

Proposition 64 Cohort 3 Grant Program

Local Evaluation Plan

Title of Project

CA City Prop 64 Grant Project

Submitted by (Name of grantee):

California City

Prepared by (Name(s) & Contact information of author or entity):

Chris Borden, Outside Evaluator, cgb24@yahoo.com

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Project Background

In 2018, the City of California City (CA City) legalized marijuana in retail, distribution, testing, and manufacturing. CA City - with a population of 14,291 and a size of 203.7 square miles - is one of only two localities in Kern County that have legalized cannabis since the enactment of Proposition 64. As of November 2022, there are 55 licensed cannabis operations in CA City.

Marijuana legalization was an attempt to increase tax funding to adequately fund the public safety departments. However, to date, the costs to the community have outweighed the revenues collected.

City resources are stretched thin dealing with the illegal marijuana market that is present in the community. 77,837 plants have been eradicated from 53 separate sites, along with weapons, toxic chemicals, and illegal fertilizers from the black and gray markets. The black-market breeds violence, and the area has experienced shootouts and deaths over the past few years.

CA City is engaged in multiple strategies to provide a whole-of-community approach to creating a safe and healthy cannabis industry. The services are spearheaded by a task force made up of City Fire, Police, and Finance Departments. A Deputy Fire Marshal (DFM) was recently hired to lead the project; the position is devoted to cannabis duties for local order and safety. The project follows evidence-based strategies and is flexible enough to modify as new strategies are tested and proven successful in the field. Task Force Members are focused on youth education; increasing the quality and frequency of inspections of cannabis businesses; improving public information, outreach, and law enforcement of human trafficking; increasing the safety of first responders; and increasing code enforcement. Grant programming will target approximately 1,200 students annually, all 13 firefighters, all 55 cannabis businesses, and the cannabis workers in the City - the number of which is currently unknown due to the use of seasonal and trafficked employees.

Goal 1: Educate youth and the community on the dangers of marijuana usage.

Objectives: Strengthen relationships between Task Force and California City high school and middle school. Establish programs to educate parents and community members on the prevalence of marijuana, its ease of accessibility to minors, and the dangers of marijuana on their children's health. Establish marijuana education programs at the middle school and the high school.

Marijuana literacy education helps reduce the risk of adverse health consequences by supporting informed behavioral choices, including abstinence, non-frequent consumption, avoiding early age initiation, use of non-inhaled low potency cannabis products, abstaining from cannabis-impaired driving, and avoiding combining risky behaviors. A PD officer will implement an education campaign for middle school and high school students on the dangers and risks of cannabis use. The Officer will visit individual classrooms throughout the year and present

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information regarding the short- and long-term impacts of cannabis use, with an expected impact on 1,200 CA City students annually. The officer will also conduct at least one parental educational seminar each year, open to all parents. Bi-annual meetings will be held with middle school and high school administrators on the usage of marijuana in school and among school-aged students.

Goal 2: Increasing the health and safety of the community

Objectives: Ensure Fire Department and Police Department first responders are properly equipped to safely enter contaminated cannabis areas. Ensure Task Force members have increased knowledge, awareness, and preparedness to address and respond to human trafficking. Ensure cannabis laborers work in safer environments.

CA City will use grant funds to buy the necessary equipment and PPE to ensure that FD and PD officers responding to cannabis emergencies can do so in a safe and healthy manner. This will include the purchase of the following equipment:

Two cannabis analyzers to test the level of THC in products. It will also be used when dealing with hazardous materials.

A handheld volatile organic compound detector to ensure that the air is safe enough for responders to breathe and free of contaminants and hazardous materials.

Equipment for internal hazardous materials mitigation and training so that officers are comfortable using cannabis-specific emergency equipment before it's necessary and continually train and improve.

First Due Suite Cloud-Based System, a compatible software system with Kern County in case they assist in mutual aid. The system will pull up all City inspection reports, licensing agreements, floor schematics, and other information so that all first responders are up-to-date on the facility being responded to in an emergency situation.

The task force will ensure that FD and PD officers who inspect cannabis industries and respond to potentially hazardous situations are properly trained and equipped. Officers will also be given additional training, including the HazMat Emergency Response Workshop, to ensure they are kept up to date on new protocols and regulations. In Year 3, task force members will evaluate the team and propose new training based on immediate needs or emerging issues.

