



CanTrain Grant Program

Department of Employment and Economic Development

As required by 2023 Minn. Laws, Chap. 63, Art. 3, Sec. 3, Subd. 6

1/12/2024

Contact Information

MN Department of Employment and Economic Development

Employment and Training Division

Adult State Programs

180 E 5th Street Suite 1200

St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Ann Meyers, Adult Career Pathways Supervisor

651-259-7174

Ann.Meyers@state.mn.us

As requested by Minnesota Statute 3.197: This report cost approximately \$158.19 to prepare, including staff time, printing, and mailing expenses.

Upon request, this material will be made available in an alternative format such as large print, Braille, or audio recording. Printed on recycled paper.

Program Description and Background

In order to support the opportunity for employment within Minnesota's legal cannabis industry, with a focus on serving those qualified as social equity applicants, public sector investment for job training is necessary. The grant money is to be awarded to organizations to develop employment training programs and to provide such training to individuals. There is a preference given to applications for programs that result in an industry relevant credential or provide hands-on or on-site experience within the legal cannabis industry. The program shall also provide grants of up to \$20,000 to individuals to enable them to pursue a training program relevant to a career in the legal cannabis industry. Grants to individuals will be awarded based on a lottery. The funds can be used to pay for costs directly related to participating in the training program such as tuition or supplies. They may also be used to pay to cover the costs of alleviating barriers to participation such as childcare. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §§116L.90, the State of Minnesota, Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) has the authority to award grants to provide employment training programs within the legal cannabis industry and to support individuals participating in those programs.

The relevant legislation states:

§§116L.90 Cannabis Industry Startup Financing Grants

Subd. 1. Establishment: The commissioner of employment and economic development shall establish CanTrain, a program to award grants to (1) eligible organizations to train people for work in the legal cannabis industry, and (2) eligible individuals to acquire such training.

Subd. 3. Grants to Organizations: (a) Grant money awarded to eligible organizations may be used for both developing a training program relevant to the legal cannabis industry and for providing such training to individuals.

Subd. 4 Grants to Individuals: (a) The commissioner shall award grants of up to \$20,000 to eligible individuals to pursue a training program relevant to a career in the legal cannabis industry.

Subd. 6. Reports to the legislature: By January 15, 2024, and each January 15 thereafter, the commissioner must submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the committees of the house of representatives and the senate having jurisdiction over workforce development that describes awards given through the CanTrain program and the use of grant money, including any measures of success toward training people for successful careers in the legal cannabis industry.

Funding

In 2023, the Minnesota legislature legalized the legal cannabis industry and appropriated \$2,000,000 each year in 2024 and 2025 to the CanTrain grant program.

Development Process

DEED has formed an intra-agency working group for each program team to develop the CanNavigate, CanStartup, and CanTrain grant programs. This working group is designed so each of the three program teams are able to share insights and learnings as each grant program is created. Research has included targeted conversations with experts and a request for information is currently in development.

Conclusion and Next Steps

The request for information will be released by early in Q2. The responses will be integrated into the development of the grant programs. The request for proposals (RFPs) are on track to be released in 2024 in coordination with the Office of Cannabis Management.