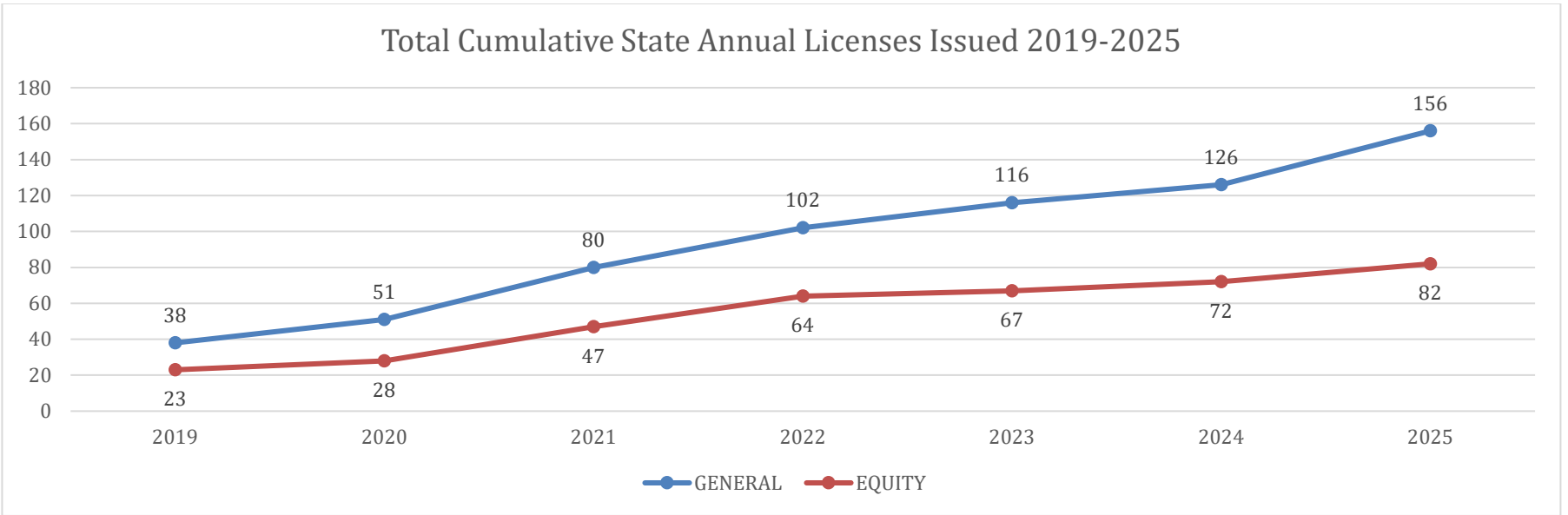
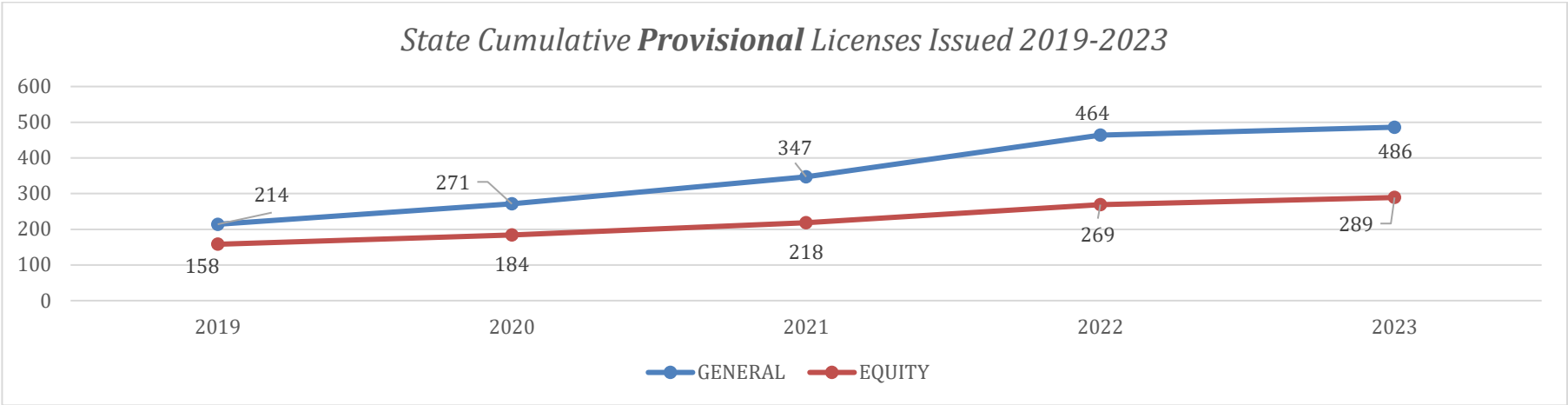


