

CT Social Equity Council Approves Equity Status for Five Lottery Applicants, Six Equity Joint Ventures

Approved applications will be forwarded to Consumer Protection once maximum number of applicants are approved

HARTFORD (September 7, 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 five lottery applicants for cannabis businesses. The council also approved six Equity Joint Ventures.

“I continue to be excited about the progress the Council is making,” said **Ginne-Rae Clay, SEC Executive Director**. “We are working hard to move the needle toward the opening of the Adult-Use Cannabis industry in Connecticut. This is history in the making, and I am glad to have a front row seat.”

The approved applicants include:

- 1 food and beverage manufacturer application
- 2 product manufacturer applications
- 1 transporter application
- 1 hybrid retailer application
- 6 Equity Joint Ventures (Not subject to the lottery process)

The Council [previously approved nine lottery applications for social equity status](#). The approved applications 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 transporter application, one product manufacturer application, four food and beverage manufacturers, and two 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.seccouncil.ct.gov).

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