

Sanctuary

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sidered as having adopted “sanctuary policies” saying those policies may violate federal law.

Of those 29 jurisdictions — which include cities as large as Los Angeles and as small as Burlington, Vermont — only Oregon has yet to be cleared to receive the grants from 2017, a Justice Department spokes-

gation is now focused on making the order affecting the 2017 grants permanent and apply to 2018 grants, as well, said Kate O’Brien, a Chicago attorney who represented the mayors.

Other federal courts have ruled against the Justice Department. Similar cases are being litigated across the coun-

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man told The Associated Press this week.

Vermont officials announced Monday that they had been told the state Department of Public Safety would be getting \$2.3 million in law enforcement grants that had been blocked. Vermont had not joined any of the legal cases, instead corresponding directly with the Justice Department.

U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, a Vermont Democrat, declared victory, saying the money would be used primarily on anti-drug efforts.

“State and local law enforcement agencies already are stretched thin, and withholding these federal grants only makes their work more difficult,” Leahy said in an email to the AP. “It’s unthinkable that the Trump Justice Department would hold these funds hostage over an unrelated dispute on immigration policy.”

Last summer, the U.S. Conference of Mayors sued in Illinois on behalf of its member cities focusing on the issue. In September, a federal court temporarily blocked the Justice Department from withholding the funds for the jurisdictions represented by the conference.

The conference’s liti-

try, and the Justice Department is considering appealing some unfavorable rulings.

The Trump administration has long argued that places that don’t cooperate with federal immigration authorities, often called “sanctuary cities,” pose a threat to public safety.

“I continue to urge all jurisdictions under review to reconsider policies that place the safety of their communities and their residents at risk,” Sessions said in a statement in January 2018. “Protecting criminal aliens from federal immigration authorities defies common sense and undermines the rule of law.”

The details differ by jurisdiction, but the Justice Department felt law enforcement agencies in those communities weren’t sufficiently committing themselves to cooperating with federal immigration agents when officers came in contact with people who might not be in the country legally.

Aside from confirming the clearance of grants to the 28 jurisdictions, Justice Department spokesman Steven Stafford declined to comment.

Read more at [TheSkanner.com](#)

Women

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space as well as self-care practice.

Now Olive is raising funds for a transitional housing space for women coming out of the criminal justice system, and has begun talking to developers about getting a property for clean and sober housing for women re-entering society after prison.

She’s also working to get incarcerated women added to waiting lists for affordable housing six months before their release date, so they’re more likely to find housing immediately upon release.

Too often, Olive said, women leaving prison don’t have stable housing lined up, and have to rely on their family and friend networks for places to stay. In some cases they can end up staying with friends still involved in criminal activity, can end up in settings that trigger their addictions or end up return-

ing to criminal activities like sex work or selling drugs in order to survive. And finding housing is more difficult

“I just know when a person has a place to live, it’s easier

for people with criminal backgrounds. “I just know when a person has a place to live, it’s easier,” Olive said. Most of the women currently accessing services at WomenFirst are looking for housing, she said.

Olive told *The Skanner* she was drawn to the work because of her own lived experience. She was seven years old when her father died; not long after, she said, her mother began using drugs. Olive went into foster care and ran away

when she was 15; at 16, her son was born and was later adopted by another family who changed his name. (The two reunited recently after he sought her out.)

Olive herself began using drugs, but the birth of her second child when she was 19 inspired her to turn her life around. And on reflection, she realized a common thread in all the work she did — beginning with volunteering at church services when she was a child — was the desire to help oth-

er people.

“That has always been my desire,” Olive said. This is my purpose in life — to help others.”

‘We Are Overcomers’

Self Enhancement Inc. hosted a women’s luncheon with the theme “We Are Overcomers” Feb. 28. The luncheon, dedicated to the restoration of women who have been harmed by human trafficking, mental illness, sexual trauma, drug addiction, HIV/AIDS, homelessness, teen pregnancy, domestic violence, cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. It featured presentations and performances from Victoria Schoeffermann, Justice Adrienne Nelson, Javelin Hardy, Libra Forde, Carla Davis, Linda Hudson and Demetrius and Sarah Herring. Among those honored was Telia Anderson (pictured here).



PHOTO BY BERNIE FOSTER

Cannabis

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portunity and education to communities disproportionately impacted by cannabis prohibition.”

In January, the resulting Cannabis Business Development Equity Program awarded \$30,000 individual grants to both subscription box provider Green Box and Green Hop, a brick-and-mortar dispensary with a social justice mission.

“The voters said they cared about the economic harm done to the communities through (marijuana) arrests and the war on drugs, and want to give back,” said Jeannette Ward Horton, project manager at the NuLeaf Project, a nonprofit chosen as the program’s provider.

In addition to the funding, each business will receive at least four months of business advice and guidance through NuLeaf.

While exact statistics for cannabis business ownership in the state of Oregon are not available, Ward Horton argued numbers from Colorado provide a workable comparison: Only 1 percent of cannabis businesses are owned by African Americans, the racial demographic most arrested on marijuana charges. In total, 15 percent of cannabis businesses are owned by people of color.

The Cannabis Business Development Equity Program is administered by Prosper Portland, the

city’s development commission.

“We have a \$3 million program called the Inclusive Business Network, where we fund 16 organizations that serve entrepreneurs of color and women,” project manager Katherine Krajnak said. “We

“These are strong businesses ready to explode, ready to scale with the right capital

served 735 businesses last year: 70 percent (were owned by) people of color, and 60 percent were women-owned.”

Ward Horton explained how Green Box and Green Hop were chosen out of the more than dozen applicants.

“These are strong businesses ready to explode, ready to scale with the right capital. They’re just missing the capital to scale,” she said. “The subscription model economy is exploding outside of cannabis, and there aren’t a lot of delivery licenses in Oregon. So you corner the market. Green Hop is a retailer, but what makes them special is they’re creating this cannabis hip hop experience, having these events and culture activities. They’re really trying

to push what is retail and what it means to serve a community.”

Green Box owner Adrian Wayman says his business, now in its second year, caters to “people that tend to be overwhelmed by shopping in a typical dispensary environment, or absolutely don’t want to be seen by others,” as well as customers who want more consistency in product — the decrease in overhead costs means Wayman can better keep up with inventory.

The new funding source will enable Wayman to expand his previously one-man operation. He confirmed to *The Skanner* that since receiving the \$30,000 grant, he has been holding interviews with potential drivers, fulfillment team members, and creative and marketing staff.

“I think I deserve (the grant) for the simple fact I have been affected due to harsh laws,” Wayman said. He was arrested for possession 19 years ago in DeKalb County, Georgia, while waiting for his bus. He says he was approached by a number of police officers with guns drawn, and that they discovered a small amount of marijuana on him. He spent the next 18 months on probation, and saw an adverse impact on his job prospects after.

Read more at [TheSkanner.com](#)



Portland nonprofit WomenFirst is raising funds to create transitional housing for women leaving the criminal justice system.