



# Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

## **Social Equity Program Updates**

January 31, 2024



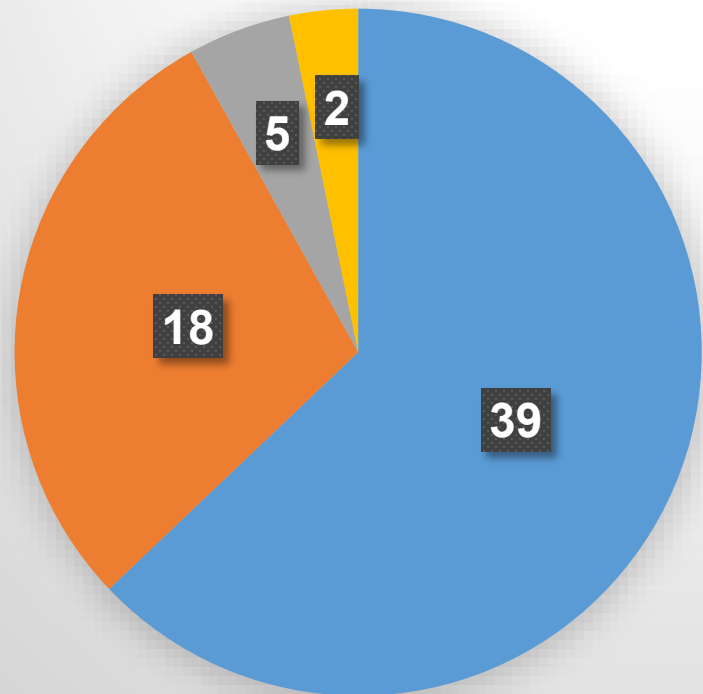
## Overview

- Steps of the Licensing process completed by Social Equity Applicants.
- Social Equity Plan – one-time reimbursement.
- Social Equity Team – progress on Senate Bill (E2SSB) 5080.
- Rulemaking.
- Disproportionately Impacted Areas (DIAs).



## Steps of the Licensing Process

Of the 40 Social Equity Applicants

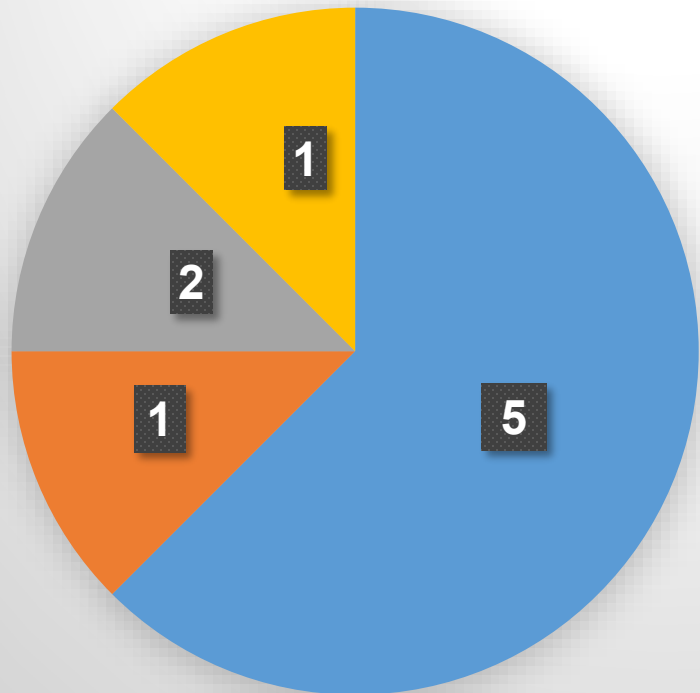


- Completed Interview
- Submitted Documents
- Secured Location
- License Issued



## Licensing Process - Title Certificate Holders

Of the 5 Title Certificate Holders



- Completed Interview
- Submitted Documents
- Secured Location
- License Issued



# Navigating Applicant Barriers

The two most common barriers are:

- Finding/securing a location.
- Start-up capital.

