

CT Social Equity Council Approves Equity Status for Nine Lottery Applicants, Three Equity Joint Ventures

Retailer and Micro-Cultivator Applications will be forwarded to Consumer Protection for next steps in licensure process

HARTFORD (August 19, 2022) — Connecticut’s Social Equity Council (SEC), which was developed to ensure the equity of the state’s adult-use cannabis program, voted today to approve social equity status for nine lottery applicants for cannabis businesses. The council also approved three Equity Joint Ventures.

“I am proud of the progress the SEC continues to make in reviewing social equity applications and creating opportunities for those who are ready for a seat at the table. I am excited we have approved the social equity applicants in the retail and micro cultivator license category. These approvals bring us closer to opening of the market,” said **Genne-Rae Clay, SEC Executive Director**. “We look forward to working with the approved applicants. We encourage applicants denied under the non-lottery EJV review to consider resubmitting their applications.”

The approved applicants include:

- 4 delivery service applications
- 2 micro-cultivator applications
- 2 product packager applications
- 1 retailer application
- 3 Equity Joint Ventures (Not subject to the lottery process)

The Council [previously approved five retailer applications for social equity status](#). The approved applications for the micro-cultivators and the retailers will be sent to the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) for further processing. The remaining license types will be sent to DCP once the [maximum number of applicants](#) are approved for social equity status in each license category.

The SEC also denied equity status for one delivery service application, one hybrid retailer application, one product packager application, and eight equity joint ventures. EJVs are not subject to the lottery, and if denied, applicants may re-submit their application for licensure to the Department of Consumer Protection. The law was [amended this year](#) to allow licensed DIA cultivators, medical producers and medical dispensaries to create up to two equity joint ventures.

All applicants seeking social equity eligibility are first reviewed by the auditing and accounting firm of CohnReznick, a third-party reviewer hired by the SEC to create a comprehensive review system.

Cannabis was approved for adult-use on July 1, 2021. Adult-use cannabis retail sales are anticipated to begin in the state by the end of 2022. For information about Adult-Use Cannabis, visit www.ct.gov/cannabis.

About the CT Social Equity Council (SEC)

The Social Equity Council was created to make sure the adult-use cannabis program is grown equitably and ensures that funds from the adult-use cannabis program are brought back to the communities hit hardest by the "war on drugs." The SEC oversees the verification of equity applicants, creates new programs to support cannabis businesses and businesses in other industries, and manages the more general community investments derived from the cannabis tax revenue. To learn more about Social Equity Council announcements, upcoming meetings, and adult-use cannabis information, visit [Social Equity Council \(ct.gov\)](https://www.ct.gov/sec).

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