The task force also plans to improve public information, outreach, and law enforcement of human trafficking through the following methods: more frequent inspections will increase oversight of businesses suspected of human trafficking; a Police Department Officer and the DFM will attend a 40-hour South Bay Regional Public Safety Training Consortium training on human trafficking. They will then share the knowledge of the course with the task force and other first responders. The task force will also move to strengthen relationships with community

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organizations that work with trafficking victims, to give them a place to find education and help. Finally, the City will work to pass an ordinance requiring all cannabis businesses to hang posters that provide information on the illegality of human trafficking and ways to find help in the most common native language of workers.

Goal 3: Ensure more licensed cannabis businesses are compliant with tax laws and ordinances.

Objectives: Institute new cannabis-related ordinances within City limits to increase compliance with environmental and labor standards. Increase the percentage of businesses with an active cannabis license that do not have unpaid local tax bills. Establish a case management system to properly track all operators, manage audit and inspection notes, and provide a database for consistent follow-up to maintain annual compliance. Increase the percentage of licensed cannabis businesses that receive an annual financial inspection from the City.

The task force will increase the quality and frequency of inspections of cannabis businesses. The Fire Department has hired a DFM to focus solely on the booming cannabis industry in CA City. The DFM will perform quarterly inspections of all cannabis industry locations. Regular inspections are the linchpin in creating a successful and safe cannabis industry that benefits the entire community. Ensuring the businesses are following health, safety, and environmental regulations will create a safer, healthier, and happier community while creating a sustainable tax base to fund robust public safety departments in the coming years. Cannabis businesses are actively flouting health and safety ordinances and the City's tax codes because FD lacks the personnel and resources to monitor cannabis businesses effectively. To address this, the City will hire a Consultant from Core Compliance who will: Meet and inspect each of the 55 business licensees; revise existing ordinances to increase cannabis compliance; develop and maintain compliance assets such as inspection reports; audit working papers; and excise tax forms. Inspections will be coupled with increased levying of fines, which will encourage businesses to follow health and safety codes. The task force believes compliance enforcement will generate the necessary funding to sustain the program and increase public benefit.

Goal 4: Mitigate environmental and hazardous incidents related to legal cannabis.

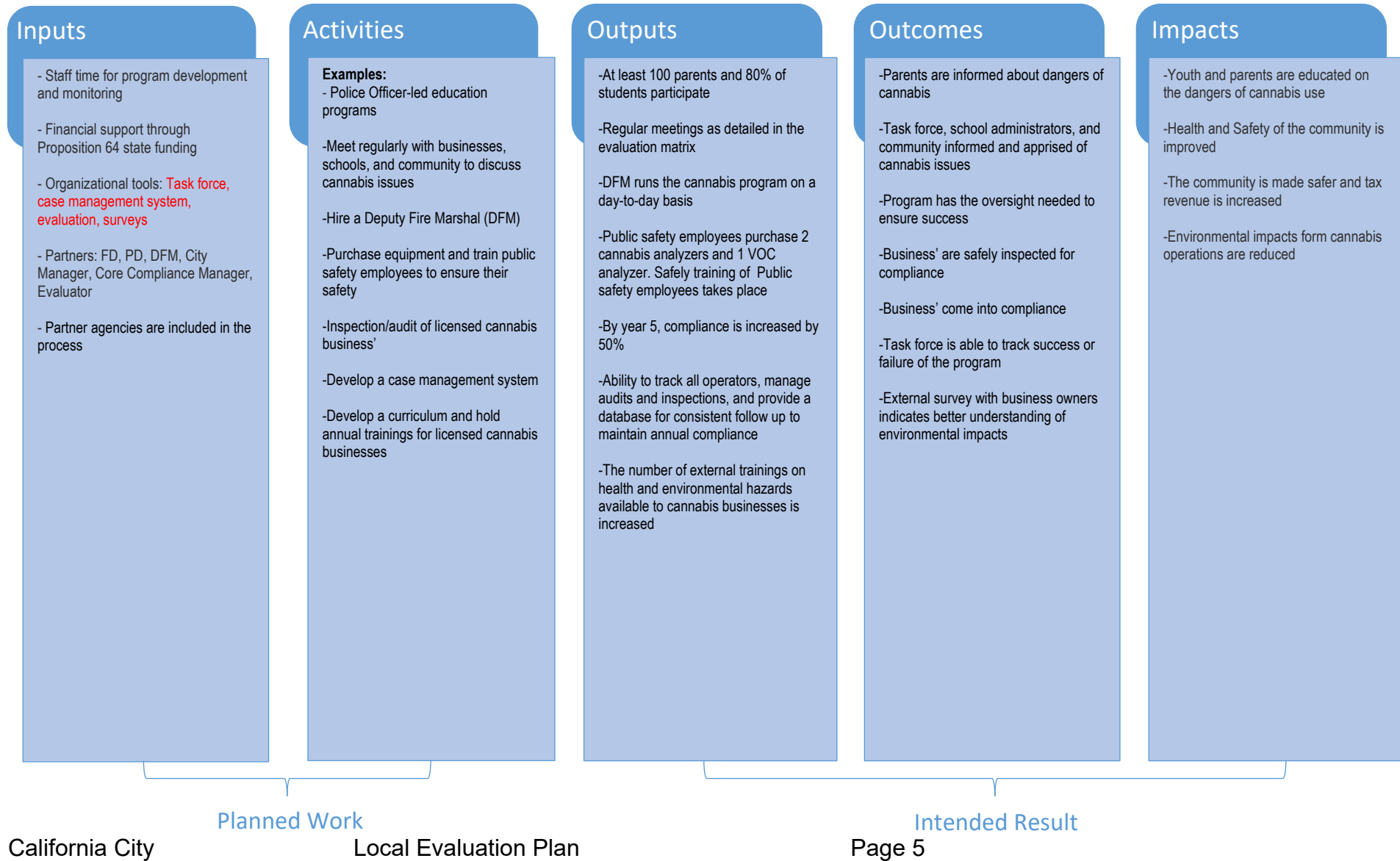
Objectives: The public safety community receives training in evidence-based practices to reduce general health hazards and environmental issues. Cannabis business owners and operators receive training in evidence-based practices to reduce general health hazards and environmental issues.

