

Cannabis Equity Program – Verification Process

Verification Process

To qualify as an Equity Applicant for the City of Vista’s Cannabis Social Equity Program (“Equity Program”), you must meet the following three eligibility criteria categories:

- Be 21 years of age or older
- Be a current or former Vista resident who meets one of the below residency criteria:
 - Be a current or former resident of the City of Vista who has lived in the City for at least five (5) years cumulative residency.
 - Own, or previously owned, a business within the City of Vista for at least five (5) years cumulative ownership.
 - Worked, or previously worked, within the City of Vista for at least five (5) years cumulative employment.
 - Have lost housing in the City of Vista through eviction, foreclosure, or subsidy cancellation any time after 1994.
 - Have attended school in the Vista Unified School District or the City of Vista for at least five years between 1971 and 2016.
 - Have been placed in the foster care system in San Diego County between 1971 and 2016.
- Be an individual who meets one or more of the following criteria:
 - During the period from 1971 to 2016, had, or have an immediate family member who had, a cannabis arrest or conviction; **or**
 - Have a household income below 80% of the Area Median Income in San Diego County, as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, in either the preceding year or current year of submitting an equity verification application or is eligible to get financial aid through a program like CalFresh, MediCal, CalWORKS, Supplemental security income, or Social Security disability; and has a net worth of less than \$250,000;

You must submit all required documents and be verified by the City as an Equity Applicant before receiving Equity Program benefits or applying for a cannabis business license. All documents submitted to the City Clerk’s Department must be typed or handwritten clearly in blue or black ink. All documents must also be correct and complete in all aspects. You may submit all required documents to be verified as an Equity Applicant by mail, email, or in-person by appointment only to:

This is application is not proof of equity status for the Cannabis Equity Program. You are not verified as an Equity Applicant until you are issued a verification letter from the City Clerk.

4873-0184-8802, v. 1



CANNABIS EQUITY PROGRAM

**City Clerk
City of Vista
200 Civic Center Dr.
Vista, CA 92084
Email: kvaldez@vista.gov**

The City Clerk's Department will review all of the documents you submit and will send you a verification letter letting you know if you meet the eligibility criteria above as an Equity Applicant. Once you are verified as an Equity Applicant, you will receive access to the City's Cannabis Equity Program. Access to the City's Cannabis Equity Program does not guarantee that you will receive any benefits from the program as the amount of benefits available is limited.

PLEASE NOTE: If the City Clerk's Department determines that you do not meet the eligibility criteria for the Equity Program, you will receive a letter from the City Clerk's Department that you do not qualify as an Equity Applicant and are not eligible to receive Equity Program benefits. If you do not qualify as an Equity Applicant, you may still apply for a cannabis business permit without Equity Program benefits or assistance.

For information or questions on eligibility requirements or how to submit a verification form, please contact the City Clerk Kathy Valdez at (760 643-5320) or kvaldez@vista.gov.

PLEASE NOTE: The purpose of this document is to provide information and guidelines and should not be construed as legal advice or as a substitute for legal counsel. Verification as an Equity Applicant does not guarantee a cannabis business license.

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Cannabis Equity Program – Verification Application

1: Applicant Information		
FIRST NAME:	LAST NAME:	M.I.
EMAIL ADDRESS:		PHONE NUMBER:
MAILING ADDRESS:		CITY:
STATE:	ZIP CODE:	COUNTY:
Preferred Method of Contact:		
<input type="checkbox"/> EMAIL	<input type="checkbox"/> PHONE	<input type="checkbox"/> MAIL

2: Eligibility Criteria – Proof of Income
<p>To meet the income requirement, please provide the following documents:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Federal and State Tax Returns</p> <p>Federal tax returns must include your full name and *adjusted gross income.</p> <p><i>*Must be at or below eighty percent (80%) of the 80% San Diego County Area Median Income (AMI).</i></p> <p>At least one of the following options:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Wage and tax statement (W-2, 1099, or other Federal income reporting document)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Two (2) months of most recent pay stubs</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Proof of current eligibility of General Relief (GR), CalFRESH, CalWORKS, Medi-Cal, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or Social Security Disability (SSDI)</p>

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3: Eligibility Criteria – Proof of Residency

To meet the residency requirement, please provide a minimum of two (2) supporting documentation for at least one option listed below to prove residency for 5 years (unless you were evicted or put into foster care).

All documents must include 1) evidence of current or previous residency, 2) full name of the equity applicant, and 3) address of Vista residence.

1. Residency (5 cumulative years):

- California Driver's Record, Driver's License, or California Identification Card Record
- Property Tax billing and payments from the San Diego County Assessor
- Verified copies of state or federal income tax returns where a Vista address is listed as the primary address.
- Signed rental agreement or Vista Housing Authority records
- Medical, banking, or school records
- Utility, cable, or internet company billing and payment covering any month in each of the five (5) years.

2. Business Ownership (5 cumulative years):

- Business license issued by the City of Vista
- Federal and state tax returns that list the business for the relevant years.
- Articles of incorporation (for corporations) or articles of organization (for LLCs) filed with the California Secretary of State, including the original filing and any amendments.
- Copies of property lease agreements for business premises in Vista, showing the duration of the lease or Deeds or property tax records for properties owned by the business in Vista.

3. Employment (5 cumulative years):

- Copies of pay stubs from the relevant years that show the employer's name and address in Vista.
- Copies of W-2 forms issued by employers in Vista for the relevant years.
- Copies of federal and state tax returns, particularly the sections that list employment information (such as W-2 forms).

3: Eligibility Criteria – Proof of Residency (Continued)

4. Loss of Housing:

- A letter of foreclosure.
- A notice of eviction.
- A notice of revocation of a housing subsidy.

5. School Attendance in Vista or Vista Unified School District:

- A transcript from a Vista Unified School District School for at least five years between 1971 and 2016.

6. Foster Care:

- SD County foster care system placement paperwork between 1971 and 2016

PLEASE NOTE: *The [Insert Department] reserves the right to request additional documentation and/or information beyond what is currently listed to verify an applicant's eligibility in the Cannabis Equity Program.*

4: Eligibility Criteria – Proof of Cannabis Criminalization

To meet the cannabis criminalization requirement, please provide court documents, probation documents, and/or Department of Corrections or Federal Bureau of Prisons documents.

All documents must include:

- 1) Name of the defendant (matching the Equity Applicant or their parent, child, or sibling)
- 2) Date of the offense or arrest
- 3) Charges filed
- 4) Exact location of the offense or arrest that occurred in State of California or the United States.

- Cannabis Offense or Arrest Documentation

Oath of Application

I declare, under penalty of perjury, that all of the information provided in this application and provided in all attachments are true and correct. I certify that this application has been completed to the best of my knowledge. I also acknowledge that it is my responsibility to comply with the provisions of the Vista Municipal Code and all laws, rules, and regulations which govern my application to be eligible for the Cannabis Equity Program. I acknowledge and understand that including false, misleading, or fraudulent information in this application may cause my status as an Equity Applicant in the Cannabis Equity Program to be denied and/or revoked.

PRINT NAME:	SIGNATURE:	DATE:
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Reminder to All Applicants:

Any document or record that is used, retained, or maintained by the City during the course of business is considered public record. Unless a specific exemption from disclosure applies, the City may be required to disclose application information in response to a California Public Records Act request (Government Code Section 6250 et seq.)