



## **Veteran Equity Empowerment Initiative (VEEI) Social Services, Harm Reduction, and Research & Development in Cannabis/Hemp Therapeutics**

### **Objective:**

The **Veteran Equity Empowerment Initiative (VEEI)** prioritizes veterans by providing targeted social services, harm reduction programs, and access to cannabis and hemp-based therapeutic research. A key focus of the initiative is advancing Research & Development (R&D) on smokable flower, concentrates, and innovative intake methods for veterans' qualifying conditions such as PTSD, chronic pain, and substance use disorders. Additionally, VEEI promotes veteran-owned businesses in the cannabis industry and supports the development of new products that enhance therapeutic options for veterans.

### **Core Focus Areas:**

1. Social Services and Healthcare Access for Veterans
2. Harm Reduction and Alternative Therapies Using Cannabis and Hemp
3. R&D for Cannabis and Hemp-Based Therapeutics, Including Smokable Flower, Concentrates, New Product Innovation, and Intake Methods
4. Support for Veteran-Owned Cannabis/Hemp Businesses

### **1. Social Services and Healthcare Access for Veterans**

**Objective:** Provide veterans with comprehensive access to mental health services, healthcare, and cannabis-based therapies using smokable flower, concentrates, and other innovative products for treating qualifying conditions.

## Key Components:

- **Veteran-Centered Healthcare:** Collaborate with Veterans Affairs (VA) and private healthcare providers to offer subsidized or no-cost access to medical cannabis, including smokable flower, concentrates, and alternative intake methods tailored for veterans.
- **Qualifying Conditions Support:** Ensure that veterans with conditions such as PTSD, chronic pain, anxiety, and substance use disorders have access to smokable cannabis flower, concentrates, and other cannabis-derived products based on their medical needs.
- **Veteran Resource Centers:** Create resource centers that educate veterans on how to use smokable flowers and concentrate safely and effectively and guide them in integrating these therapies into their treatment plans.

## 2. Harm Reduction and Alternative Therapies Using Cannabis and Hemp

**Objective:** Implement harm reduction strategies by providing veterans access to smokable flower, concentrates, and other innovative cannabis products as safer alternatives to opioids, alcohol, and other substances.

### Key Components:

- **Cannabis as a Safer Alternative:** Provide veterans with controlled access to smokable flower and concentrates for pain management, mental health treatment, and harm reduction, offering an alternative to addictive prescription medications.
- **Veteran-Specific Harm Reduction Programs:** Establish specialized programs using cannabis-based therapies, including smokable flower and concentrates, to help veterans reduce their reliance on opioids, alcohol, or other substances.
- **Innovative Intake Methods:** Educate veterans on various intake methods beyond smoking, such as vaporization, dabbing concentrates, tinctures, and edibles, ensuring they can choose the method best suited to their condition and preferences.

### **3. R&D for Cannabis and Hemp-Based Therapeutics, Including Smokable Flower, Concentrates, New Product Innovation, and Intake Methods.**

**Objective:** Advance Research & Development (R&D) in the cannabis and hemp sectors, focusing on developing smokable flower, concentrates, innovative product formulations, and various intake methods specifically designed for veterans' qualifying conditions.

#### **Key Components:**

##### **a. Veteran-Centric R&D Grants for Smokable Flower and Concentrates**

- **Federal R&D Grants:** Provide funding to cannabis companies, universities, and research institutions focused on developing smokable flower, concentrates, and new intake methods for veterans' conditions such as PTSD, chronic pain, and traumatic brain injuries (TBI).

- **Product-Specific R&D:** Prioritize R&D that enhances the therapeutic efficacy of smokable flower and concentrates for treating veterans' mental health and physical conditions, including developing cannabis strains with higher therapeutic potency for veterans' specific needs.

##### **b. New Product Innovation**

- **Innovative Product Development:** Support the development of new cannabis products, including high-quality concentrates (such as oils, waxes, and resins) that can be vaporized, inhaled, or consumed via other methods tailored to veterans' preferences.

- **Diverse Intake Options:** Research and develop alternative intake methods such as vaporization, transdermal patches, sublingual sprays, and capsules that provide veterans with non-smokable options to access cannabis-based therapeutics.

- **Improving Bioavailability:** Invest in R&D to improve the bioavailability of smokable and non-smokable cannabis products, ensuring that veterans receive consistent and effective dosing for their qualifying conditions.

### c. Clinical Trials for Veterans

- **Clinical Research on Smokable Flower and Concentrates:** Conduct clinical trials with veteran participants to assess the effectiveness of smokable flower, concentrates, and new cannabis-based products in treating conditions such as PTSD, chronic pain, and depression.

- **Veteran Involvement in R&D:** Ensure that veterans are involved in the testing and developing new cannabis products, providing feedback on the effectiveness of smokable flowers and concentrates in addressing their medical needs.

#### **Qualifying Conditions for R&D Focus:**

- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Chronic Pain
- Anxiety and Depression
- Substance Abuse and Recovery
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Sleep Disorders

## **4. Support for Veteran-Owned Cannabis/Hemp Businesses**

**Objective:** Promote veteran entrepreneurship in the cannabis and hemp sectors, particularly for businesses engaged in the production and R&D of smokable flower, concentrates, and innovative cannabis products.

#### **Key Components:**

- **Veteran-Owned Business Grants and R&D Funding:** Offer grants and startup capital to veteran-owned cannabis and hemp businesses, with special funding for those developing smokable flower, concentrates, and new product formulations.

- **R&D Tax Credits for Veteran-Owned Businesses:** Provide tax incentives to veteran-owned cannabis businesses that engage in R&D for smokable flower and concentrates, focusing on developing products that serve veterans' health needs.

- **Veteran Business Mentorship:** Implement mentorship programs to assist veteran entrepreneurs in creating businesses centered on cannabis product innovation, particularly for smokable flower, concentrates, and alternative intake methods.

### **Implementation and Oversight:**

- **Veteran Cannabis and R&D Task Force:** Establish a task force responsible for overseeing the expansion of R&D into smokable flower, concentrates, and other therapeutic products for veterans. This body will collaborate with federal research institutions and cannabis companies to advance product development.

- **Federal-State Collaboration:** Partner with states that have medical cannabis programs to streamline veterans' access to smokable flower, concentrates, and newly developed cannabis products. Ensure state laws support veterans' participation in clinical trials and access to innovative treatments.

- **Public Reporting and Data Collection:** Gather and analyze data on veterans' usage of smokable flower, concentrates, and various intake methods to improve product development and therapeutic effectiveness. Regular public reports will highlight innovations and outcomes from the initiative.

**The Veteran Equity Empowerment Initiative (VEEI)** aims to improve veterans' access to smokable flower, concentrates, and new cannabis-based therapeutic products. It also encourages innovation in intake methods tailored to veterans' needs. By supporting targeted research and development, promoting harm reduction, and fostering veteran-owned cannabis businesses, the VEEI strives to enhance the health and well-being of veterans through the development of more effective cannabis therapies.