

Name:

Marijuana Licensing Work Group #4 – Equity & Miscellaneous Licensing Topics

Below are the discussion questions posed to the Marijuana Licensing Work Group on Thursday, June 25, regarding a marijuana equity program. If you have thoughts on any of the discussion questions below, please provide input below and submit the document to marijuanainfo@denvergov.org. Comments will be circulated to the Marijuana Licensing Work Group.

Equity

1. [House Bill 20-1424](#) created a definition and criteria for social equity licensees. It changed the term “accelerator licensee” to “social equity licensee” in the Colorado Marijuana Code and alters the qualifications to the following:
 - Colorado resident
 - Not subjected to an action against their license
 - Demonstrates one of the following:
 - Resided 15+ years, from 1980 to 2010 in an opportunity zone or disproportionately impacted area;
 - Applicant or immediate family was arrested, convicted or suffered civil asset forfeiture due to a MJ offense;
 - Does not exceed household income to be defined by MED.
 - Social Equity licensee(s) must hold 51% or more ownership of the license

Should Denver adopt this same language for a “social equity applicant”?

2. Please rank the below program tools, services, and benefits from 1 – 8 based on how you believe they should be prioritized, with 1 being the highest priority and 8 being the lowest priority:

___ Prioritized license distribution or processing (including new license types and licenses released under lottery)

___ Modified application requirements (such as proof of possession of the premises, proof of financial capability, location requirements, etc.)

___ Workforce development (such as training, mentorship programs, job fairs, etc.)

___ Technical assistance (such as legal clinics, business plan development, accounting, etc.)

___ Financial assistance (such as low-interest loans, fee reduction or deferment, etc.)

___ Business resources (such as business-to-business networking events, seminars)

___ Development of ancillary businesses

___ Other: _____

3. Please explain why you selected your top two priorities.

4. Which cannabis licenses should be included in the Cannabis Social Equity program? Please explain your choices below.

- a. New Hospitality Licenses
- b. New Delivery Licenses, including Transporters
- c. Store and Grow licenses released under lottery
- d. All other types of cannabis licenses (MIPs & Labs)

e. Please explain your answer: _____

5. How does the existing licensing framework affect implementation of a successful equity program? Consider: caps on storefront and cultivation locations, lottery requirements, zoning requirements, application requirements, proximity restrictions, community engagement plans, evidence of community support, etc.

6. Given the current economic climate, what are possible ideas for funding a cannabis social equity program in Denver?

7. What resources could established marijuana businesses provide to equity applicants to help them enter and be successful in the industry?

8. What incentives would make it worthwhile for established cannabis businesses to participate in an equity program established by the city? (e.g. through a mentorship program, as an accelerator-endorsed licensee, etc.)

