



Mendocino County Cannabis Department Deliverables

DATE: September 10, 2025
TO: Mendocino County Community Members
FROM: Mendocino County Cannabis Department
RE: Monthly Activity Report – August 2025

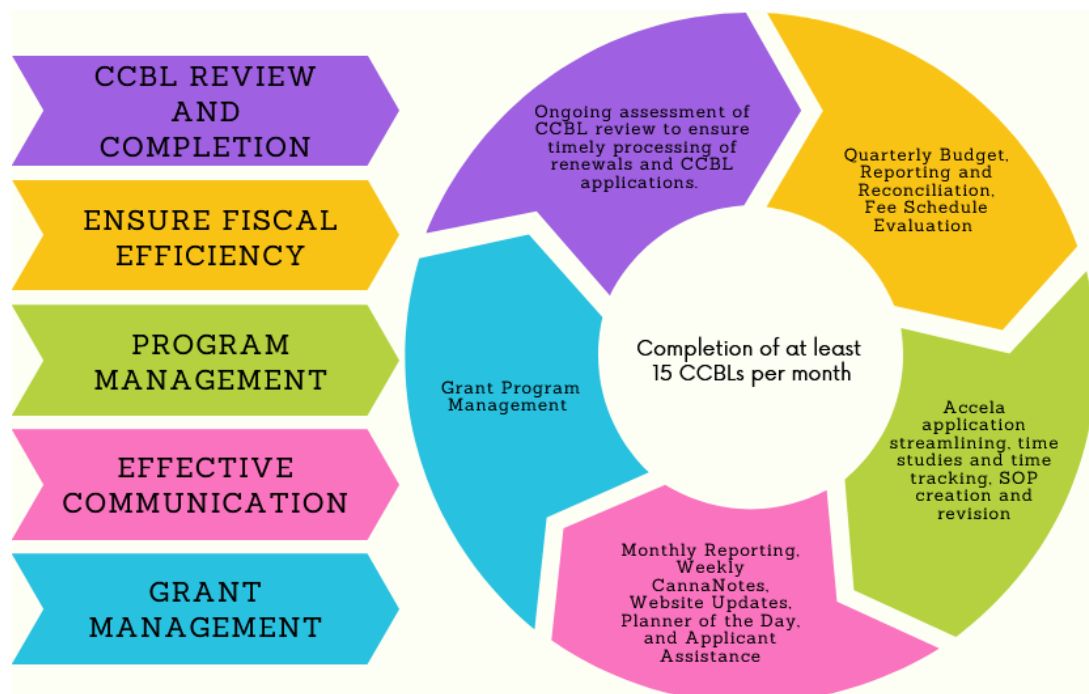
Mendocino County Cannabis Department Mission Statement

"The Mendocino Cannabis Department ("MCD")'s mission is to issue Cannabis Cultivation Business Licenses ("CCBL") in accordance with regulations as approved by the Board of Supervisors and ensure that all program cultivation sites comply with all applicable environmental, community safety, and regulatory performance standards. The Department shall implement these services fairly and equitably in a timely, professional, and compassionate manner."

General Department Updates

MCD is reviewing current costs for a fee schedule update, with Board consideration anticipated in September 2025.

Department Priorities



CCBL Activity

August 2025 Activity

To ensure MCD is on track with workload, the Department is focused on issuing 15 CCBLs per month, beginning March 2025, for the remainder of the calendar year 2025.

- June, July and August 2025 issuance fell below the 15 CCBL per month goal, however, the Department anticipates issuance to be above 15 per month beginning in September 2025.
- MCD staff is focused on initial applications, renewal applications, site inspections, site modification applications, and assistance with applicable Administrative Permits ("AP").

CCBL Renewals

- All issued CCBLs have a 5-year renewal period. Applicants must apply and be issued a site modification prior to making changes to their commercial cannabis cultivation operations.
- **Renewal applications are subject to expiration.** Applicants will receive a 90/60/30-day courtesy reminder from Accela, to the email listed in the applicant's Accela contact information, to renew their CCBL application. If no action is taken by the applicant, the application will expire. **Expired applicants will be required to submit a new CCBL application subject to current Mendocino County Code ("MCC") 10(A).17 and 20.242 requirements.**

CCBL Data

Total number of initial applications under review: 4
Total number of issued CCBLs: 630

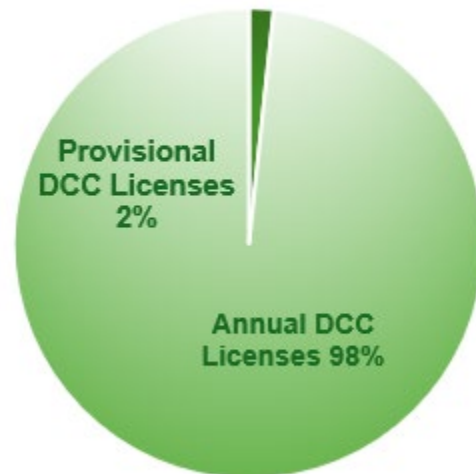
August Breakdown

CCBL Renewals issued:	4
CCBL Initial issuance:	1
CCBL Withdrawn:	4
CCBL Denied:	1
CCBL Notice of Application Stay:	0
CCBL Notice of Non-Cultivation:	3
CCBL Non-Renewal	1

