



COOK COUNTY
BUREAU OF
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



Cook County
Cannabis
Development Grant

Program Background and Grant Awardee Characteristics

9/24/24

Program Overview

The Cook County Cannabis Development Grant awarded grants totaling **\$3.6 million** to social equity-licensed cannabis businesses to support startup and operational business costs in Cook County.

To be eligible, businesses must have been awarded **licenses under the State of Illinois Adult-Use Cannabis Social Equity Program** and be committed to locate their cannabis-based business in Cook County.

Social Equity License Criteria

- 51% or more ownership by individuals who have either:
 - Lived in a Disproportionately Impacted Area (DIA) for five of last ten years OR
 - Had personal or family involvement w/the justice system for cannabis-related offenses
- Businesses w/10+ employees, 51%+ of whom meet one of the above criteria

Four (4) types of grants, based on license type:

1. **Craft grower** licensees are eligible to receive **\$150,000** grants.
2. **Dispensary** licensees are eligible to receive **\$75,000** grants.
3. **Infuser** licensees are eligible to receive **\$100,000** grants.
4. **Transporter** licensees are eligible to receive **\$75,000** grants.

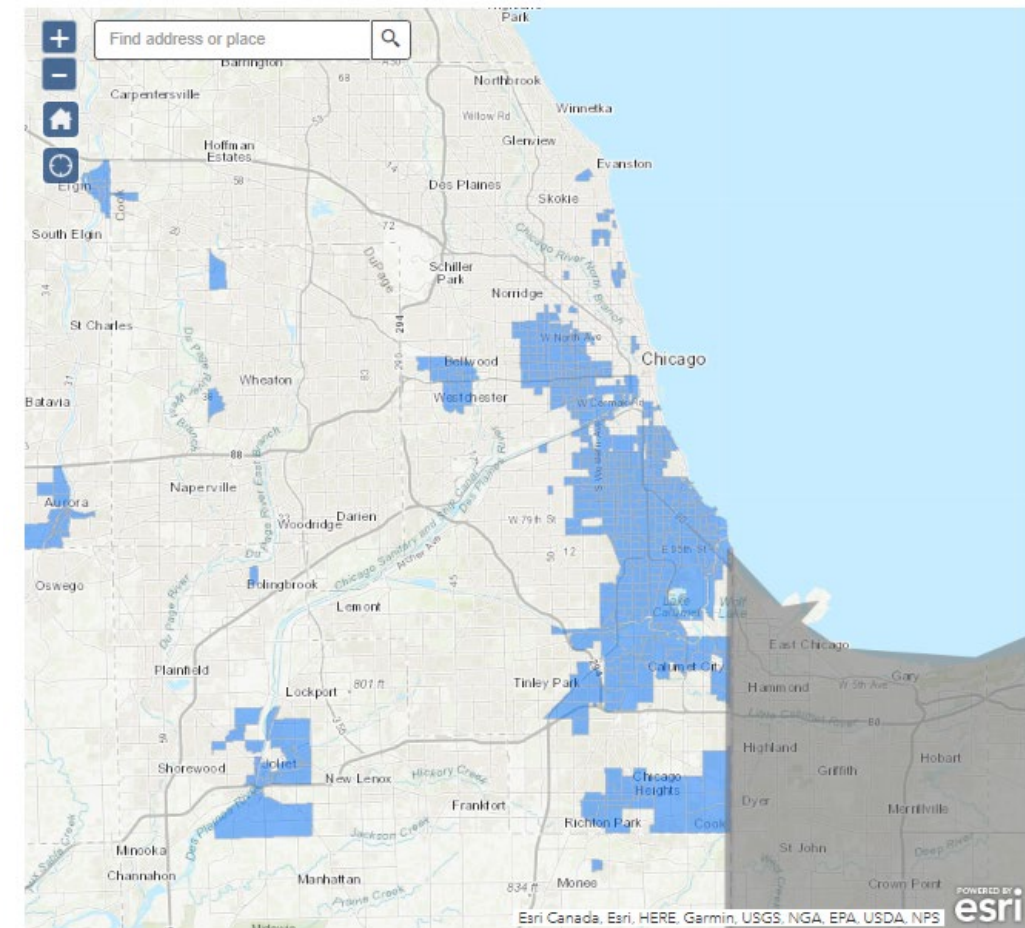
Program Priorities

The Program received more eligible applications than it could fund. Priority consideration was given towards:

- Businesses issued cannabis licenses in **2021** or **2022**
- Businesses that currently **operate in a Disproportionately Impacted Area (DIA)**
- Businesses that are **majority-owned (51%+) by individuals who currently reside in DIAs**

Disproportionate Impacted Area Map

This is a map of Disproportionately Impacted Areas (DIAs) eligible for participation in the Illinois Adult-Use Social Equity Program.