Measures we are taking to assist:

- Reaching out to local authorities.
- Consistent contact from Licensing Specialists.
- Monthly check-ins from the Social Equity Team.
- Availability to meet with local jurisdictions and collaborate in supporting applicants.



## Social Equity Plan – One-Time Reimbursement

Legislation recently passed that encourages licensees to submit a social equity plan outlining measures they will take to promote social equity in their community. After submitting a completed plan, the licensee can receive a one-time license fee reimbursement per entity.

- The Social Equity team has developed a procedure and a social equity operating plan template for licensees to utilize.
- The social equity operating plan template will be available on the Social Equity page starting today.
- Additional information can be found on LCB's Social Equity page at [lcb.wa.gov/se/cannabis-social-equity](http://lcb.wa.gov/se/cannabis-social-equity).
- An email address has been created for licensees to submit any questions regarding this process and to submit the completed operating plan.

Cannabis Social Equity Plan
<p><b>Summarize your proposed Social Equity Plan. Please do not exceed 500 words per box.</b></p> <p><b>Proposed plan:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hiring individual(s) with prior cannabis offenses, convictions, or incarcerations.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A community project that aids and supports highly impacted areas or people.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other.</p> <p>Please provide a brief description:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div>
<p><b>Intended impact of proposed plan:</b></p>



# Social Equity Team



Aaron Washington  
**Program Manager**



Sarah Davis  
**Case Manager**



Josephine Waddington  
**Program Specialist**



Kelly Hancock  
**Program Specialist**



# Social Equity Blog

- Blog Goals
  - Provide frequent program updates.
  - Elaborate on program developments for Senate Bill 5080.
  - Invite public engagement.
  - Increase accessibility to program information.

<https://medium.com/lcbsocialequity>





## Social Equity Team – Senate Bill 5080

- Community outreach:
  - Social Equity blog.
  - Website updates.
  - Educational opportunities.
- Monthly check-ins with applicants.
- Partnering with Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises.
- Partnering with the Department of Commerce.
- Lessons learned – interactive sessions with leadership.



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# Social Equity Rulemaking

Implementing E2SSB 5080



# Purpose of Rulemaking

- Modify the current rules (Chapter 314-55 WAC) to implement the 2023 legislation for expanding and improving the Cannabis Social Equity Program.
  - Rulemaking began on Nov. 8, 2023 (CR-101 filed as [WSR 23-23-062](#))



# Understanding the Rulemaking Process

- **The Inquiry Phase (CR-101)**
  - Stakeholder engagement
  - Rule development, drafting, and analysis
- **The Proposal Phase (CR-102)**
  - Public hearing/comments
  - Agency responds to comments
- **The Adoption Phase (CR-103)**
  - Board votes to approve rules
  - Rules become effective



# *Tentative* Rule Development Timeline

- Informal public comment period will close on **Feb. 29, 2024, at 11:59 P.M.**
- **April/May 2024**
  - Develop policy options to consider and draft proposed rules.
- **May 2024**
  - Request Board approval of CR-102.
- **June/July 2024**
  - Request Board approval of CR-103.
- **Aug./Sept. 2024**
  - Rules become effective.



# Participate in the Rulemaking Process

*Make a difference – Let your voice be heard!*

- **Ways to Engage**

- Participate in outreach sessions
- Submit written public comments
- Testify at a public hearing

- **Contact Information and Resources**

- ✓ To stay up to date with upcoming outreach and receive updates about the rulemaking activities, sign up to receive emails from the rules team.
- ✓ Submit comments and questions to the LCB rules team by emailing [rules@lcb.wa.gov](mailto:rules@lcb.wa.gov) or reach out directly to Cassidy West, Policy and Rules Manager, at [cassidy.west@lcb.wa.gov](mailto:cassidy.west@lcb.wa.gov).
- ✓ Visit the social equity blog and [lcb.wa.gov/laws-and-rules](http://lcb.wa.gov/laws-and-rules) for more information about the regulatory process, current rulemaking activities, and participating in the regulatory process.



