



**Fiscal Year 2024  
Request for Applications  
Fiscal Year 2024 Just Cannabusiness Medical Cultivator Grant**

**Interest Forms open August 14, 2024 through August 23, 2024 at 2:00 pm ET  
Eligible Applicants will be invited to apply for this competitive opportunity.**

How to use this document to guide your application process:

This Request for Applications (“RFA”) is the full set of instructions for the application process. **Applicants are encouraged to read this entire document before submitting an application.** This RFA outlines the following important sections:

1. **Objective**—What DSLBD seeks to accomplish through the grant
2. **Online Application & Deadlines**—Where and when applicants must apply
3. **Eligibility & Documentation**—Which entities are eligible and the required paperwork
4. **Restrictions on Allowable Uses of Funds**—How the funds can and cannot be spent
5. **Proof of Expenditures & Competitive Application** —The sections within the competitive application
6. **Scoring & Scoring Criteria**—How DSLBD and/or reviewers will score the application
7. **Selection Process**—How DSLBD decides to make grant awards
8. **Award Information**—What happens if you are awarded a grant
9. **Important Legal Disclaimers**—Additional legal information and DSLBD’s reservation of rights

## **Questions?**

DSLBD will offer a virtual information session and virtual drop-in question and answer sessions. To register, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y2uf8jkv>. Reach out to [Inno.ED@dc.gov](mailto:Inno.ED@dc.gov) with any questions not asked or answered during these sessions. No calls accepted.

## 1. Objective

The District of Columbia (“DC,” “D.C.,” or “District”) Department of Small and Local Business Development (“DSLBD” or “Department”) is excited to announce that it will be soliciting applications for the **Fiscal Year 2024 (“FY24”) Just Cannabusiness Medical Cultivator Grant**. DSLBD intends to award grants in amounts ranging between \$2,000 and \$50,000 from the total \$300,000 available for medical cannabis cultivator grants.

The FY24 Just Cannabusiness Medical Cultivator Grant Program is designed to increase the supply of medical cannabis in the District of Columbia, which must be grown in the District. DSLBD intends to award these grants to resident-owned, licensed medical cannabis cultivators to support the overall growth of the medical cannabis sector. Following the expansion of the license types and number of licenses allowable through the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration (“ABCA”), increasing the District’s medical cannabis supply will support the entire medical cannabis market as additional retailers and other license holders seek to enter the market.

Medical Cannabis Cultivator grants will focus on supporting additional regulated cultivation centers coming online into full production and are only available to applicants who can demonstrate proof of 51% or more DC resident ownership.

### A. Seed Grants

The Department anticipates making up to 65 reimbursement only seed grants in the amount of \$2,000 to qualified small and local businesses with a full or conditional medical cannabis cultivation license issued by ABCA. These grants will be automatically awarded to eligible applicants who meet all criteria by the grant deadlines to help fund the initial costs of licensure for conditional license holders, including costs incurred in establishing a regulated cultivation center, and other costs associated with pursuing a medical cannabis cultivation license, as approved by DSLBD. Proof of qualifying expenditures is required.

### B. Growth Grants

Additionally, DSLBD further anticipates making 2-6 growth grants. Following a successful business pitch and submission of qualified, reimbursable expenses, DSLBD anticipates awarding grants between \$5,000 to \$50,000 each for applicants with established cultivation centers. Grantees must be able to verify legal site control of the intended location for the center or center expansion.

## C. Restriction on Grant Funds

Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 7–1671.06(k)(3), holders of conditional licenses are prohibited from engaging in the following activities: purchasing, possessing, cultivating, manufacturing, or the sale of medical cannabis or cannabis products. Thus, grant funds disbursed to holders of conditional licenses shall not be used for any of the above purposes.

## 2. Online Application & Deadlines

The application will contain two parts with separate applications and deadlines for each part:

Part #1: The Expression of Interest and Initial Eligibility Form. The Expression of Interest and Initial Eligibility Form will open on August 14, 2024 and is due by August 23, 2024, at 2:00 pm ET (no exceptions). DSLBD may offer a corrections window for clarifications or corrections of information provided in the Expression of Interest and Initial Eligibility Application.