CA City would like to balance rigorous code enforcement and improvement with proactive training for businesses, which would ultimately improve outcomes for legal cannabis industry participants and community members. The Task Force will host at least one training session per year targeted toward cannabis business owners, focused on labor laws, code compliance, and environmental and hazardous mitigation. These trainings will be recorded and posted in a timely fashion on a City website, with an email campaign educating businesses on the growing resource

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page. Police and Fire Department employees will be receiving extensive public safety training as described in goals 1-3.

Project Logic Model



Process Evaluation Method and Design

Outcome Evaluation Method and Design

On a day-to-day basis, the DFM will monitor the program's implementation. A cannabis compliance case management system will be developed to properly track all operators, manage audit and inspection notes, and provide a database for consistent follow-up to maintain annual compliance. During FD's weekly meeting, the DFM and Fire Chief will discuss the program's successes and failures, take input from the rest of the Task Force team, and modify the program as needed. The Task Force will meet monthly to discuss activities and implementation.

Activities will be documented via a spreadsheet that is used specifically for progress and activity tracking. The spreadsheet will coincide with the quarterly report data required in the grant. Internal and external training, inspections, compliance meetings, and youth education discussions will provide the documentation of service delivery. The DFM will oversee the tracking of all documentation. Throughout the grant period, the DFM will run roundtable discussions with Task Force members and other interested parties, to measure the program's success and make needed modifications. Each quarter, the data and feedback will be reviewed by staff and partners in preparation for the submission of quarterly reports.

The research design will include a mixed approach of qualitative and quantitative data review quarterly. Quantitative data will include internal and external training, inspections, compliance meetings, CA Healthy Kids survey results on marijuana usage harm, and youth education discussions at schools. Observational data will be provided by Task Force members - DFM, Chief Kosick, PD officers, the Consultant, and Partners to identify gaps in the process that may not be reflected in the quantitative data gathered. This feedback will be used to provide additional context to the quarterly report narratives. Evaluation will include a final Local Evaluation Report, which will inform program improvements after the grant expires, and a Financial Audit to help determine if program benefits exceed costs.

An Outside Evaluator has been hired to evaluate the grant's progress. The DFM and Fire Chief will meet with the Outside Evaluator at least quarterly to review the program's objectives and activities.

Goal 1: Educate youth and the community on the dangers of marijuana usage.

The task force will hire an officer to implement an education campaign for middle school and high school students on the dangers and risks of cannabis use. The Officer will visit individual classrooms throughout the year and present information regarding the short- and long-term impacts of cannabis use. The officer will also conduct at least one parental educational seminar each year, open to all parents. The task force and principals will meet annually to discuss marijuana issues in the school and among students. Quantitative spreadsheet data will be tracked using the number of bi-annual meetings with middle school and high school administrators on the usage of marijuana in school and among school-aged students.