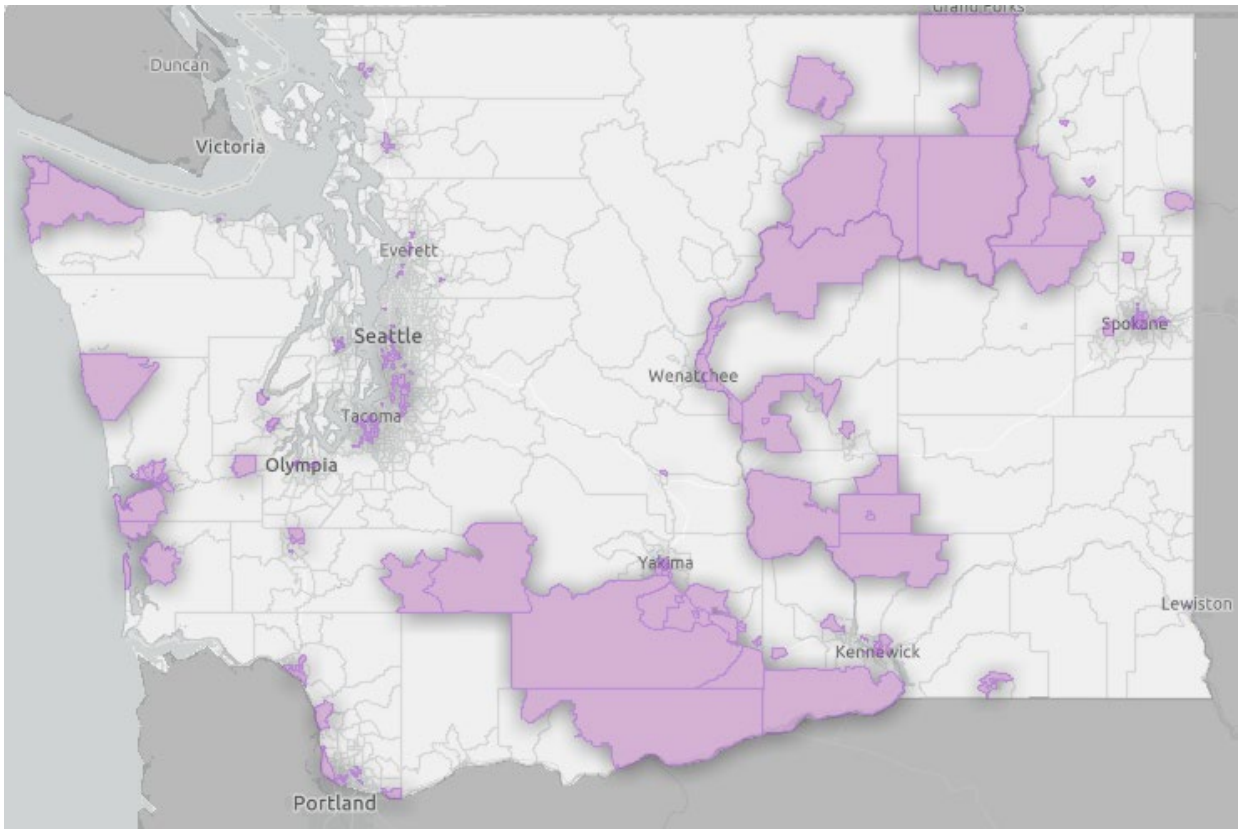
# Disproportionately Impacted Areas

- Disproportionately Impacted Areas (DIAs) are one of the four requirements that may qualify an applicant for the Social Equity Program.
- Last legislative session, the criteria changed for what qualifies as a DIA.
- The new criteria defines DIAs as census tracts that are in the top 15% in at least two of the following indicators:
  - High rate of people living under the federal poverty level;
  - High rate of people who did not graduate from high school;
  - High rate of unemployment; or
  - High rate of people receiving public assistance.
- LCB contracted with a third-party to pull and analyze the data, and another to map the data.