Figure F-4: New Permits Issued to Cannabis Operators Since Spring of 2017 by Category²

	GENERAL	INCUBATOR	EQUITY	TOTAL
NEW ANNUAL PERMITS BY BUSINESS TYPE				
On-site Consumption	4		3	7
Dispensary	9	1	9	19
Delivery	70	18	88	176
Cultivator (Indoor)	9	6	19	34
Cultivator (Outdoor)	0	0	2	2
Distributor	30	27	59	116
Mfg. Volatile	5	5	1	11
Mfg. Non-Volatile	11	11	42	64
Transporter	2	0	5	7
Lab Testing	0	0	0	0
GRAND TOTALS	140	68	228	436

² Figure F-4 includes dispensaries that were permitted before 2017 and have renewed their permits since 2017

Figure F-6: Graph of Current Active Applications with an Address:

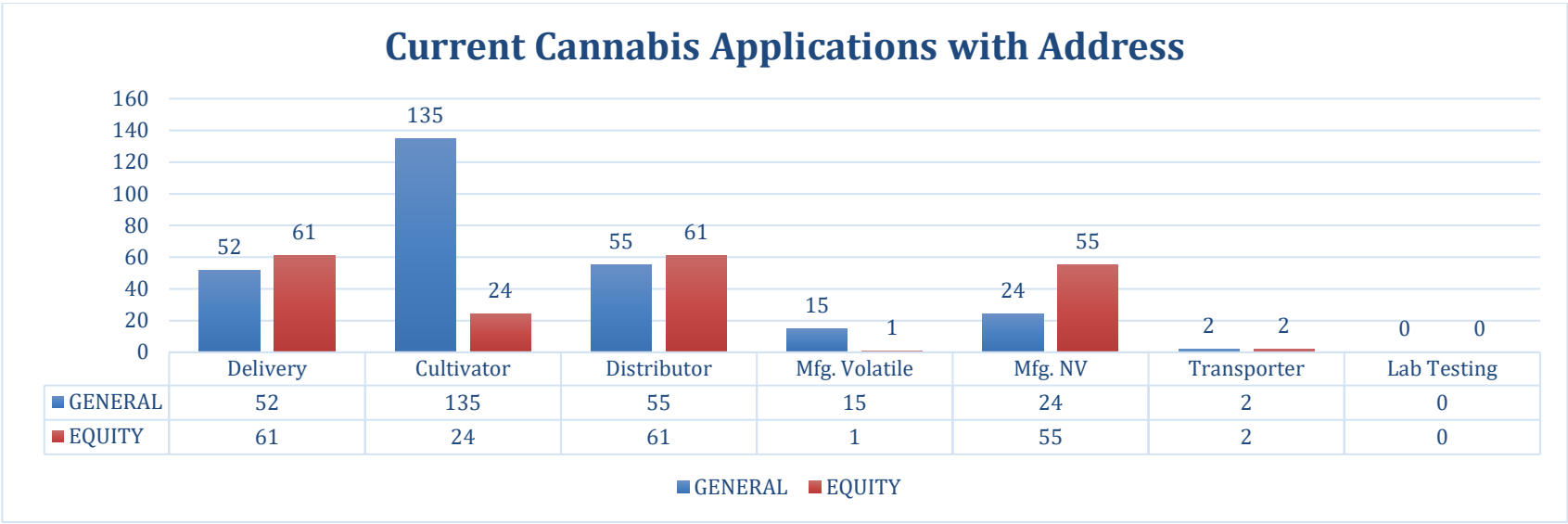
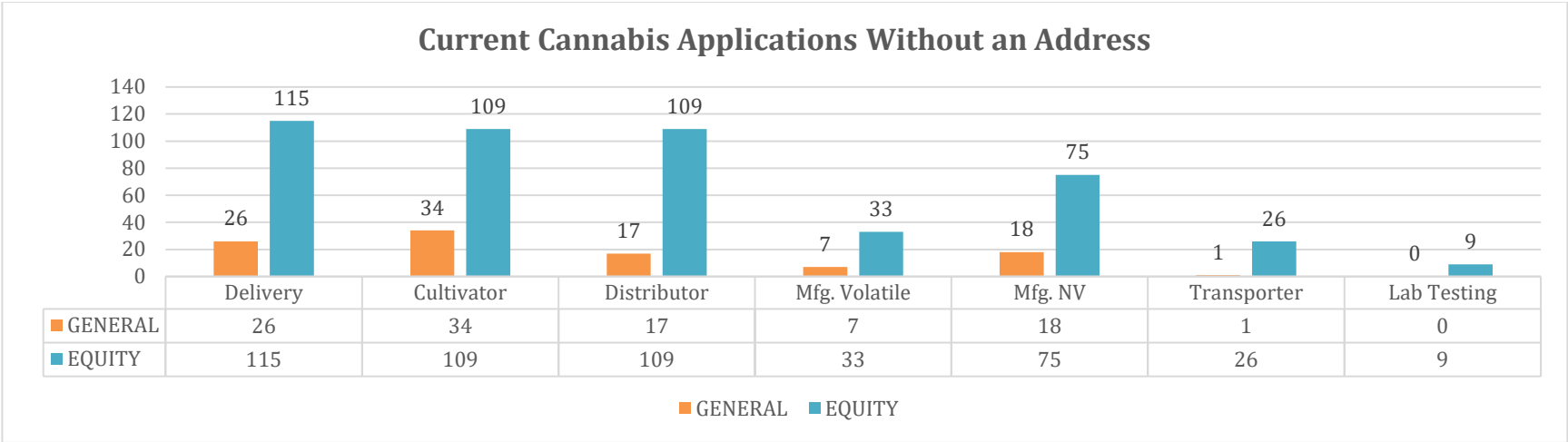