Total # of CCBLs Completed in August: 12

Total number of modifications processed: 8
Total number of reassignments processed: 1

■ Provisional DCC Licenses
■ Annual DCC Licenses



State Licensure¹

Mendocino County Annual DCC Licenses:	581
Mendocino County Provisional DCC Licenses:	10
TOTAL:	591

Number of DCC Provisionals transitioned to Annual Licenses since the last report: 6

¹ Applicants require a state license issued by the Department of Cannabis Control ("DCC") to actively cultivate commercial cannabis

August Site Inspections

Number of On-site Inspections Completed: 9
Number of Virtual Inspections Completed: 0

Mendocino County Approximate Square Footage²

The figures below estimate the total square footage that ***could*** potentially be cultivated in Mendocino County, ***if*** all licensees grow the maximum square footage allowed under their issued or pending licenses. Please note that actual cultivation will differ from these estimates due to factors such as site plan limitations, fallowing, and applicants who do not hold a valid DCC license.

Approximate total of issued acreage for cultivation: 148.02

CCBL Subtype	Number Issued	Approx. Sq. Ft.	Approx. Acreage
1	64	320,000	3.35
2	457	4,570,000	104.91
4	75	1,650,000	37.87
C	33	82,500	1.89

Approximate total of under-review acreage for cultivation: 0.97

CCBL Subtype	Number Under Review	Approx. Sq. Ft.	Approx. Acreage
1	0	0	0
2	2	20,000	0.46
4	1	22,000	0.51
C	0	0	0

CCBL Compliance Plans

Phase I CCBL applications may have been issued with an accompanying compliance plan pursuant to Mendocino Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance §10A.17.100(C)(1). These compliance plans were valid for one (1) year from the date the original CCBL was issued.

In March 2024, amendments to the ordinance authorized the Department to grant a one-year extension to the term of a compliance plan, provided the CCBL holder demonstrated good faith progress toward achieving full compliance.

Beginning in June 2025, the Department initiated outreach to licensees with active compliance plans to confirm progress on the requirements outlined in Exhibit A of their plan.

² "Type 1" (5,000) square feet of total plant canopy - for medium outdoor, indoor, or mixed light cultivation

"Type 2" (10,000) square feet of total plant canopy - for large outdoor, indoor, or mixed light cultivation

"Type 4" (22,000) square feet of total plant canopy for the cultivation of cannabis nursery stock and/or seed production

"Type C" (2,500) square feet of total canopy - for small outdoor, indoor, or mixed light cultivation

As of August 2025, the Department has issued 156 reminders, with 143 additional reminders pending distribution.

Environmental Review

Environmental Impact Report (“EIR”):

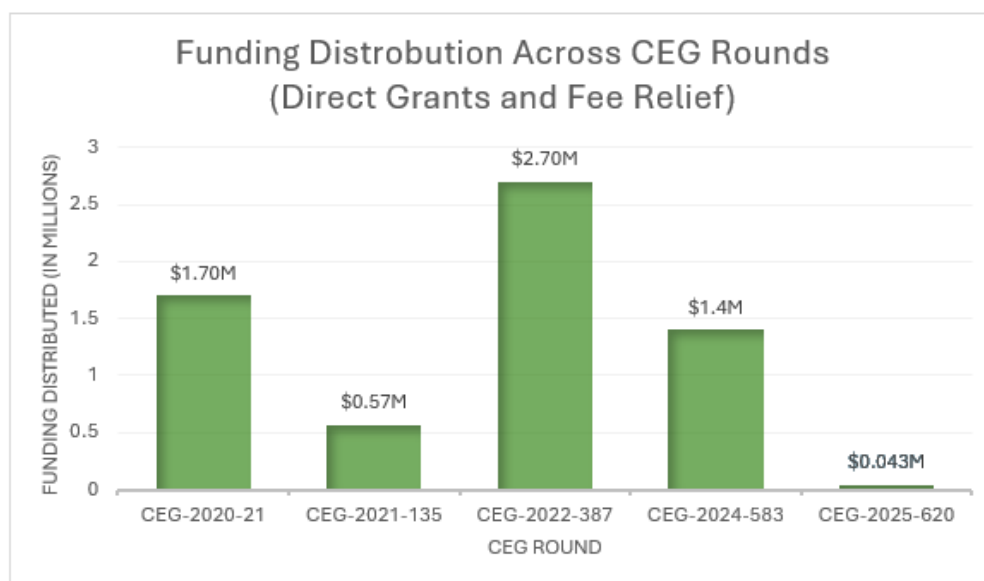
In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), the DCC, as Lead Agency, certified the EIR for the Licensing of Commercial Cannabis Cultivation in Mendocino County on October 17, 2024. The DCC currently issues commercial cannabis cultivation licenses under Division 10 of the Business and Professions Code and California Code of Regulations, title 4, division 19.