Part #2: The Competitive Application. Applicants deemed initially eligible for the grant opportunity who have submitted the required supporting documents will be invited to complete proof of expenditures and provide evidence of site control, if applicable, via the application portal. Applicants must meet all criteria by August 30, 2024, to be eligible for either funding category of seed or growth grants. Only applications submitted through the application portal will be considered.

### A. Part #1 Expression of Interest and Initial Eligibility Link and System

Qualified applicants may express interest here: <http://s.alchemer.com/s3/FY2024-Just-Cannabusiness-Medical-Cultivator-Grant> by the **Part #1 submission deadline of August 23, 2024, at 2:00 pm ET.**

If an applicant submits multiple Expression of Interest and Initial Eligibility Forms, DSLBD will only consider the last submitted application and automatically reject prior applications submitted by the same entity.

To be deemed eligible, all required documentation must be submitted in the online system by August 23, 2024, at 2:00 pm ET. Interested parties that fail to meet the eligibility requirements by this deadline will be disqualified from submitting a competitive application.

**The last date to ask eligibility questions with a guaranteed response before the final deadline is the close of business the day before the deadline (August 23, 2024, at 2:00 PM ET).**

## **B. Part #2: Competitive Application Link and System**

DSLBD will send a link to the Competitive Application to eligible applicants. Eligible applicants will have until August 30 at 2:00 pm ET to access, complete, and submit their Competitive Application.

Only complete Competitive Applications from applicants deemed to be eligible and submitted through the announced application portal will be accepted. Applicants who meet the eligibility requirements and provide proof of reimbursable expenses will automatically receive a seed grant; applicants who can demonstrate site control over an established licensed cultivation center or a proposed center by August 30, 2024, at 2:00 pm ET will have the opportunity to pursue growth grants through the pitch competition.

All application materials must be entered or uploaded using the application system. No competitive application materials will be accepted outside of the application systems or after the grant's final deadline.

## **3. Eligibility & Checklist**

Applicants must meet the following criteria to apply for this grant opportunity:

- DC-based entity that is majority resident owned (51% or more DC resident-owned business); Holder of a current conditional or full medical cannabis cultivators license from ABCA;
  - Applicants holding only a conditional license, which is not a license to do business, must also provide a basic business license number issued by the Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection (**DLCP**);
- Organized in the District as a for-profit entity; and
- Compliant with applicable District laws.

In addition to the above requirements, applicants must meet the eligibility criteria and provide the required documentation outlined in *Section C: Required Documents and Attestations for Eligibility*.

Required documentation must demonstrate:

- Proof of DC residency of the applicant’s owner(s);
- Active DC Business Licensure(s) required for the type of goods/services provided and proof of Good Standing from DLCP;
- The applicant’s owner(s) is/are the majority owner of the business entity;
- Compliance with DC tax and licensing laws as demonstrated by a compliant Clean Hands Certificate;
- Federal employee identification number (“EIN”); and
- Site control of a location for a regulated cultivation center (for Growth Grants only).

Attestations made on behalf of the applicant must be from:

- The majority business owner(s) of the applicant for-profit entity; and
- A legally authorized signatory.

Authorized members or employees of the business and third-party support/consultants may be added to the application but cannot attest on behalf of an applicant.

#### **A. Additional Eligibility Documentation Required if Awarded**

If awarded, additional documentation will be required, as outlined in *Section 8: Award Information*.

#### **B. Failure to Demonstrate Eligibility**

Applicants who submit Expression of Interest Forms on behalf of entities that do not meet eligibility requirements will not be invited to apply for a DSLBD Just Cannabusiness Medical Cultivator Grant (i.e., the Competitive Application process). All documents and attestations provided for consideration of eligibility must be submitted through the online eligibility application system. False information and attestations submitted to DSLBD may result in forfeiture of the grant award and other penalties, as appropriate.