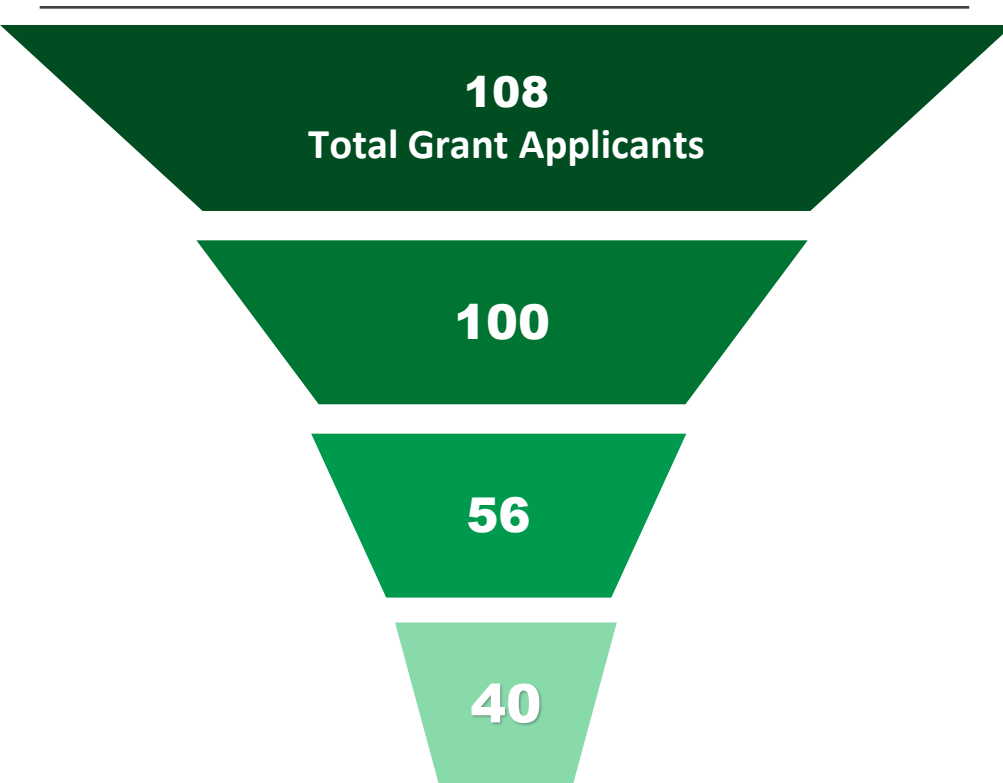




Review Process Summary



Grant Application Pool



Grant Application Review Process

8 applications did not qualify for review

- Duplicate applications (5)
- Operating location outside Cook County (2)
- No documents uploaded (1)

44 applications did not meet standards for award eligibility

- Absence of acceptable documentation required to determine eligibility (26)
- Cannabis license not valid, current & in good standing (18)

40 awardees were selected based on 3 identified prioritization factors

Grant Awards

Eligible applications exceeded available grant funds (\$3.6M), so prioritization criteria were applied to identify **40 grant recipients**.

License Type	Eligible Applications		Grant Awards	
	#	% of Total	#	% of Total
Craft Grower	6	11%	6	25%
Dispensary	16	29%	14	39%
Infuser	7	12%	7	19%
Transporter	27	48%	13	27%
TOTAL	56	100%	40	100%

Awards: Business Characteristics

Of the 40 awardees:

80%

Have 10 or less employees

72%

Majority black-owned*

48%

Operating locations are in Suburban Cook. 42% are in the City of Chicago.

