

Illegal Marijuana Market Enforcement Grant Program Report

Executive Summary
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Oregon Criminal Justice Commission

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Grant Origins

In 2018, the Oregon Legislature passed [Senate Bill \(SB\) 1544](#), which created the Illegal Marijuana Market Enforcement Grant Program (grant program) to assist local law enforcement agencies in addressing the illegal marijuana market in Oregon.¹ The Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) is the administering agency for the grant program. These grant funds are to be dispersed in quarterly increments, beginning July 1, 2018, through October 1, 2023, amounting to approximately \$1.3 million, annually. The Legislature mandated four enforcement priorities when awarding funding through the grant program,² including: (a) rural areas; (b) large-scale operations; (c) organized crime; and (d) diversion of marijuana outside Oregon.

2019-2021 Awards

The grantees for the 2019-2021 grant cycle, spanning July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021, are:

- (1) Deschutes County Sheriff's Office and District Attorney's Office, and the City of Bend Police Department;
- (2) Jackson County Sheriff's Office and District Attorney's Office, and the City of Medford Police Department; and
- (3) Josephine County Sheriff's Office and District Attorney's Office.

Funds Distributed 2019-2021

2019-2021 Grant Programs Disbursement	
Deschutes-Bend	\$436,896.92
Jackson-Medford	\$1,283,852.37
Josephine County	\$941,613.00
Total Distributed	\$1,996,771.42
Total Undistributed	\$665,590.50

Interdiction Data Reported

The grantees awarded funds during the 2019-2020 grant cycle were required to submit periodic data reports to the CJC on grant-funded illegal marijuana interdiction activities. This grant cycle focused on the following data points:

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020	
Felony Arrests	118
Felony Cases Filed	74
State Cases Open	55
Cases Dismissed	2
Felony Convictions	13
Misdemeanor Convictions	4

¹ Oregon Legislature. 79th Assembly, 2018. Senate Committee on Judiciary. SB 1544 §13 <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2018R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB1544/Enrolled> (last accessed December 3, 2019).

² SB 1544 §13 (5)(a-d).

Asset Type	Amount/Quantity
Cars/Trucks	3
Motorcycles/Jetski/ATVs	2
Trailers	3
Coins	119 Silver Coins/12 Gold Coins
Guns	119
Illegal Marijuana Plants	90,582 (approx. 10 tons)
Cash	\$2,446,801.85

Effectiveness

In its second year of operation, the Illegal Marijuana Market Enforcement Grant Program supported rural law enforcement in destroying approximately 9.97 tons of illegal marijuana plants and seizing \$2,446,801.85 of cash from illegal marijuana operations in Oregon. Additionally, 118 felony arrests with an illegal marijuana nexus, and 74 felony cases with an illegal marijuana nexus, were filed during the second year of grant operations as a result of grant-funded law enforcement work. It should be noted that due to COVID-19 courts were closed and unable to process open cases.

Because the illegal marijuana market is an especially nebulous sector to evaluate, two years of operation of this grant program does not provide the CJC with enough information to thoroughly assess the impact of the grant program on large-scale, organized criminal operations that divert illegal marijuana outside of the state. This second year of collected interdiction data best serves as a baseline from which to measure the effects of ongoing and future grant-funded law enforcement operations. The CJC will continue to assist grantees in collecting and assessing data for outcomes analysis in order to determine program effectiveness in future grant cycles.

Full Report Availability

A full copy of this report may be obtained by emailing cjcgrants@oregon.gov.