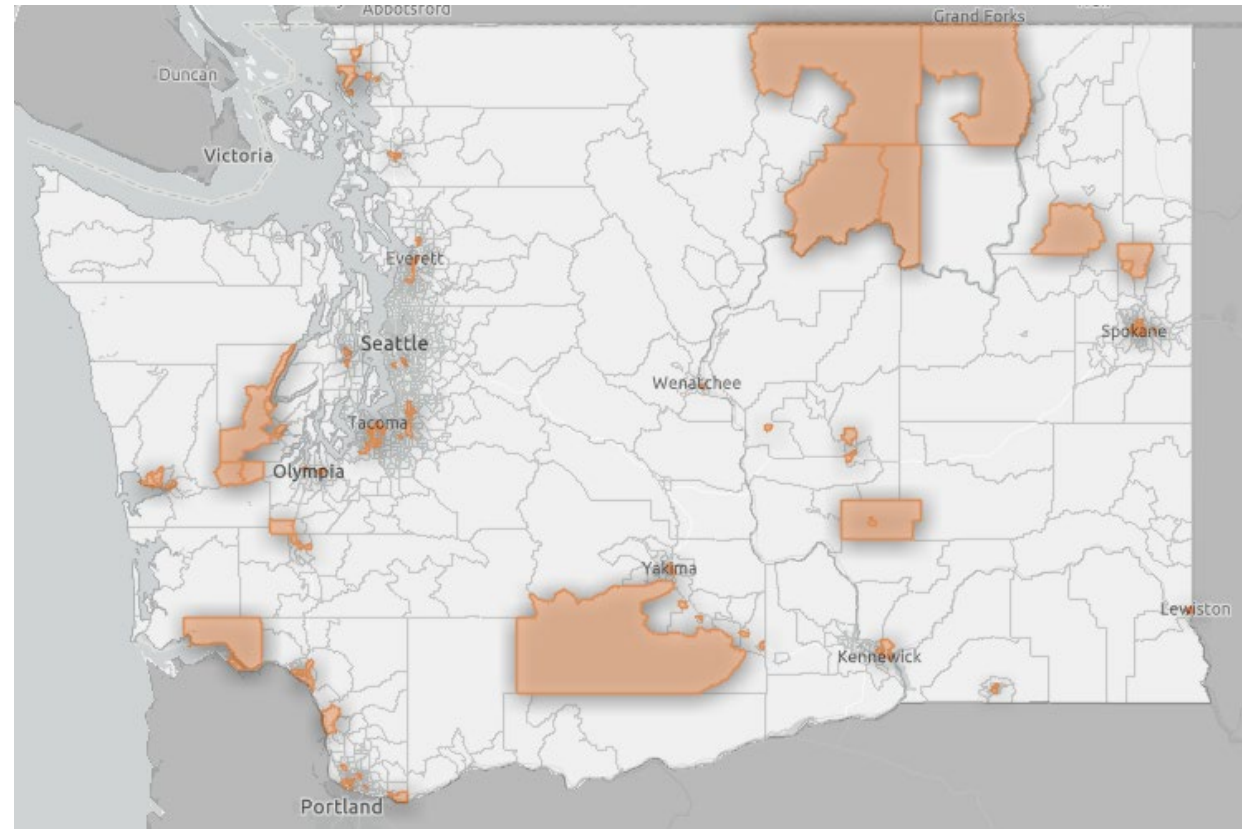


# Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

## 2010 DIA – Comparison



2024 Update



