



**ETP**

Employment Training Panel

# Social Entrepreneurs for Economic Development (SEED) Grant Guidelines

These are guidelines only. If a proposal raises the need for further modifications, that will be accomplished on a case-by-case basis with direction from Executive Staff.

## **Background:**

In June 2020, the California Legislature approved Assembly Bill 82 (Chapter 14, Stats. 2020), which established the Social Entrepreneurs for Economic Development (SEED) Initiative to be administered by the California Workforce Development Board (“Board”) within the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“Agency”). (See California Unemployment Insurance Code, sections 14106 to 14110.) The Employment Training Panel (“ETP”), also within the Agency, is administering SEED on behalf of the Board.

The purpose of the SEED Initiative is to support the entrepreneurship of immigrants and limited English proficient (LEP) individuals who face significant employment barriers, which will also increase the state’s economic diversity and help spur business innovation. The SEED Initiative will provide micro-grants, entrepreneurial training, and technical assistance to SEED target populations to support them in starting or maintaining a small business in California aimed at addressing a social problem or meeting a community need.

SEED target populations are individuals who face significant barriers to employment, specifically: (1) individuals with limited English proficiency, regardless of immigration or citizenship status; or (2) individuals who are neither U.S. citizens nor lawful permanent residents. This includes individuals who may not be lawfully present in the United States, and individuals who have been granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or Temporary Protected Status (TPS). In addition, SEED is open to all individuals in the target populations, including other immigrants, refugees and asylees, and United States citizens.

## **Overview:**

The SEED Grant is divided into two grant programs: the SEED Entrepreneurship Program and the SEED Demonstration Project. Each grant program must be applied for separately.

The SEED Entrepreneurship Program will allow grant awardees (non-profit Community-Based Organizations [CBOs]) to provide entrepreneurial training to individuals in the target population, and to award micro-grants to individuals who complete the entrepreneurial training to assist them in starting or maintaining a small business that addresses a social issue or community need. CBO awardees must develop and implement the entrepreneurial training, perform community outreach, select the micro-grant awardees, disburse the micro-grants, and provide technical assistance to the micro-grantees to help support their small businesses.

The SEED Demonstration Project will allow grant awardees (non-profit CBOs) to assist the grant target population to form, incubate, and/or build the capacity of a worker cooperative or employee-owned business, develop and implement worker training programs that support the worker cooperative or employee-owned business, provide micro-grants to help start or maintain

the worker cooperative or employee-owned business, and provide technical assistance to the worker cooperative or employee-owned business.

**Details:**

See corresponding Release of Solicitation for Proposals (SFP) for details.

For further information regarding this Pilot program, please contact [ETP's Economic Development Unit](#), or call 916-327-5258.