



City of Marlborough Cannabis Social Equity Policies

Purpose and Scope

On August 11, 2022, Governor Charlie Baker signed S. 3096, An Act Relative to Equity in the Cannabis Industry, into law. The new law requires host municipalities to establish initial policies to promote equity in the cannabis industry no later than July 1, 2023, or be subject to monetary penalties. The Massachusetts Cannabis Control Committee (CCC) encourages cities and towns in Massachusetts to consider incentives for increased participation by social equity applicants in their local cannabis ecosystem.

Based on cannabis social equity best practices, guidance from the CCC, and lessons learned from the City of Marlborough's current cannabis business permitting program, the City of Marlborough adopts a set of policies to further promote equity for new social equity applicants seeking to establish businesses in Marlborough.

Applicability

The CCC Social Equity program provides training and technical assistance to applicants who have been disproportionately impacted by the War on Drugs, marijuana prohibition, arrests, and incarceration and who meet certain income and residency requirements. The City of Marlborough defines qualifying social equity applicants under Marlborough's Cannabis Social Equity Policies as those that have been certified as eligible to participate in the CCC Social Equity Program or are Certified Economic Empowerment Priority Applicants by the CCC.

The City of Marlborough Cannabis Social Equity Policies:

To encourage greater participation by Social Equity applicants in Marlborough's cannabis industry, when reviewing an application for a Host Community Agreement (HCA), an evaluation form will be made available that scores components of an application. The evaluation form will include consideration of equity in the overall evaluation score, which will comprise not less than 25 percent of the total evaluation score. This equity component will include: (i) whether a License Applicant is pre-verified as a Social Equity Business by the Commission; (ii) whether the License Applicant is a Social Equity Program Participant; (iii) whether the License Applicant is an Economic Empowerment Priority Applicant; (iv) whether the License Applicant has a prior Marijuana related criminal conviction; (v) whether the License Applicant is part of an Area of Disproportionate Impact, as identified by the Commission; or (vi) a majority of the License Applicant entity is comprised of individuals from Black, African American, Hispanic, Latino, or Native American or indigenous descent.

1. The City of Marlborough will promote available HCAs as part of the City's Economic Development program.
2. The City of Marlborough will create a website with guidance and resources for applicants and a list of all required permits, including necessary forms.
3. The City of Marlborough will continue to allow cannabis delivery operator and courier uses by right with no cap on the number allowed, which helps to open up availability of these business types to Social Equity applicants. Under the state program, Social Equity and Economic Empowerment applicants are eligible for exclusive access to Delivery Licenses, including Marijuana Courier Marijuana and Delivery Operator licenses, for at least a three-year period from April 1, 2022, to April 1, 2025.
4. Wherever possible, the City of Marlborough will expedite the permitting for Social Equity and Economic Empowerment applicants. Throughout the City of Marlborough's special permit process, the City will endeavor to streamline permitting for these applicants.
5. The City of Marlborough has updated its municipal website pages regarding its adult retail and medical cannabis approval process and centralized all information on one page, including a list of all documentation required by a Host Community's local approval process in downloadable form, in order to be user friendly and transparent.