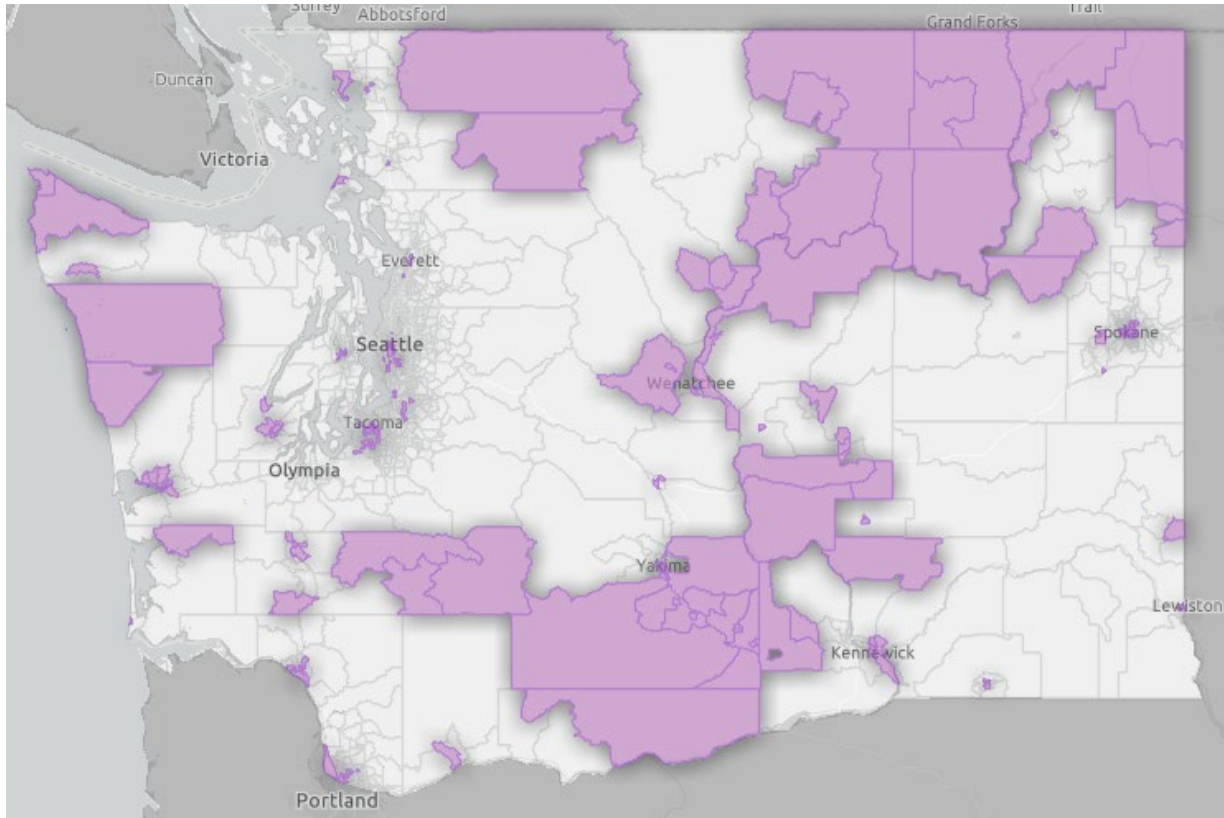
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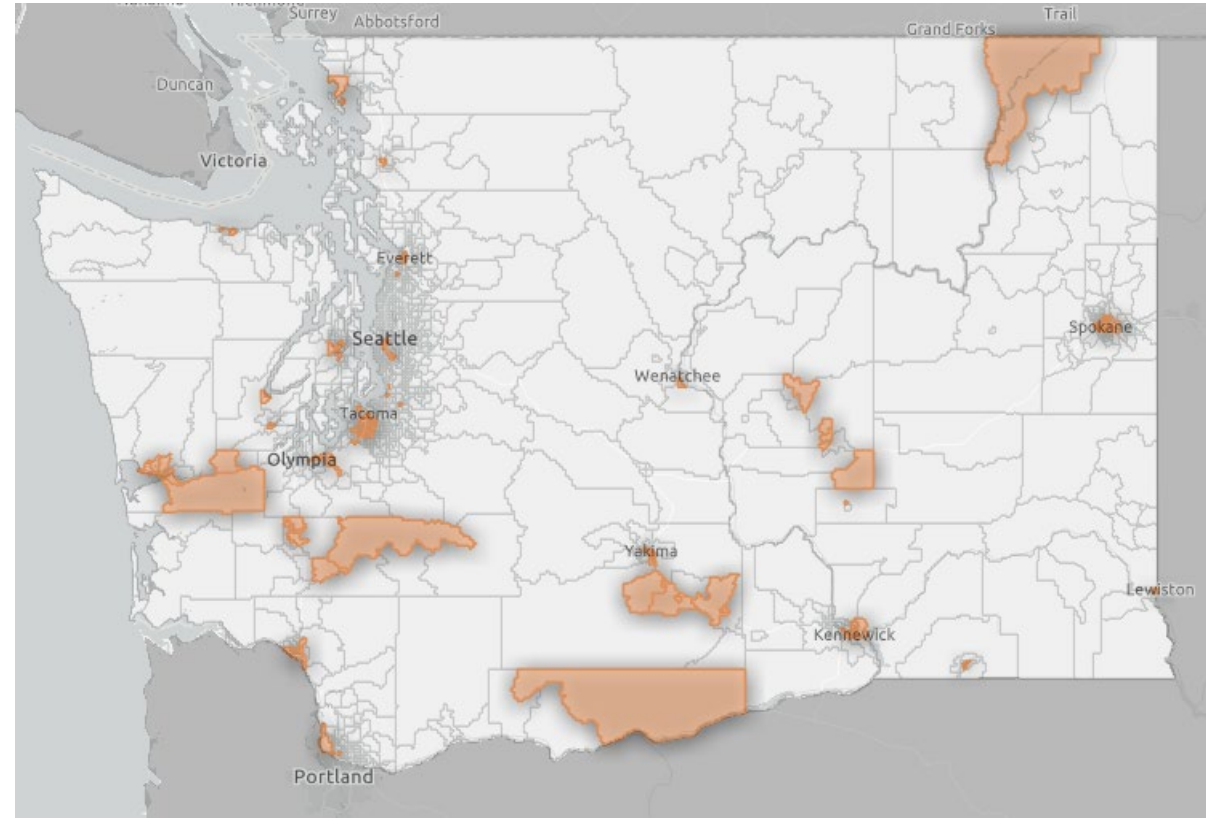


