



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES

Vermont Social Equity Sub-Committee

Discussion Guide for
10/21/21



SOCIAL EQUITY

SUB-COMMITTEE

- NACB
 - Gina Kranwinkel
 - Geoffrey Gallegos
 - Deneka Scott
 - CCBAC
 - Nader Hashim
 - Ashley Reynolds
 - TJ Donovan
 - Julio Thompson (TJ's designated)
-
- State of VT (*in consultation*)
 - Xusana Davis, Executive Director of Racial Equity, Diversity
 - Lindsay Kurrle, Secretary – Agency of Commerce and Community Development

- Program Design (*stakeholder engagement plan*)
- Applicant Program Design & Execution
- Ongoing program administration including transferability of Social Equity licenses

MILESTONES

- **OCTOBER 1, 2021**
 - Plan for reducing or eliminating fees for SE applicants
- **OCTOBER 15, 2021**
 - Develop criteria for SE applicants for the purpose of obtaining social equity loans and grants from the Cannabis Business Development Fund
- **NOVEMBER 2021**
 - Meet with the relevant subcommittees of the Advisory Committee and stakeholders to assist in the design of a social equity program

AGENDA

- Call to order / attendance / acknowledgement of members of the public
- Public Comments received electronically
- Representatives for the Cannabis Social Equity Board
- Reinvestment of cannabis tax revenue to Disproportionately Impacted Communities
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Program open conversation
- Public Comments (in person)

Approval of meeting minutes

- Monday, October 18, 2021

Electronically submitted Public Comments (Summarized)

Received from Ben Mervis

Suggest that the subcommittee include social consumption in their discussion for special licenses and social equity exclusivity. People need a safe place to consume cannabis as some people are not able to consume at their homes or assisted living/long term care facilities. Without a private space where consumption is permitted, they are forced to break one rule or another. Social consumption provides a safe and legal opportunity for consumers (particularly first-time consumers) to learn about and experience products. Rules and regulations can be created that safeguard public health and safety such as designated driver to join the group experience or for that same group to use a ridesharing service. Other states allow for social consumption which we can use as examples. We (my friend and business partner, Craig Mitchell) believe consumption lounges will only benefit the state in creating a successful cannabis industry.

Submit Public Comments to:

- <https://ccb.vermont.gov/form/publicinputform>

Electronically submitted Public Comments (Summarized)

Received by Francis Wyatt

I wholeheartedly support the recommendations to the CCB of The Vermont Cannabis Equity Coalition. I would like to see the majority of the cannabis cultivation in Vermont be outdoor grown, small scale, and truly Vermont based. Please create a system that prevents large corporations from dominating Vermont's cannabis markets.

Submit Public Comments to:

- <https://ccb.vermont.gov/form/publicinputform>

Electronically submitted Public Comments (Summarized)

Received from Steven Radcliff

I feel the setup structure (for whom is eligible/able to start a small grow is rigged. The fees structure makes fee high if overlapped given the alleged "social equity"

Small home growers (social equality growers) could meet this demand.. all of the questions being answered and covered as major topics are general topics (although rightly major within themselves).. such as issues as age use.. location etc etc.. the major issues are who, when, and where can small growers get licensed,.. (if socially equitable/affordable for the average Vermonter.)

Submit Public Comments to:

- <https://ccb.vermont.gov/form/publicinputform>

Representatives for the Cannabis Social Equity Board

Members should be drawn from diverse backgrounds and geographic locations to represent the interest of communities of color and other marginalized groups throughout the State of Vermont.

- Representative from Disproportionately Impacted Communities (currently residing in community)
- Representative from Disproportionately Impacted Communities who is experienced in community development (currently residing in community)
- Person who was arrested, convicted or incarcerated for a cannabis-related offense (misdemeanor or felony)
- Family member of someone arrested, convicted or incarcerated for a cannabis-related offense (misdemeanor or felony)
- Social Worker from Disproportionately Impacted Communities (currently serving community)
- Educator from Disproportionately Impacted Communities (currently serving community)
- Business Owner from Disproportionately Impacted Communities (residing or serving)
- Licensed social equity cannabis representative from one of the following sectors: retail, processor or cultivator
- Licensed social equity cannabis representative from one of the exclusive licenses: delivery or cooperative
- Licensed non-social equity cannabis representative
- Social equity candidate currently working in cannabis industry
- Department of Racial, Equity, Diversity
- Agency of Commerce and Community Development
- Member of the Social Equity Caucus
- Member of the Cannabis Control Board

AGENDA Item: Reinvestment of cannabis tax revenue to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

Consider reinvestment of cannabis tax revenue into Cannabis Disproportionately Impacted Communities

Reinvestment of Cannabis funds to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

- Create a Cannabis Disproportionately Impacted Communities fund
- Allocate 20% of cannabis tax revenue to the fund
- Fund devotes its resources to Cannabis Disproportionately Impacted Communities for:
 - Education
 - Legal Aid
 - Youth Development
 - Violence Prevention
 - Mental Health
 - Grants for Community Development and Needs

*Mandate annual revenue of funding, allocation of at least 20% of tax revenue, increase percentage if needed.

Possible Disproportionately Impacted Communities

- Brattleboro
- Chittenden County (Burlington and Winooski)
- Essex County
- Orleans County
- Rutland
- Bennington
- Springfield

Counties to consider

- Barre
- Lamoille

AGENDA Item: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Program

Consider Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Program

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Program

- **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

Was the person/applicant historically unrepresented in society?

Ex: Women, people with disabilities

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Program

What groups should be included?

- Women
- People with disabilities
- LGBTQ?

What benefits should they receive?

- Educational program (certificates & workshops)
- Priority Processing

Public Comments

In-Person Public Comments

Provide written Public Comments

<https://ccb.vermont.gov/form/publicinputform>