

# Med Leaf Social Equity Plan

It is our goal at Med Leaf to be able to give back to the community.

There are so many adult students in need of scholarships!

Many students rely on scholarships or federal grants, but current rules make it nearly impossible for several students who are charged with even minor drug offenses to get the aid they need. Data from the Department of Education show that about 1,000 students each year lose full or partial access to Federal Aid because of a drug-related conviction. However, one can argue those numbers don't capture how many students never apply for aid because they expect they won't qualify. The Application for Federal Student Aid, includes a question: Have you been convicted for the possession or sale of illegal drugs for an offense that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid (such as grants, work-study or loans)?

**Below is an excerpt from the FAFSA Application:**

23. Have you been convicted for the possession or sale of illegal drugs for an offense that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid (such as grants, work-study, or loans)? Answer "No" if you have never received federal student aid or if you have never had a drug conviction for an offense that occurred while receiving federal student aid. If you have a drug conviction for an offense that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid, answer "Yes," but complete and submit this application, and we will mail you a worksheet to help you determine if your conviction affects your eligibility for aid. If you are unsure how to answer this question, call 1-800-433-3243 for help.	No <input type="radio"/> 1
	Yes <input type="radio"/> 2

Under the current rules, if a student is convicted of drug possession, they face one year of ineligibility from the time of their first conviction. A second conviction earns them two years of ineligibility, while a third offense will suspend their eligibility for financial aid indefinitely.

Currently society is in the process of rethinking the convictions and prison sentences that came with the possession of Marijuana Convictions, while we wait for legislation Med Leaf would like to address the impact of these Marijuana convictions on our communities. We would like to do this by investing in a person's education. It is our belief that the best investment we can make in our community is to ensure our young people succeed.

Therefore, Med Leaf will start a college scholarship for men and women the age of 21 and older that have had a marijuana conviction that made them ineligible for federal financial aid. After we have confirmed legal requirements, we will define the rules of our scholarship. These rules will be available for students to easily find. They will include (but are not limited to) aspects such as eligibility and timing.

Next, we will set up our application. Depending on preference, we may work with an online or paper application (or both).

Most scholarships have deadlines in the spring (January through May). Med Leaf may choose to establish a summer, fall, or winter deadline. We will want to have at least 60 days or more to promote the program. Then another six to eight weeks to select our recipient(s). To award our scholarship locally we will ask the Hartford City Hall to advertise it in the City Newsletter and we will also advertise in the local newspapers and at Local Community Colleges such as: South Western Michigan College and Lake Michigan Community College.

To judge everyone on the same scale Med Leaf will create a grading rubric (1-10, A-F, or other scale). This this will ensure consistency among the reviewers. It will also provide evidence that we used specific criteria when selecting our winner.

Once the winner is chosen, he/she will be notified by certified mail, email, and/or phone.

Med Leaf's Scholarships will be used for any educational expenses not just tuition. Med Leaf will disburse our scholarship funds to the school and not the student. When we do so, we will be sure to state how the funds can be used.

Med Leaf will track the scholarship awarded over time. Not all students are ready to redeem the scholarship once it has been awarded. We may ask the winner to forfeit the scholarship after 1 Year of no activity.

Although the steps to set up a scholarship are not hard. The time involved in running the scholarship may be more than Med Leaf Staff are able to commit. Med Leaf reserves the Right to consider a Scholarship management service like Unigo.