**Applicants interested in applying for a DSLBD Just Cannabusiness Medical Cultivator Grant MUST submit the required Eligibility Documents and Attestations outlined below in the application by the eligibility application deadline and meet the status criteria.**

### C. Required Documents and Attestations for Eligibility

Required Items	Description
1. Corporate Registration File Number for Active DC Corporation associated with cultivation license	The Corporation must be the entity associated with all other documentation (for-profit business, active and not expired, rescinded, or revoked), and verifiable at <a href="https://corponline.dkra.dc.gov">https://corponline.dkra.dc.gov</a> . If a sole-proprietor, attest to sole-proprietorship.
2. Current Conditional or Full Medical Cannabis Cultivators License from the ABCA	The entity applying must hold and demonstrate an active, not expired, rescinded, or revoked, Conditional or Full Medical Cannabis License from ABCA. DSLBD may verify all licensure and compliance with licensure requirements with ABCA directly.
3. Active DC Business License Number required for applicants with only Conditional ABCA Medical Cannabis Cultivation licensure	The licensed address must be located in the District and searchable in the DLCP Business License Look Up ( <a href="https://scout.dkra.dc.gov">https://scout.dkra.dc.gov</a> ), or uploaded to provide proof of alternative licensure if a DLCP basic business licensing is not required for the business type. Additionally, if the type of good/service provided by the entity requires an additional license from a regulatory entity, that documentation must be provided as well.
4. Proof of Majority Ownership	The applicant must provide a breakdown of ownership or ownership stake(s) in the business applying for the grant opportunity. Such documentation may include the Articles of Incorporation, Operating Agreements, or Trade name registration (Trade name registration accepted for sole-proprietors only).
5. Proof of DC Residency dated on or after July 1, 2024	Must be for a residential address in the District, in the name of the applicant that is the majority owner of the business, dated on or after July 1, 2024, and may include a Utility Bill, Personal Bank Statement, Paystub, or Formal Government letter verifying residency. DSLBD will not accept a deed, lease, or water bill. Utilize the Master Address

	Repository system to verify the address: <a href="https://developers.data.dc.gov/marviewer/home">https://developers.data.dc.gov/marviewer/home</a> .
6. Office of Tax & Revenue Compliant “Clean Hands” Certificate issued to the business entity on or after July 1, 2024	Applicants can check their Clean Hands status and generate a notice of compliance (if compliant) for free at <a href="https://otr.cfo.dc.gov/page/certificate-clean-hands">https://otr.cfo.dc.gov/page/certificate-clean-hands</a> . Applicants must download a Clean Hands Certificate to upload with their application. DSLBD will confirm the validity of the certificate through <a href="https://mytax.dc.gov">https://mytax.dc.gov</a> .
7. Employment Identification Number	Available for free at <a href="https://www.irs.gov">IRS.gov</a> . The last four digits of the EIN must match the digits displayed on the business entity’s “Clean Hands” document.
8. Site Control of Regulated Cultivation Center Location	Supporting documents that demonstrate the applicant’s control of the regulated cultivation center location. A recorded deed in the name of the applicant, a lease agreement, a valid purchase and sale agreement, or other lawful evidence satisfactory to DSLBD will be accepted. Submitted documents must be fully executed by all involved parties. (For Growth grants applicants only; must be demonstrated by August 30, 2024.)
9. Required Eligibility Attestations	The business owner must attest to the truth of each of the statements below. If an attestation is demonstrably false, or not made by the majority owner, eligibility will be denied.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Applicant providing attestations is the 51% or more majority owner.</li> <li>B. Entity is a for-profit corporation.</li> <li>C. Entity is headquartered in Washington, DC, with its principal office located in the District.</li> <li>D. Applicant entity meets the definition of a small business as outlined in DC Official Code § 2–218.32.</li> <li>E. Applicant entity is compliant with DC Official Code § 1–328.15, which concerns eligibility requirements for receiving grants.</li> </ul>

