

# LAJA Investments 2, LLC

AU-SC-000139

This entity qualifies for the Silver level tier of the Social Equity All-Star Program



## **PuEr Lab – Kalamazoo** 550 E. Cork St. Kalamazoo, MI 49001



#### **Mission Statement**

PuEr Lab plans to promote and encourage participation in the cannabis industry by people from communities that have been disproportionately impacted by marijuana prohibition and enforcement and to positively impact those communities, as outlined by the Cannabis Regulatory Agency (CRA).

### Social Equity Plan

Our staffing plan currently includes 9 full-time employees with plans to expand in the future. Of these team members, 67% are women and 11% are minorities. The newest member of the team is a City of Kalamazoo resident. Applicants with prior marijuana convictions are encouraged to apply on all job postings. As the business continues to grow, additional employment needs will include both technical and administrative staff. These future postings will be listed at the Kalamazoo Michigan Works site to encourage qualified applicants from within the community. Employee benefits include, but are not limited to, discounts on testing services, paid time off, schedule flexibility, and an employer provided stocked breakroom. Promotional openings will be available to employees as the lab continues to grow, and PuEr Lab strives to promote from within the company for any future advancement opportunities.

Additional benefits for local residents are created through local event sponsorship, attracting clients to the Kalamazoo area from other parts of the state, and worker training and development programs. PuEr Lab was the title sponsor for the Michigan 7 Leaf Cannabis Awards held on March 2, 2024. This event highlighted local growers, processors, and effected members of the cannabis community. Many clients of PuEr Lab travel from areas of the state such as St. Joesph, Vicksburg, and Berrien Center. This brings economic benefit to other businesses in the area as well as to PuEr Lab. Worker training and development programs include a variety of online training webinars from technical vendors, daily cannabis industry education through the PuEr Trivia program, and cross-departmental training. PuEr Lab also supports local businesses such as Linde Gas, Taste of Heaven, and Bartholemew Heating and Cooling as primary vendors for laboratory supplies, marketing materials, and facilities maintenance.

On top of being a 100% minority owned company, PuEr Lab is also supported by minority owned support professionals such as Bahoura Law from Bloomfield, MI. PuEr Lab also regularly uses women/minority owned businesses as primary vendors for laboratory and operational supplies. Main laboratory vendors include Uline, Biomeriuex, and Emerald Scientific, all of which are women owned and/or operated companies. The accreditation organization used for ISO 17025:2017 compliance is Perry Johnson, is a minority owned business.

With our application for Silver Tier of the Social Equity All-Star Program, we authorize the CRA to publish our Social Equity Plan and Corporate Spend Plan, showing our commitment to social equity within the Kalamazoo community and to supporting diverse suppliers within the cannabis industry.

#### PuEr Lab - Kalamazoo

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As PuEr Lab only became fully operational at the beginning of 2024 due to regulatory compliance and ISO certification requirements, our social equity plan will continue to grow as the laboratory continues to onboard clients and become profitable. Social equity outreach for the future will include partnering with local colleges for internship opportunities to help further educate the community and increase community engagement, as well as partnering with the Detroit Cannabis Project to find local volunteer and/or donation opportunities.

#### Corporate Spend Plan

PuEr Lab in Kalamazoo, MI is proud to highlight the following plan for corporate spending for the year 2024 and beyond. As a member of the Kalamazoo community, PuEr Lab routinely champions supporting diverse suppliers within the cannabis community. PuEr Lab spends with a total of 16 different suppliers. Of these, our top 5 suppliers are listed below and are all minority and women owned and/or managed businesses.

- Emerald Scientific
  - Woman CEO
- Perry Johnson Laboratories
  - Minority owned
- BioMerieux
  - Women Executive VPs
- Uline
  - Woman President
  - Woman CEO
- Alfa Chemistry
  - o Minority managed

These suppliers account for **31**% of our total corporate spending plan. Additionally, of the nearly 200 items regularly stocked in inventory for the lab, **42**% come from the suppliers listed above. As the lab continues to grow, PuEr is committed to supporting minority owned and operated businesses whenever possible.