For more information on EIR, please visit [The Licensing of Commercial Cannabis in Mendocino County Project Environmental Impact Report - Department of Cannabis Control](#). Applicants with questions regarding their individual EIR process or their Annual State License Application should direct questions to licensing@cannabis.ca.gov.

Local Equity Entrepreneur Program (“LEEP”) Grant

The State’s Cannabis Equity Grants Program for Local Jurisdictions aims to advance economic justice for populations and communities impacted by cannabis prohibition and the War on Drugs (“WoD”) by providing support to local jurisdictions as they promote equity in California and eliminate barriers to entering the newly regulated cannabis industry for equity program applicants and licensees. The County has submitted applications for LEEP funding in the six rounds which have opened so far; five of those applications were funded. With over \$8 million awarded from the State and administered by the Governor’s Office of Business & Economic Development (“GO-Biz”) and \$100,000 in matching grant funds from the BOS, the program offers applicants fee relief applications of cannabis business expenses, direct grants funds for start-up and ongoing expenses, and direct technical assistance based on individual needs and circumstances.

The Department has distributed over \$6M in LEEP funding to verified local equity applicants via direct grant and fee relief to date.



LEEP Funding (CEG-2024-583) Round 5

On February 7, 2024, the Department received an award notification for the 2023–24 Grant Solicitation (CEG-2024-583, Round 5) and was awarded a Type 2 grant: Assistance for Cannabis Equity Program Applicants and Licensees, in the amount of \$1,803,929.86. Of this total, \$931,102.66 has been allocated to fund 19 direct grant applications from the existing LEEP direct grant queue. An additional \$514,630.14 was designated for fee relief for equity-verified applicants and licensees. Fee relief under this round of funding was fully exhausted as of June 30, 2025.

CEG-2024-583 Round 5 Direct Grants

This grant program is currently in progress, and the Department anticipates being able to fund one additional direct grant to an applicant already in the direct grant queue with the current round of funding. As of the August report, 18 out of the 19 direct grant agreements have been fully executed.

LEEP Funding (CEG-2025-620) Round 6

On January 23, 2025, the Department received the award notification for the 2024–25 Grant Solicitation (CEG-2025-620, Round 6). The Department was awarded a Type 2: Assistance for Cannabis Equity Program Applicants and Licensees grant in the amount of \$612,689.88. Of this total, MCD anticipates funding 7 direct grant applications from the existing LEEP direct grant queue and allocating additional funding for fee relief to equity-verified applicants and licensees. The grant term began on April 1, 2025. The Department is currently working to refresh the LEEP Program Manual prior to direct grant distribution and will keep the community informed as more details become available.

Equity Assessment

The updated equity assessment is now available. Please follow this link to review: [Mendocino County Equity Assessment \(July 2025\)](#) – UPDATED

FREE Direct Technical Assistance

Since July 2024, Canna Business Services (“CBS”) has been providing [FREE Direct Technical Assistance](#) to verified LEEP applicants in Mendocino County. To date, CBS has hosted several webinars covering a range of topics, including weekly Q&A sessions, an overview of the Annual License process, METRC training, and a CEQA overview.

In addition to webinars, CBS offers one-on-one support for equity applicants seeking guidance on CEQA compliance, licensing, loans, grants and financing, vendor vetting, and more.

Recorded Direct Technical Assistance materials are available on CBS’s Vimeo platform and can be accessed here: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/11251714> August webinars included the State of the California Cannabis Workforce, Pesticide Use on Cannabis, Establishing Successful Partnerships Between Distributors and Cultivators.

CBS would like to provide equity licensees and applicants with the most valuable and relevant content to support their journey in the cannabis industry. To better understand the needs and preferences, please share your ideas and feedback [here](#).

Equity applicants interested in Direct Technical Assistance or with specific questions are encouraged to contact CBS directly at: mendocino@cannabusinessservices.com.

Local Jurisdiction Assistance Grant Program (“LJAGP”)

In January 2022, Mendocino County was awarded \$17.5 million in one-time grant funds from DCC for the LJAGP to transition provisional licenses to annual licenses. This funding allowed for many programmatic improvements including the launch of Accela licensing, Planet Labs, and DocuSign. Furthermore, this grant program guided the distribution of \$4.9 million to qualified operators in the unincorporated areas of Mendocino County. The grant agreement between the County and the DCC ends on June 30, 2025.

CannaNotes

For additional and up-to-date information regarding the Cannabis Department Activities please sign up for “CannaNotes” through the county’s eNotification system at the following link or by scanning the QR code below: <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/cannabis-cultivation/enotifications>