	<p>F. Entity has properly reported on all grants from the District government in the past two (2) years.</p> <p>G. Applicant entity is current on all District and federal taxes and unemployment insurance payments.</p> <p>H. Applicant entity is not debarred or proposed for debarment as a result of any actions by the District of Columbia Contract Appeals Board, the Office of Contracting and Procurement, or any other District contract regulating agency.</p> <p>I. If awarded, the applicant entity agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the government of the District of Columbia and its authorized officers, employees, agents, and volunteers from any and all claims, actions, losses, damages, and/or liability arising out of this grant or subgrant from any cause whatsoever, including the acts, errors or omissions of any person, and for any costs or expenses incurred by the District on account of any claim therefore, except where such indemnification is prohibited by law.</p>
10.Receipt of Electronic Funds	The business owner must attest that the business has a business bank account that can receive an electronic funds transfer if awarded the grant.
11.Required Programmatic Attestations	<p>The business owner must attest to the truth of each of the statements below. If an attestation is demonstrably false or not made by the majority owner, eligibility will be denied.</p> <p>A. Attest to compliance with District and ABCA medical cannabis regulations.</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>B. If awarded grant funds from DSLBD, entities holding a Conditional Medical Cannabis License from ABCA agree to refrain from purchasing, possessing, cultivating, manufacturing, or selling medical cannabis or cannabis products, in violation of DC Official Code § 7–1671.06(k)(3).</li> <li>C. Attest that business entity and applicant have not and will not engage in the possession or sale of non-regulated, THC cannabis or other THC containing products from the date of submission of application for cultivation center licensure with ABCA.</li> <li>D. Attest to at least \$2,000 in reimbursable expenses for which the applicant can demonstrate proof of payment by the business from October 1, 2023 through August 30, 2024.</li> <li>E. Further, for applicants for the Growth Grant, attest to at least \$5,000 in reimbursable expenses for which the applicant can demonstrate proof of payment by the business from October 1, 2023 through August 30, 2024.</li> </ul>
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The above checklist covers ALL required documentation used to determine an applicant’s eligibility at the Expression of Interest stage (Part #1). Applications that do not contain complete and verifiable documents, information, and attestations in the application system by the final eligibility deadline **will not be eligible to apply to the Competitive Application (Part #2).**

#### **4. Restrictions on Allowable Uses of Funds**

DSLBD Just Cannabusiness Medical Cultivator Grant funds have allowed uses and disallowed uses. All reimbursable expenses funded by the grant must have occurred during the “Period of Reimbursement,” which is October 1, 2023 through August 30, 2024 for these reimbursement grants.

The proposed use of funds must be acceptable to DSLBD and will be outlined in individual grant agreements.

##### **A. Allowed Uses**

Grant funds may be used to reimburse any of the following expenses made between October 1, 2023 and August 30, 2024 by the applicant entity for the purpose of establishing a DC-based medical cannabis cultivation center:

1. Application and licensing fees related to starting up or maintaining a medical cannabis facility in the District of Columbia;
2. Internships and apprenticeships and local hiring at licensed medical cannabis facilities;
3. Education expenses of staff, managers, and owners related to training, certification, licensure, or participation in an accredited degree program related to the medical cannabis industry;
4. Individual license or permit fees required for individual staff, managers, or owners necessary to operate a medical cannabis facility;
5. Licensee security upgrades;
6. Licensee waste reduction and disposal improvements;
7. Licensee pollution, carbon emission, energy, or water use reduction;
8. Employment of specialized accounting, agriculture, architectural, child safety, legal, health and safety, marketing, manufacturing, security, or tax consulting services;
9. Clean energy generation or usage;
10. Electric or fuel-efficient delivery vehicles;
11. The purchase or renting of specialized equipment related to the production of medical cannabis products, computer systems and programs, and point-of-sale systems;

12. Any cost associated with acquiring or maintaining a medical cannabis facility, including rent;
13. Building purchase, construction, renovations, and expansions;
14. Startup capital and funds to purchase an existing businesses; and
15. Other costs proposed by the applicant and accepted by DSLBD in its sole discretion.

