

# **\$11M from Missouri's Cannabis Program Allocated to Agencies**

## **Missouri Transfers Nearly \$11 Million from Adult Use Cannabis Program to State Agencies**

This week, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) transferred nearly \$11 million in funds generated by the state's adult use marijuana program to various state agencies. The total amount of \$10,918,344 is split evenly among DHSS, the Missouri Veterans Commission, and the Missouri State Public Defender.

### **Distribution of Funds**

This transfer of funds is in accordance with an amendment approved by Missouri voters in November 2022. The amendment mandated that the fees and taxes collected from the adult use marijuana program be allocated to these specific state agencies. This move is seen as a significant step in utilizing cannabis revenue to support key state functions.

### **Constitutional Provisions**

Article XIV, Section 2 of the Missouri Constitution outlines the framework for the taxation of adult use marijuana. According to the constitution, marijuana sold in licensed dispensaries is subject to a 6% tax rate. This taxation policy has been instrumental in generating substantial revenue for the state.

### **Implications for State Agencies**

The nearly \$11 million transfer marks a significant milestone for Missouri's adult use marijuana program and highlights the growing economic impact of cannabis legalization. The funds are expected to support various initiatives and operations within the DHSS, the Missouri Veterans Commission, and the Missouri State Public Defender.

### **Support for Veterans and Public Defenders**

The Missouri Veterans Commission, which will receive a portion of the funds, is tasked with supporting veterans through various programs and services. The allocation of marijuana tax revenue is expected to enhance these efforts, providing additional resources for veteran assistance.

Similarly, the Missouri State Public Defender's office, which also benefits from the fund distribution, plays a crucial role in ensuring legal representation for those who cannot afford it. The infusion of funds will bolster the office's capacity to serve the public, potentially reducing case backlogs and improving the quality of defense services.

## **Health and Senior Services**

For the DHSS, the transferred funds will support health-related programs and initiatives, potentially including public health campaigns, substance abuse prevention efforts, and other health services that benefit from additional funding. The DHSS's share of the funds underscores the importance of integrating cannabis revenue into broader public health strategies.

## **Economic Impact**

The successful implementation of Missouri's adult use marijuana program demonstrates the economic potential of cannabis legalization. With significant tax revenue being generated and effectively allocated, the program serves as a model for other states considering similar legislative changes. The financial benefits extend beyond the immediate funding of state agencies, contributing to overall economic growth and stability.

## **Future Prospects**

As the adult use marijuana market continues to [grow in Missouri](#), the state can expect to see increased revenue from taxes and fees. This steady stream of funds will likely continue to support vital state functions and services, underscoring the long-term benefits of cannabis legalization. The continued allocation of funds to crucial areas such as health services, veteran support, and public defense highlights the multifaceted impact of the program.

The transfer of nearly \$11 million from Missouri's adult use marijuana program to state agencies marks a significant achievement in the state's journey with cannabis legalization. By effectively channeling cannabis revenue to support health services, veterans, and public defenders, Missouri is setting a precedent for how states can leverage the economic benefits of legal marijuana to enhance public services and support critical areas of need. As the program matures, the state's commitment to utilizing these funds responsibly will likely serve as a blueprint for other regions exploring the potential of legalized cannabis.

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