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Attendance logs will be used to ensure at least 100 middle and high school-age parents participate in Police Officer-led education programs. Attendance logs will be used to ensure education sessions are attended by 80% of middle school and high school classrooms per year. The California Healthy Kids survey will be administered every 2 years to ensure a 15% decrease in the number of CA City 9th graders who perceive "No harm" in weekly marijuana usage by 2028.

Goal 2: Increasing the health and safety of the community

To ensure the safety of public safety employees the task force will purchase 2 cannabis analyzers and 1 handheld VOC analyzer. The FD has hired a Deputy Fire Marshal and will hire other Task Force members to increase the capacity of the department to inspect businesses. The Deputy Fire Marshal and Police Officer will attend human trafficking training to learn how to identify a potential human trafficking victim. The DFM and PD Officer will train Task Force members about how to identify human trafficking and know the referral resources. The task force will hold annual formal engagement meetings with local human trafficking victim support organizations. The task force will also work to pass a new ordinance requiring that businesses hang posters educating laborers on human trafficking and workplace safety. The DFM will hold external training with cannabis businesses to ensure that they understand OSHA and other workplace-related safety standards. The task force will conduct regular inspections of licensed cannabis businesses. The task force will submit a quarterly summary of inspection report trends with the evaluator to monitor grant progress.

During the first year of the program qualitative surveys of task force members will be used to ensure 100% of relevant task force members have appropriate PPE and equipment available in their departments to enter contaminated cannabis areas. Qualitative surveys will also assess that task force members have at least a 60% increase in confidence in their ability to identify and respond to human trafficking. Quantitative inspection reports of cannabis businesses will be used to increase by 60% the percentage of licensed cannabis businesses displaying information on a laborer's workplace rights and safety standards. Task Force spreadsheet tracking will be used to ensure the number of licensed cannabis operations receiving regular quarterly inspections is increased by 90%. Task force inspection reports will be used to ensure that 50% fewer licensed cannabis businesses are found to break code regulations by year five. Meeting and engagement logs with human trafficking victim support organizations will be used to ensure increased frequency of engagement with local human trafficking victim support organizations.

Goal 3: Ensure more licensed cannabis businesses are compliant with tax laws and ordinances.

The task force will review existing ordinances to determine needed policy changes that will favor improved cannabis compliance. They will also propose and adopt new ordinances. Using community input the task force will develop a cannabis compliance case management system to properly track all operators, manage audit and inspection notes, and provide a database for consistent follow-up to maintain annual compliance. The task force will conduct a financial

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audit for each operator. The task force will conduct inspection and compliance meetings with each licensed cannabis business. The task force will conduct regular inspections of licensed cannabis businesses

Existing city ordinances and regulations will be reviewed, and new regulations will be proposed by the task force. Progress will be tracked in the spreadsheet. By Year 5, the City will host four listening sessions with the community to inform and solicit feedback on to-be-developed cannabis related ordinances. Attendance logs of community listening sessions will be used to track performance. Using a review of the compliance case management system. 100% of licensed cannabis businesses will be input into the compliance case management system by Year 5. The percentage of licensed cannabis businesses that are out of compliance will be decreased by 75% by Year 5. This will be accomplished with inspections and financial audits of all 55 cannabis businesses to ensure they are in compliance and know the rules. Tracking will take place in the spreadsheet. By the end of Year 2, 80% of marijuana grow and distribution facilities will be inspected at least quarterly. Progress will be tracked using an annual tally of regular inspections.

Goal 4: Mitigate environmental and hazardous incidents related to legal cannabis.

Deputy Fire Marshal, Fire Chief Kosick, and all 12 CA City firefighters will receive external training on hazardous mitigation. The task force will develop a curriculum or training session based on licensed cannabis business owner feedback on common health and environmental concerns and conduct annual training with licensed cannabis businesses. Quarterly inspections will be led by the Deputy Fire Marshal.

Training attendance logs and internal surveys will be used to ensure CA City First responders report increased preparedness to react to a myriad of health and environmental situations related to the cannabis industry. An external survey of business owners will be used to track the increase in the number of external training on health and environmental hazards available to cannabis businesses. Inspection reports will be used to ensure that, by Year 5, 50% fewer licensed cannabis businesses have health and safety violations.