## **B. Disallowed Uses**

The funds shall not be used for any of the following:

1. Financing existing debt, including payment of taxes owed.
2. Expenses incurred outside of the Period of Performance.
3. Expenses that are reimbursed by a different grant from the District government.
4. Personal use or other uses not related to the purposes identified in the grant.
5. Unauthorized personnel/labor costs for staff and board members with controlling interests that have not been approved in advance by DSLBD.
6. Direct purchase of food (except food while attending professional development conferences outside the Washington, DC metropolitan area).
7. Direct purchase of alcohol or alcohol-related paraphernalia (e.g., wine glasses, mixers, and beer taps).
8. Payments to a professional fundraiser to raise funds for the grantee.
9. Donations or charitable giving to nonprofit organizations.
10. Vehicle purchase.
11. Real estate purchase.
12. Lobbying the government of the District of Columbia.
13. Lawsuits against the government of the District of Columbia.
14. Any activity, goods, services, or products deemed illegal by the government of the District of Columbia.
15. Any activity, goods, services, or products deemed ineligible by DSLBD in its sole discretion.
16. Expenses incurred without prior DSLBD approval.
17. For Seed Grant recipients with a Conditional Medical Cannabis License from ABCA, any purchasing, possessing, cultivating, manufacturing, or selling of

medical cannabis or cannabis products, in violation of DC Official Code § 7–1671.06(k)(3).

DSLBD will review proof of fund expenditures against approved cost categories in an awarded grant and will disallow costs that do not comply with the requirements.

## **5. Proof of Expenditures & Competitive Application**

Proof of expenditures are required for both grant opportunities. Entities deemed eligible for the Competitive Application portion must submit the following:

1. Seed and Growth Grants: Proof of expenditure (receipts, canceled checks, or bank/credit card statements) for all reimbursable expenses applicants seek to have costed under the (up to \$2,000) Seed Grants and (\$5,000-\$50,000) Growth Grants.
2. Growth Grants: Financial statements detailing:
  - a. Profit and Loss Statement Past Year;
  - b. Profit and Loss Projections for First Year of operations;
  - c. Balance Sheet for Past Year; and
  - d. Cash Flow Projections for First Year of operations.
3. Growth Grants: A pitch deck of no more than 15 slides for open pitch competition (PDF or PowerPoint).

DSLBD will invite applicants who meet the submission requirements for Growth Grants to an in-person pitch competition event in September 2024 that will be open to the public. Additional information will be sent to applicants who meet the submission requirements via email along with the date, time and location of the event. Applicants should expect to use the pitch deck, as submitted during the competition. Sensitive financial information need not be included in the public pitch, however, relevant information in financial statements and expense documentation must be provided to DSLBD in conformity with the Competitive Application requirements.

## **6. Scoring Criteria**

Seed grants will be automatically awarded to eligible applicants demonstrating proof of reimbursable expenditures.

Growth Grants awards will be determined upon a review of expenses, financial statements, and information from the public pitch as follows:

**A. Summary of the overall business, including who owns it and how it operates. (5 points, required)**

**B. Are the reimbursable expenses or proposed line items cost-effective overall and impactful in meeting the objectives of the Just Cannabusiness Medical Cultivator grants? (15 points, 5 points per question)**

1. Do the expenses to be reimbursed align with the business's narrative summary? Do the expenses address needs or pain points in moving towards launching or expanding production?
2. Are the expenses to be reimbursed reasonable for the growth of the company and in alignment with the allowable costs as outlined in the RFA?
3. Are the proposed costs specifically cost-effective, impactful, and a responsible use of Government funds?