Figure F-7: Graph of Cannabis Applications Without an Address:



Responses Overview

Closed

Responses

24

Average Time

13:05

Duration

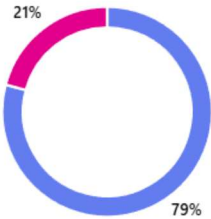
14 Days

1. Are you currently operational?

- Yes

19
- No

5



2. Have you closed your business?

- Yes

0
- No

5



3. How long have you been operational?

- 0 - 6 Months

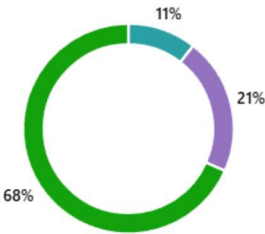
0
- 7 - 12 Months

0
- 1 - 2 years

2
- 2-3 years

4
- More than 3 years

13



4. Please select the top reason you are no longer in business

Incubation period ended, can't afford the rent	0
Buildout was too expensive	0
It took too long to generate revenue	0
Burglaries	0
Lost lease	0
Other	0

5. When did you close your business?



6. Have you been issued a City of Oakland Annual Permit?

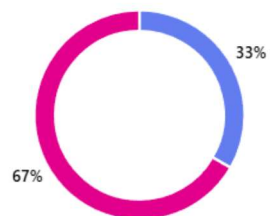


7. If no, how much more time do you need to complete the process?



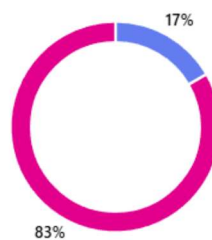
8. Do you have a Conditional Operating Permit?

● Yes 3
● No 6



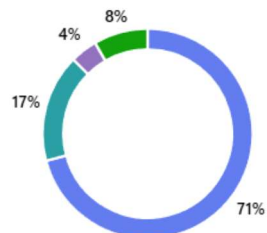
9. Do you have a Provisional or Annual State License

● Provisional 4
● Annual 20



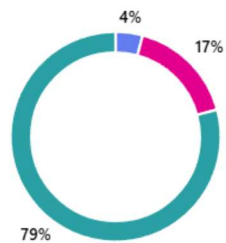
10. How many individuals do you employ? For this question, an employee is someone who works at least 35 hours a week.

● None, I run my own business 17
● 1-2 0
● 3-5 4
● 6-10 1
● More than 10 2



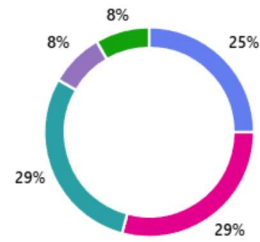
11. Have you added or reduced your staff in the last 12 months?