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## 2000 DIA – Comparison



**2024 Update**

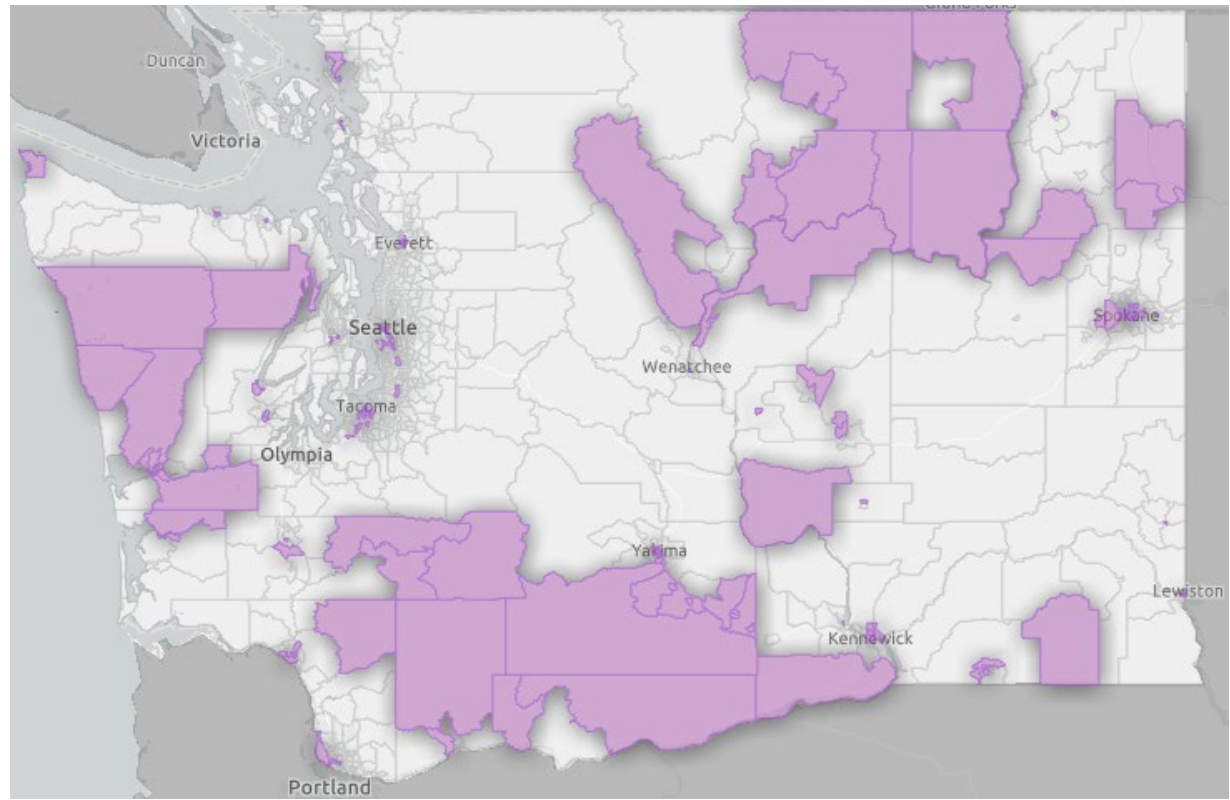


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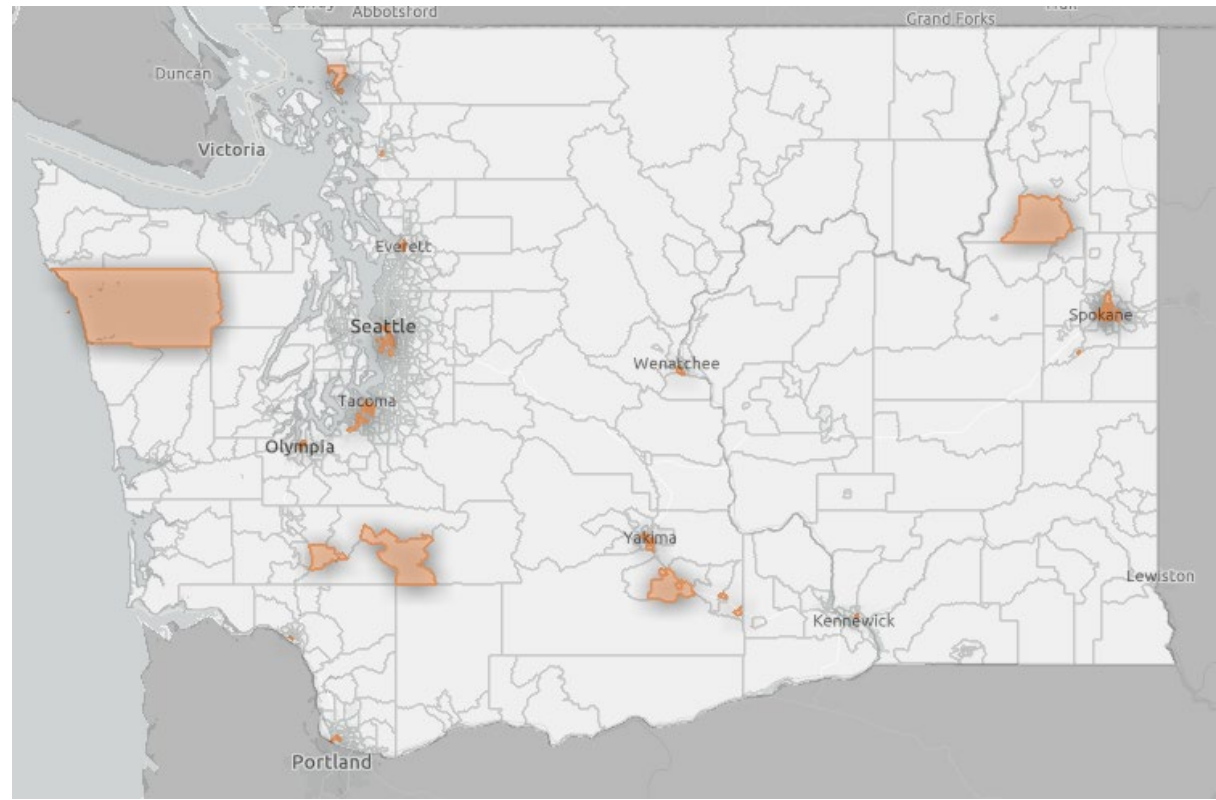