Outcome Evaluation Method and Design

Outcome Evaluation Method and Design

The research design that will be used in the outcome evaluation is a comparison of pre and post-conditions to the greatest extent possible. For the youth and parent education program, the level of positive and negative outcomes amongst the participants can be tracked both against the group over the course of the five-year term and the California Healthy Kids survey. Similarly, increasing the health and safety of the community will be evaluated by surveying task force members and cannabis workers and comparing licensed businesses' inspection reports for compliance at the beginning and end of the five-year term. Review and comparison of new cannabis related ordinances; the percentage of businesses with an active cannabis license that do not have unpaid local tax bills; and the percentage of licensed cannabis businesses who receive an annual financial inspection against those metrics at the beginning of the five-year term will demonstrate the effectiveness of ensuring more licensed cannabis businesses are compliant with tax laws and ordinances. To ensure that 50% fewer licensed businesses have environmental and hazardous incidents related to legal cannabis a comparison of inspection reports from the beginning and the end of the five-year term will be used.

To ensure the goal of educating youth and the community on the dangers of marijuana usage has been met the following questions must be asked:

Were marijuana education programs implemented at the middle school and the high school?

Were programs developed to educate parents and community members on the prevalence of marijuana, its ease of accessibility to minors, and the dangers of marijuana on their children's health?

Were relationships strengthened between the task force and California City High School and Middle Schools?

It is anticipated that the student and family education program will be able to serve approximately 1,200 students and 100 parents annually. Success for participants in the program can be determined based on multiple factors (see evaluation matrix below). Identifying needs and providing appropriate services would be initial determinations of success.

Outcome	Definition	Data Source	Frequency of Collection
Using the CA Healthy Kids Survey get a 15% decrease in the number of CA City 9th graders who perceive "No harm" in weekly marijuana usage by 2028	Reduced marijuana usage indicates a healthy learning environment	CA Healthy Kids Survey	Administered every 2 years
100 middle and high school-age parents participate in Police Officer-led education programs.	Increased parental education will enable parents to understand marijuana related issues with their children	Attendance logs of parents	At least annually

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Education sessions attended by 80% of middle school and high school classrooms per year	Educated youth will be more capable of making informed decisions concerning marijuana usage	Attendance logs of students	At least annually
annual meetings with middle school and high school administrators	Keeps task force and school administrators informed	Tracked in spreadsheet	At least annually

Success for participants in the program can be determined by the level of positive and negative outcomes amongst the participants tracked both against the group over the course of the five-year term and the California Healthy Kids survey. The goal is to achieve a 15% decrease in the number of CA City 9th graders who perceive "No harm" in weekly marijuana usage by 2028.

To determine if the health and safety of the community were increased the following questions must be asked:

- Are Fire Department and Police Department first responders properly equipped to safely enter contaminated cannabis areas?
- Do task force members have increased knowledge, awareness, and preparedness to address and respond to human trafficking?
- Do cannabis laborers work in safer environments?

To ensure more licensed cannabis businesses are compliant with tax laws and ordinances the following questions must be asked:

- Have new cannabis-related ordinances been instituted within City limits to increase compliance with environmental and labor standards?
- Was the percentage of businesses with an active cannabis license that does not have unpaid local tax bills increased?
- Was a case management system established to properly track all operators, manage audit and inspection notes, and provide a database for consistent follow-up to maintain annual compliance?
- Did the percentage of licensed cannabis businesses who receive an annual financial inspection from the City increase?

It is estimated that six activities will be used to ensure the success of the program. The success of these activities cannot be measured yet, as the program has not started.

Outcome	Definition	Data Source	Frequency of Collection
100% of relevant Task Force members have appropriate PPE available in their departments to enter contaminated cannabis areas	Public safety employees feel safe performing their jobs	Surveys of Task Force members	Annually

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Task Force members have increased confidence in their ability to identify and respond to human trafficking by 60%.	Public safety employees feel confident performing this task	Surveys of Task Force members	Annually
Increase by 60% the percentage of licensed cannabis businesses displaying information on a laborer's workplace rights and safety standards	Regular inspections show a 60% increase in displayed information over the five-year term	Inspection reports of cannabis businesses	Annually
Increase the number of licensed cannabis operations receiving regular quarterly inspections by 90%	Comparison of year one data to year five data shows a 90% increase in inspections	Inspection reports of cannabis businesses	Quarterly
By Year 5, 50% fewer licensed cannabis businesses are found to break code regulations	Comparison of year one data to year five data shows 50% fewer licensed cannabis businesses are found to break code regulations	Inspection reports of cannabis businesses	Quarterly
Increase frequency of engagement with local human trafficking victim support organizations	Comparison of year one data to year five data shows Increase frequency of engagement with local human trafficking victim support organizations	Meeting and engagement logs with human trafficking victim support organizations.	Annually

Success for the program can be determined by surveying task force members and cannabis workers and comparing licensed businesses' inspection reports for compliance at the beginning and end of the five-year term.