● Added 1
● Reduced 4
● Staffing levels remained the same. 19



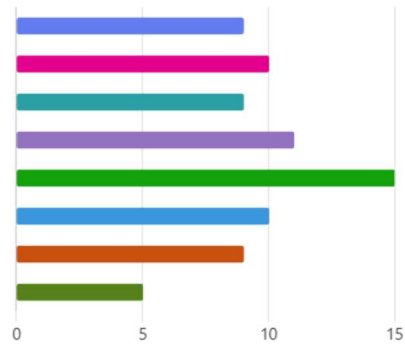
12. Please rate your business' future outlook

Very Promising	6
Promising	7
Neutral	7
Negative	2
Very negative	2



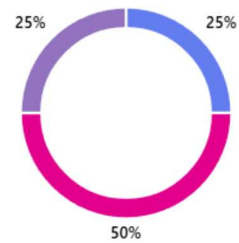
13. Which Grants have you been awarded?

Go Biz 1	9
Go Biz 2	10
Go Biz 3	9
Go Biz 4	11
Go Biz 5	15
LJAG Security Grant	10
Get Your Annual License Grant	9
None	5



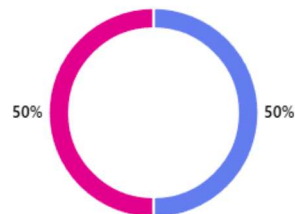
14. What impact did receiving the funding have on your business?

The funding allowed our business to grow	6
The funding allowed our business to remain operational	12
The funding had no noticeable impact	0
Other	6



15. Did you receive a loan?

Yes	12
No	12



16. Do you continue to make your monthly payment?



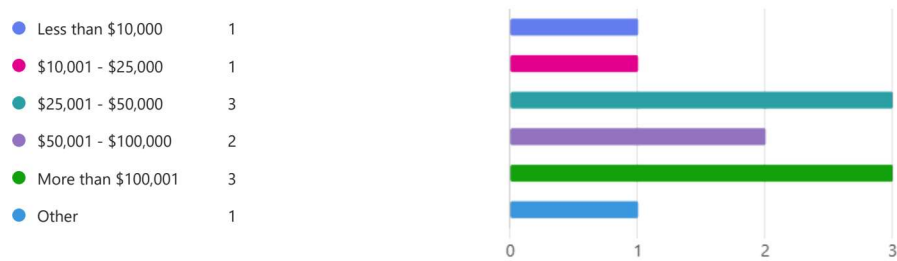
17. Did you enter into the "Convert your Loan to a Grant" program?



18. Has your business or staff experienced any burglaries or robberies over the last 12 months?

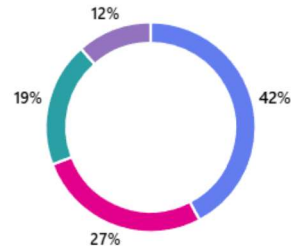


19. How much have the burglaries/robberies cost your business financially?



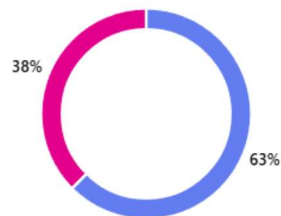
20. After the burglary/robbery did your business do any of the following? Please select all that apply.

● Filed a Police Report	11
● Notified the Special Activity Permits Division	7
● Notified the Department of Cannabis	5
● Filed a claim with your insurance company	3



21. Did you utilize Oaksterdam University's free technical assistance services?

● Yes	15
● No	9



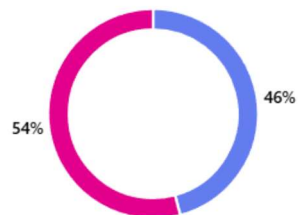
22. Do you have any comments on the services provided.

15
Responses

Latest Responses
"No"
"Oaksterdam changed the course of our business for the better - knowledge, conn..."
...

23. Did you utilize Knox & Ross's free legal services?

● Yes	11
● No	13



24. Do you have any comments on the services provided.

11
Responses

Latest Responses
"Great"
"Knox & Ross did not have bandwidth to provide real in-depth support to equity c..."
...