23%

Majority-owned by women

80%

Majority-owned by people of color*

23%

Majority-owned by veterans

Awards: Business Location

36 businesses have operating locations.
Represented in those locations are:

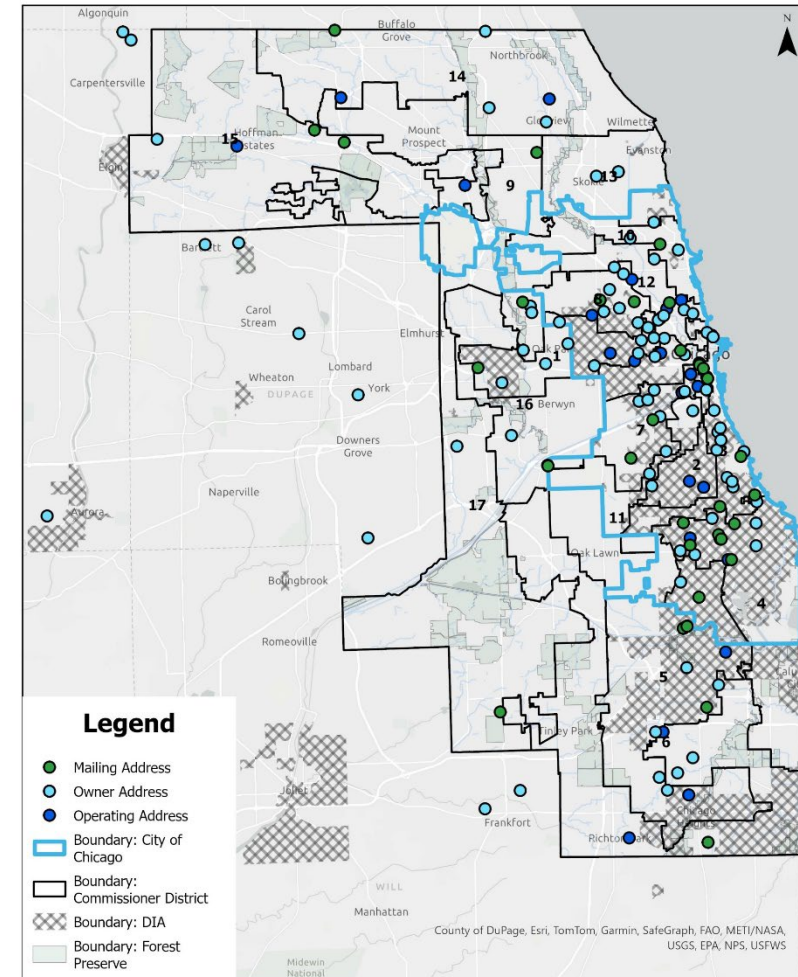
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Municipalities

13

Commissioner Districts

Cook County Cannabis Development Grant (2024)



