



MARYLAND
MMCC

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Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission

Larry Hogan, Governor • Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor • Robert Neall, Secretary

Use of Grant Funds for Public Health/Observational Research

Background:

Clinical research on the health effects of cannabis and cannabinoids remains limited in the United States, primarily due to federal regulatory barriers. Currently, investigators seeking to conduct research on cannabis and cannabinoids must receive approval from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). This research must also utilize the research grade cannabis grown at the University of Mississippi, which does not reflect the broad range of products available in Maryland.

In response to these regulatory barriers, states with medical cannabis programs have begun to fund and conduct public health/observational research on the health effects associated with medical cannabis use. Up until now, the Commission has not funded or authorized non-clinical research on the health effects of medical cannabis. However, the Commission has authorized the use of funds for FY2019 to award grants to public or private entities to conduct research on the health effects of medical cannabis use in the State.

The Commission is interested in receiving public comment on how best to develop research on the health effects of medical cannabis use, including whether and how to study:

- Specific populations (e.g., children and youth, heavy users, older adults),
- Types of use (e.g., smoking, vaping, tincture, etc.),
- Health or clinical outcomes,
- Impact of medical cannabis program on illicit use,
- Use for specific conditions (e.g., PTSD, glaucoma, etc.), and,
- Any additional information or data relevant to the health effects of medical cannabis use in Maryland.