**C. Did the business clearly explain the timeline for the anticipated launch of new or expanded production? How will the business be impacted by faster or more effective production? (15 points, 5 points per question)**

1. Did the business provide a realistic timeline and process for the business to launch new or expanded production as a medical cannabis cultivator compliant with all District laws?
2. Did the business demonstrate preparedness to move to new or expanded production and operation?
3. Does the business demonstrate how the requested financial support will impact their ability to launch or expand more quickly or more effectively?

**D. Do the key personnel have domain experience in the cannabis market? (10 points, 5 points per question).**

1. Do the individuals highlighted as Key Personnel have relevant experience, skills, and background required to execute the business plan successfully?
2. Whether internal or external to the business, has the business gathered sufficient owners, staff, advisors, investors, or consultants necessary to maintain regulatory compliance, legal, accounting, security, and operations to successfully manage a cannabis cultivation center?

**E. Has the business aligned with a target market of potential customers or worked out supply chain channels? (10 points, 5 points per question)**

1. Does the business demonstrate traction, or a plan for traction, for upstream supply chain management for sourcing all needed materials?
2. Does the business demonstrate traction, or a plan for traction, for downstream supply chain management to ensure testing and sales are safe, effective, and positioned to help the brand grow?

## **7. Selection Process**

DSLBD will select grant recipients through a competitive application process. Applications that fail to meet the technical submission requirements may be rejected. A review panel composed of a combination of agency partners, members of the public, and DC government employees will review eligible applications received by the submission deadline using the above criteria through a combination of desk review of the financial documents and information garnered through the pitch competition.

DSLBD's Program Team will assess panel reviewers' recommendations and report them to the Director of DSLBD, who will make the final determination of grant awards.

## **8. Award Information**

### **A. Grant Award Notification**

DSLBD anticipates reviewing and awarding grants by September 15-25, 2024 and anticipates sending Notice of Grant Award ("**NOGA**") emails to selected applicants or awardees around early September 2024.

DSLBD will notify all applicants who were not selected to receive a grant award no later than one week after the initial notification is sent to selected applicants.

### **B. Pre-Award Finalization**

NOGAs will include any contingencies, additional requirements, and processes for finalizing budgets, budget categories, deliverables, and scopes of work. DSLBD may negotiate any required adjustments or changes with awardees from the proposal to the final award.

Additional documentation requirements may apply. Awards to previous DSLBD grantees may be contingent upon the completion of previous grant reporting. Grant

awards may be forfeited if the grant agreement is not executed within 15 days after an awardee receives a NOGA and the cause for such delay is due to the awardee's inability to meet the post-award requirements for any reason.

Awardees must maintain eligibility and good standing from the time of award through the Period of Performance. Eligibility status is based on compliance with items outlined in *Section 3: Eligibility & Documentation*, as well as additional requirements outlined in this section.

### **C. Formal Grant Agreement**

Selected applicants must sign an individual grant agreement with DSLBD after meeting all contingency and pre-award requirements. DSLBD anticipates executing grant agreements during September 2024.

### **D. Additional Survey Assessment**

DSLBD anticipates further survey assessment of awardees following the finalization of grant agreements to support program evaluation.

### **E. Regular Grantee Coordination with Grant Contact**

DSLBD will assign a point of contact for the grant who will serve as the Grant Coordinator. Grantees should anticipate regular communication with the DSLBD Grant Coordinator for purposes of the grant.

### **D. Grant Reporting**

The grant agreement will require additional documentation and reporting during and following the grant period using a reporting system(s) stipulated by DSLBD. Grantees will be required to report on the use of funds, in accordance with approved budget and expenditures within the cost categories outlined under the grant, with appropriate documentation (receipts and similar proof of expenditures made). Failure to submit documentation of proper expenditures may result in a demand for the return of any and all funds that have not been properly expended or accounted for. Required reporting will also include demonstration and data for grant activities and deliverables required under the grant.

Grantees are required to submit interim reporting and prepare a final report by October 30, 2024, providing proof of appropriate expenses and detailing the impact of the grant, as outlined in the individual grant agreement.

