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Social Equity Council Hosts 2025 Market Outlook Working Group Featuring Governor Lamont and State Leaders

HARTFORD, Conn. – September 24, 2025 – Governor Ned Lamont has been invited to present at the Social Equity Council's (The Council) 2025 Market Outlook Working Group on Wednesday, September 24, from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm at the Legislative Office Building (Room 2c) in Hartford.

The event will bring together legislators, business professionals, and community leaders to explore equity-driven strategies for Connecticut's evolving cannabis and non-cannabis markets, while also highlighting opportunities for municipal engagement and youth perspectives on economic and community growth.

"This working group is about more than cannabis policy; it's about making sure equity is built into Connecticut's economic future," said Brandon McGee, CEO of the Social Equity Council. "By bringing together leaders from across government, business, and the community, we are creating space for collaboration, accountability, and bold ideas that can strengthen opportunities for every resident of our state."

Highlights of the fast-paced agenda include:

- ***Identifying sustainable locations for cultivators***
- ***Assisting local governments in accessing potential tax benefits***
- ***Tackling market challenges***
- ***Navigating zoning regulations***
- ***Examining equitable joint venture business models***

"Under Brandon's leadership, the Social Equity Council has shown a clear commitment to thoughtful, community-driven progress," commended Governor Lamont. This first Market Outlook is a reflection of that direction—focused, inclusive, and future-oriented. I applaud the Council for

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creating a forum where all thought leaders can work together toward sustainable equity.”

Both state leadership and Council members recognize this gathering as a critical first step in aligning equity goals with concrete market strategies.

“This may be our first market outlook, but many more will follow,” shared Andréa Comer, Chair of the Council. “Community engagement and planning are a foundation of the three-year strategic plan we completed earlier this year. For the sake of the communities most impacted by inequitable policies, I’m proud to see this event take shape, and to see so many of the plan’s initiatives already underway.”

The development of the three-year strategic plan followed a comprehensive audit and recommendations from the Office of the Comptroller, Sean Scanlon.

“Equity is not just a principle, it’s a strategy for lasting economic growth,” stated Scanlon. “This working group reflects our shared commitment to investing in communities that deserve not only opportunity, but meaningful ownership in Connecticut’s economic future.”

The Connecticut Black and Puerto Rican Caucus (BPRC) also expressed strong support for the Council’s recent realignment of its original statute and the launch of this Market Outlook initiative.

“This marks a long-overdue shift toward equity-centered policymaking,” said BPRC Chair and State Representative House District 130 (Bridgeport), Antoinio Felipe. “We commend the Council for listening to our communities, re-evaluating its original statute, and taking bold steps to create economic pathways that prioritize inclusion, ownership, and long-term investment in historically marginalized neighborhoods.”

The event is free and open to the public. Registration is required, and tickets may be purchased online via [Eventbrite](#).

About the CT Social Equity Council:

The Social Equity Council was established to ensure that Connecticut’s cannabis industry and economic development efforts provide real access and lasting investment for communities disproportionately harmed by cannabis criminalization. Through strategic funding, partnerships, and accountability, the Council is creating pathways to prosperity for individuals and neighborhoods long excluded from opportunity. For more information, including highlights of the strategic plan, visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/social-equity-council>