Cook County
Bureau of Economic Development

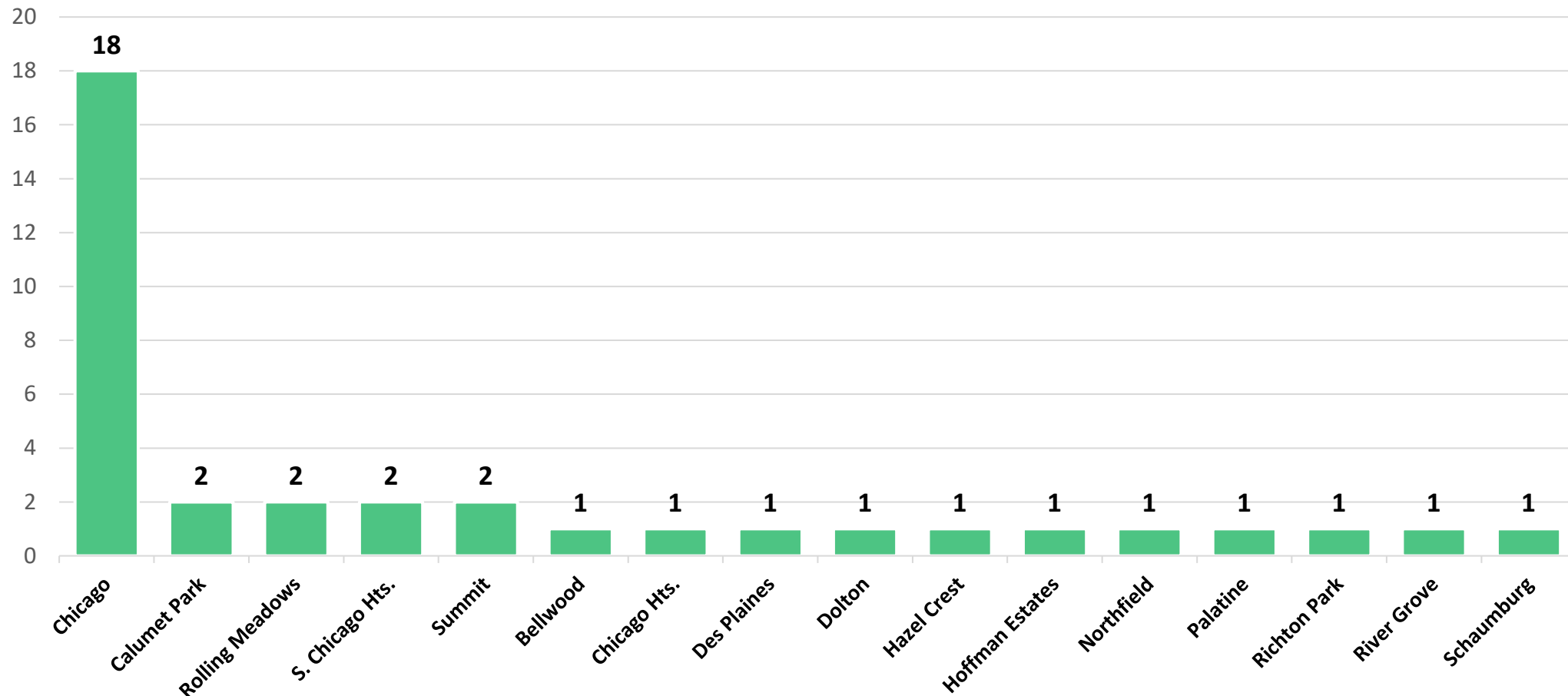
Data Source: A4CB application Data



Awards: Business Location



Operating Location by Municipality



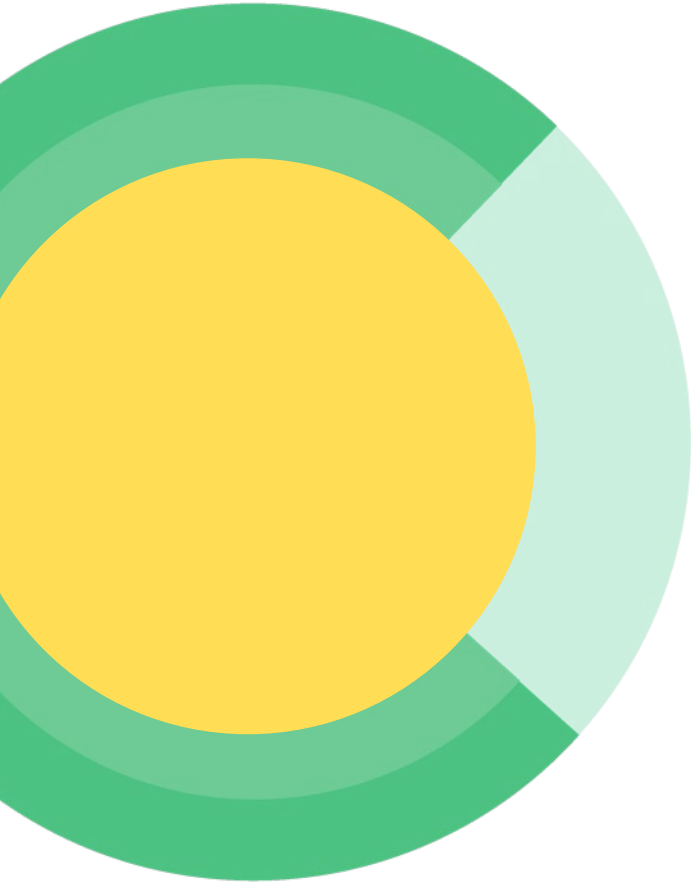
Note: 4 selected awardees have not yet secured an operating location



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**Cannabis
Development Grant**



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Program Details:

cookcountyil.gov/service/cannabis-development-grant

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