To ensure more licensed cannabis businesses are compliant with tax laws and ordinances the following questions must be asked:

- Did the City institute new cannabis-related ordinances within City limits to increase compliance with environmental and labor standards?
- Was there an increase in the percentage of businesses with an active cannabis license that do not have unpaid local tax bills?
- Did the task force establish a case management system to properly track all operators, manage audit and inspection notes, and provide a database for consistent follow-up to maintain annual compliance?
- Did the percentage of licensed cannabis businesses who receive an annual financial inspection from the City Increase?

It is estimated that four activities will be used to ensure the success of the program. The success of these activities cannot be measured yet, as the program has not started.

Outcome	Definition	Data Source	Frequency of Collection
By Year 5, the City will host four listening sessions with the community to inform and solicit feedback on to-be-developed cannabis related ordinances	Four sessions are held to inform the community	Attendance logs of community listening sessions	Annually
The percentage of licensed cannabis businesses who are out of compliance is decreased by 75% by Year 5	Compare year one data to year five data for a 75% decrease	Review of compliance case management system.	Annually

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100% of licensed cannabis businesses and inputted into compliance case management system by Year 5	Compare year one data to year five data for a 100% increase	Review of compliance case management system.	Annually
By end of Year 2, 80% of marijuana grow and distribution facilities are inspected at least once a quarter	Compare year one data to year two data for 80% compliance	Annual tally of regular inspections	Quarterly

Success for the program can be determined by review and comparison of new cannabis-related ordinances; the percentage of businesses with an active cannabis license that do not have unpaid local tax bills; and the percentage of licensed cannabis businesses who receive an annual financial inspection against those metrics at the beginning of the five-year term will demonstrate the effectiveness of ensuring more licensed cannabis businesses are compliant with tax laws and ordinances.

To ensure environmental and hazardous incidents related to legal cannabis have been mitigated the following questions must be asked:

- Did the public safety community receive training in evidence-based practices to reduce general health hazards and environmental issues?
- Did cannabis business owners and operators receive training in evidence-based practices to reduce general health hazards and environmental issues?

It is estimated that two activities will be used to ensure the success of the program. The success of these activities cannot be measured yet, as the program has not started.

Outcome	Definition	Data Source	Frequency of Collection
Public Safety community receives training in evidence-based practices to reduce general health hazards and environmental issues	Public Safety community training logs indicate training has occurred	Training attendance logs	One time
Cannabis business owners and operators receive training in evidence-based practices to reduce general health hazards and environmental issues	Cannabis business owners' training logs indicate training has occurred	Training attendance logs	Annually

Success for the program can be determined by a comparison of inspection reports from the beginning and the end of the five-year term will be used. An audit of training logs for public safety employees and cannabis business owners will also be made.

The quantitative and qualitative analysis conducted during and after the grant term will help determine if other outside unrelated factors were responsible for any of the outcomes. If there are anomalous or unexpected findings, that ensuing follow-up investigation into particular facts and circumstances may reveal if an intervening force was involved. For instance, there are many agencies and organizations that are involved with youth and parent education, and it is always possible that one of these entities may have become involved or taken action regarding an education program participant. It would be

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necessary to obtain further information to determine what effect such an outside intervention might have had on the outcome. Similar possibilities exist with Health and Safety, as there are agencies at the local, state, and federal level that are involved with cannabis cultivation. Many of these agencies operate independently of each other, and it can often be the initial actions of a code enforcement operation that bring attention to health and safety violations, triggering their intervention in the matter. While the intervention of another independent agency is one of the visible potential impacts on the project in an individual case, it will also be necessary to be mindful of other environmental, regulatory, legislative, and fiscal changes that might be having an impact on the program. If there are unexpected findings, such as sudden shifts in behavior or changes in activities that were previously stable, it is important to look at the bigger picture for other possible influences. For instance, budget cuts or increases to other educational and youth oriented programs in the community might account for more dramatic shifts. Similarly, for the Environmental Impacts program, budgetary impacts in other agencies could be important to monitor, as well as regulatory changes, be they more or less restrictive. Other factors such as drought conditions can also be responsible for geographical shifts in cultivation, whether increased or decreased, depending on area's water availability.