Responses for consultant: **Oaksterdam**

1	anonymous	Not very helpful
2	anonymous	Amazing
3	anonymous	They helped tremendously when first starting, recommended as mandatory for first time equity
4	anonymous	No
5	anonymous	No comment
6	anonymous	No
7	anonymous	Great help to my business
8	anonymous	Not worth the money invested by city of oakland
9	anonymous	No
10	anonymous	No
11	anonymous	I want to express my deep appreciation for the technical assistance I've received from Oaksterdam. Their team has provided me with invaluable guidance, practical tools, and expert insights that have helped me navigate complex compliance requirements and strengthen the foundation of my cannabis business. Their commitment to equity and education shines through in every interaction, and I'm incredibly grateful for their continued support on this journey.
12	anonymous	N/A

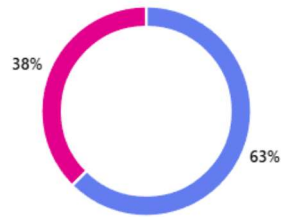
13	anonymous	No
14	anonymous	Oaksterdam changed the course of our business for the better - knowledge, connections, support. We are eternally grateful to Dale Sky Jones and her team for their genuine care for equity operators and the health of the cannabis industry in Oakland and beyond.
15	anonymous	No

Responses to consultant: **Knox & Ross**

1	anonymous	Amazing
2	anonymous	Greg was a good dude
3	anonymous	It was useful to address landlord issues
4	anonymous	Thank you for the information
5	anonymous	Great, no complaints
6	anonymous	THEY WERE PHENOMINAL!!!!
7	anonymous	Wasn't much help
8	anonymous	Good services hard to get hold of the people there tho
9	anonymous	Hard to reach
10	anonymous	Knox & Ross did not have bandwidth to provide real in-depth support to equity cannabis operators. They were often not available and hard to reach.
11	anonymous	Great

25. Did you utilize Elevate Impact, the City's loan and grant program consultant?

● Yes 15
● No 9



26. Do you have any comments on the services provided?

15
Responses

Latest Responses

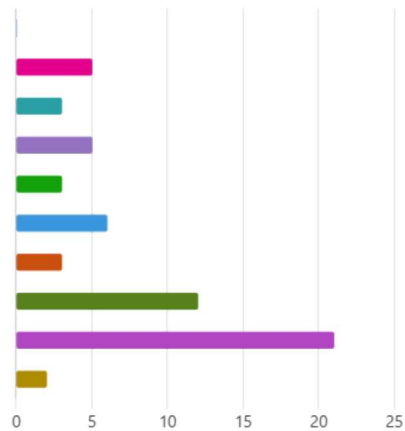
"No"

"Not helpful. Rude, detached, and because most of their consultants were not on t..."

...

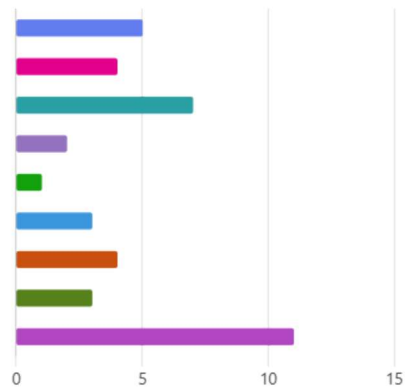
27. What barriers are you experiencing as you establish a compliant cannabis business (please select all that apply)? If you select "Other", please explain.

● None 0
● Finding a location 5
● Slow buildout 3
● Obtaining Insurance 5
● Hiring and training staff 3
● State licensning 6
● Legal disputes 3
● Taxes 12
● Lack of capital 21
● Other 2



28. Which of the following City departments or outside agencies have been a barrier as you navigate through the application process? Please check all that apply

● Special Activity Permits Division 5
● Bureau of Planning 4
● Bureau of Building 7
● Fire Prevention Bureau 2
● Oakland Police Department 1
● Alameda County Environmental Health 3
● East Bay Municipal Utility District 4
● P G & E 3
● None 11



Comments for services provided for consultant: **Elevate Impact**

1	anonymous	Incredibly beneficial
2	anonymous	Very helpful and they help navigate difficult stages in your business
3	anonymous	Process was too long to qualify
4	anonymous	The processing and follow up times were slow.
5	anonymous	Neither were efficient
6	anonymous	We miss y'all
7	anonymous	Rachel and Jessica helped a lot
8	anonymous	while we did appreciate the inten program. It makes zeros sense to provide staffing for businesses that Don't have enough customers to drive growth or sales. That money could have been better used to support inventory so that we can actual make money. The equity Awariness program is just a bad idea and waist of money. Why support brands for businesses that are barely able to keep the lights on. We need funding. We do not need interns or Brand awariness.
9	anonymous	IT WAS AMAZING!
10	anonymous	Thankful for the help
11	anonymous	They were ok as a third party. Glad to be working directly with the city of Oakland now. Took too long to respond and wait times were bad hearing back from them.
12	anonymous	N/A
13	anonymous	Elevate sucked