### **E. Disbursement (Payment)**

Terms of disbursement shall be determined after applicants are selected but may include the collection of additional documentation such as an IRS W-9, additional proof of insurance, registration in District payment systems, and ACH payment documentation. Disbursement schedules will be outlined within the grant agreement. The government of the District of Columbia pays all approved invoices within 30 days of receipt of invoice. **This 30-day timeline starts after an executed grant agreement is in place, a recipient is fully registered to receive payment via the District’s payment systems or selected third party payment systems, a purchase order number has been successfully created, and the grantee successfully submits an eligible invoice in the required system.**

### **F. Modifications**

Additional or modified information may be required as part of a final grant agreement. An awardee that cannot provide these and other requested materials by the date outlined in the NOGA may be disqualified, and DSLBD may award the grant to another applicant.

## **9. Important Legal Disclaimers**

This section includes the reservations that DSLBD makes in releasing this RFA.

### **A. Contingent**

Funding for this award is contingent on sufficient funding from the government of the District of Columbia. The RFA does not commit DSLBD to make an award.

### **B. Application Acceptance**

Following the closing of the application deadline(s), DSLBD will not review applications that do not comply with all instructions in the RFA. The Department reserves the right to accept or deny any or all applications if the Department determines it is in the best interest of the District to do so. The Department may



suspend or terminate an outstanding RFA pursuant to its own grant-making rule(s) or any applicable federal regulation or requirement.

Applications must be made through the online portal. DSLBD will not accept applications submitted via hand delivery, email, mail, or courier service. DSLBD will not review late submissions or incomplete applications.

### **C. Notice of Funding Availability**

DSLBD published the Notice of Funding Availability (“**NOFA**”) in the DC Register on June 6, 2024 and the OPGS Funding Alert. The NOFA is available at <http://dslbd.dc.gov/>.

### **D. Conflicts**

In the event of a conflict between the terms and conditions of the grant application and any applicable federal or local law or regulation, or any ambiguity related thereto, the provisions of the applicable law or regulation shall control, and it shall be the responsibility of the applicant to ensure compliance.

### **E. Costs of Applications**

Neither DSLBD nor the government of the District of Columbia shall be liable for any costs incurred by an applicant in the preparation of any grant applications for a FY24 Just Cannabusiness Medical Cultivator Grant. All costs incurred in developing and preparing any grant application shall be the applicant’s sole responsibility.

### **F. Ownership of Content**

DSLBD is considered an owner of any content developed for technical assistance purposes and paid through a DSLBD grant award. As such, DSLBD may retain and reuse written or recorded materials and concepts at a future time.

### **G. Accessibility**

Attendees registered for potential information sessions or in-person activations related to this grant may request language access accommodations through email or registration for activities funded through this grant. Requests for language and American Sign Language (“**ASL**”) interpretation must be forwarded immediately to the DSLBD Grant Coordinator. If requests are made at least ten (10) business days prior to the activity start date, DSLBD will arrange for language and ASL interpretation services for business owners who confirm their participation and need.

In-person events related to the grant, such as the business pitch competition, will be held at a location compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) to be announced by the DSLBD Grant Coordinator.

## **H. Reservation of Rights**

1. DSLBD reserves the right to issue addenda and/or amendments subsequent to the issuance of the NOFA or RFA, or to rescind the NOFA or RFA. DSLBD will post addenda or amendments in the online application portal. Applicants are responsible to review and adhere to any RFA addenda or amendments.
2. DSLBD may suspend or terminate an outstanding RFA pursuant to any other applicable local, state, or federal regulation or requirement.
3. DSLBD may conduct pre-award on-site visits to verify information submitted in a grant application.
4. DSLBD serves as its own reference in evaluating applications. Grant decisions may reflect applicants’ performance in managing previous grants.
5. DSLBD may enter into negotiations with an awardee and adopt a firm funding amount or other revision of the awardee’s proposal that may result from the negotiations.