14	anonymous	Not helpful. Rude, detached, and because most of their consultants were not on the ground with operators, they lacked awareness and depth of knowledge of the real issues equity operators endure.
15	anonymous	No

29. We've been awarded a grant of **\$1,867,269.75** and we want your input on how to best distribute these funds. Your feedback is crucial to ensure this money makes a real impact on our local cannabis industry. **Please keep in mind that these funds will not be used for start up costs, only to businesses who can show 2 years of business tax certificates. Funding will not be available for those who are delinquent on their loan payments, failed to provide receipts for previous grants and any loan to grant conversion amounts will be leveraged against any funds one might be eligible for.**

Responses to Question #29:

1	anonymous	I would use the funds to increase marketing and visibility along with more inventory which is essential. I am hoping the funds will increase order totals daily so that one day the business can be a store front. These funds are essential to that dream becoming a reality.
2	anonymous	Equipment,Inventory,marketing, and Payroll.
3	anonymous	It should be used for grants for companies that are showing and proving that they are using the funds for growing the business , not only correctly and that the business is growing, even if it's slow as long as it is steady
4	anonymous	I understand.
5	anonymous	Don't leverage my conversion amount against my new grant application
6	anonymous	It should be available to all cannabis business type. At this point in my business and the industry as a whole, it seems to be about surviving this challenging environment until the market rebounds so funds for general business expenses and buildout towards completing Department of Building permitting & construction would be ideal.
7	anonymous	We need to apply for gobiz6 grant
8	anonymous	The Go-Biz grant has helped to keep my business going for the last 6 years. Especially during this current financial downturn The Go-Biz grants makes such a difference in keeping my business in compliance & thriving. My company relies on the Go-Biz grant every year & I thank God that it's available. So many of the equity companies are going out of business and I don't want to be one of them. It's not easy going up against companies with big capital but with the Go-biz grants it makes it a lot easier to compete.
9	anonymous	Since there is not a lot of equity applicants that have a business in Oakland that have been around for 2 years and currently running/ paying taxes I think you should take the grant minus city costs and expenses then defied the rest of the money by the number of current applicants running. 100k-200k could really help put our business in a new space and expand to keep up with Competition.
10	anonymous	First you gave money to Merrit for the case for cannabis intern program. For the money allocated for that how many full time jobs came out of it? Second you gave money to Oaksterdam for the Equity awareness campaign. This was such a waste of money (None of these programs have helped any of these companies stay open). All of these businesses need funding over support. 30K could have been used to buy inventory to increase revenue. More customer means more jobs available. More revenue and funding means more tax revenue that can be collected. I undersatnd the idea around the support offered It's just the concept is absolutely backwards. We are paying Taxes on the Grants. Increasing excise taxes. Sales and use Tax. We have over 100K in taxes alone and have not profitted

		one dollar. We need the funding to operate not for all of these programs that only benefit the larger operators. All of the small Equity companies are dying a slow death.
11	anonymous	To keep business going!!!
12	anonymous	Help with taxes and operating costs
13	anonymous	It's not fair that my loan to grant conversion and grants received were tallied against me as an individual and not the equity business itself.
14	anonymous	Inventory and marketing
15	anonymous	Loans to ones who have not yet received a loan. Any more grants in effect.
16	anonymous	Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. As a compliant equity operator who has been in this program since 2018, I've remained active and committed despite limited access to capital. I don't yet have a facility due to financial constraints, so support that helps secure a physical space, such as assistance with deposits, rent subsidies, or access to shared facilities, would be incredibly impactful. Additionally, funding for staffing, legal and accounting support, and business development services would help build long-term sustainability. Prioritizing operators who have stayed engaged and fulfilled past grant requirements ensures these funds uplift those who've invested years into building a presence in Oakland's cannabis industry
17	anonymous	Grants
18	anonymous	Hello, my name is Rickey McCullough and I own a retail dispensary that has been open for three years. This grant hunting will honestly help keep the doors open if it could be utilized for rent, marketing, security, payroll.
19	anonymous	Expand the parameters for equity eligibility. Oakland police officers arrested me. Oakland is not a good environment for me. It's dangerous and I cannot afford to live in a better area in Oakland. Now, since I don't live in Oakland anymore, I cannot get any services or support as I try to make the most of the opportunities that are made available thru the equity programs. If I was criminalized in Oakland for doing cannabis business then, I should be able to benefit and build in Oakland from it now.
20	anonymous	We need funding to secure general liability and product insurance, which is a critical and expensive requirement for maintaining compliance and accessing grant