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## 1990 DIA – Comparison



**2024 Update**

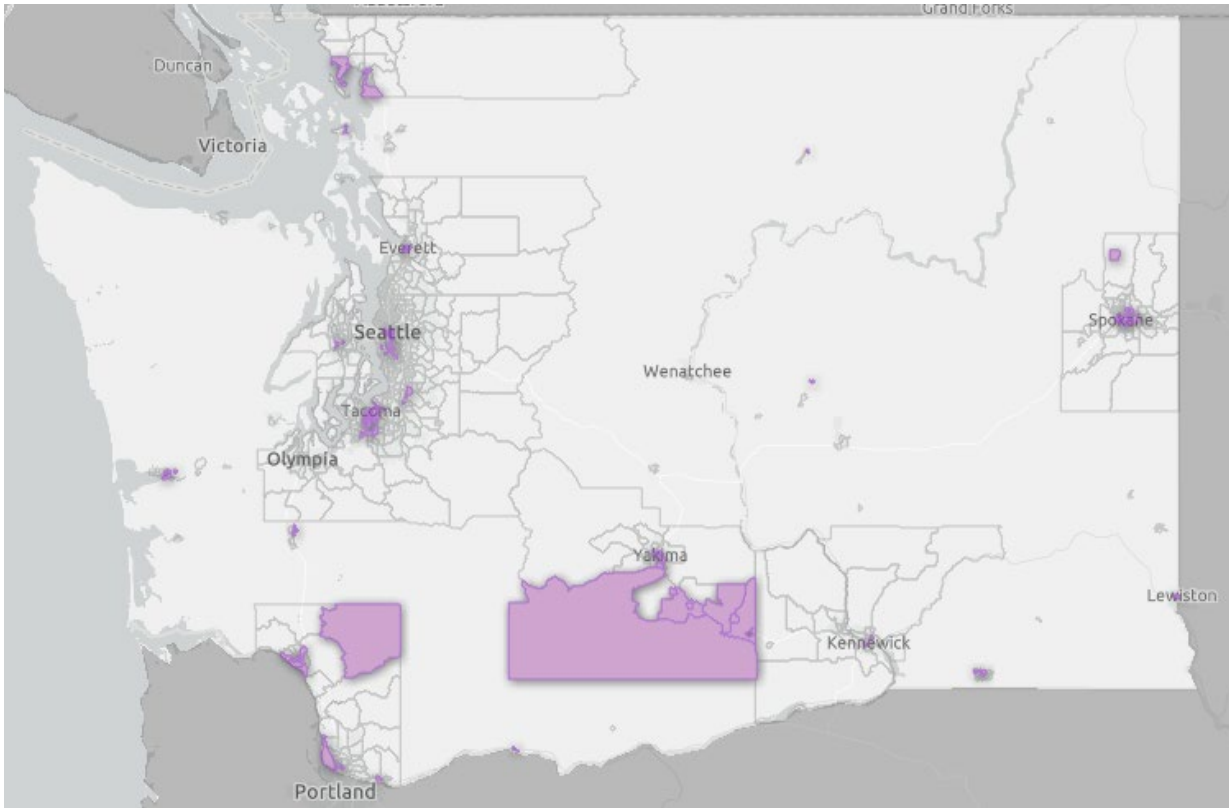


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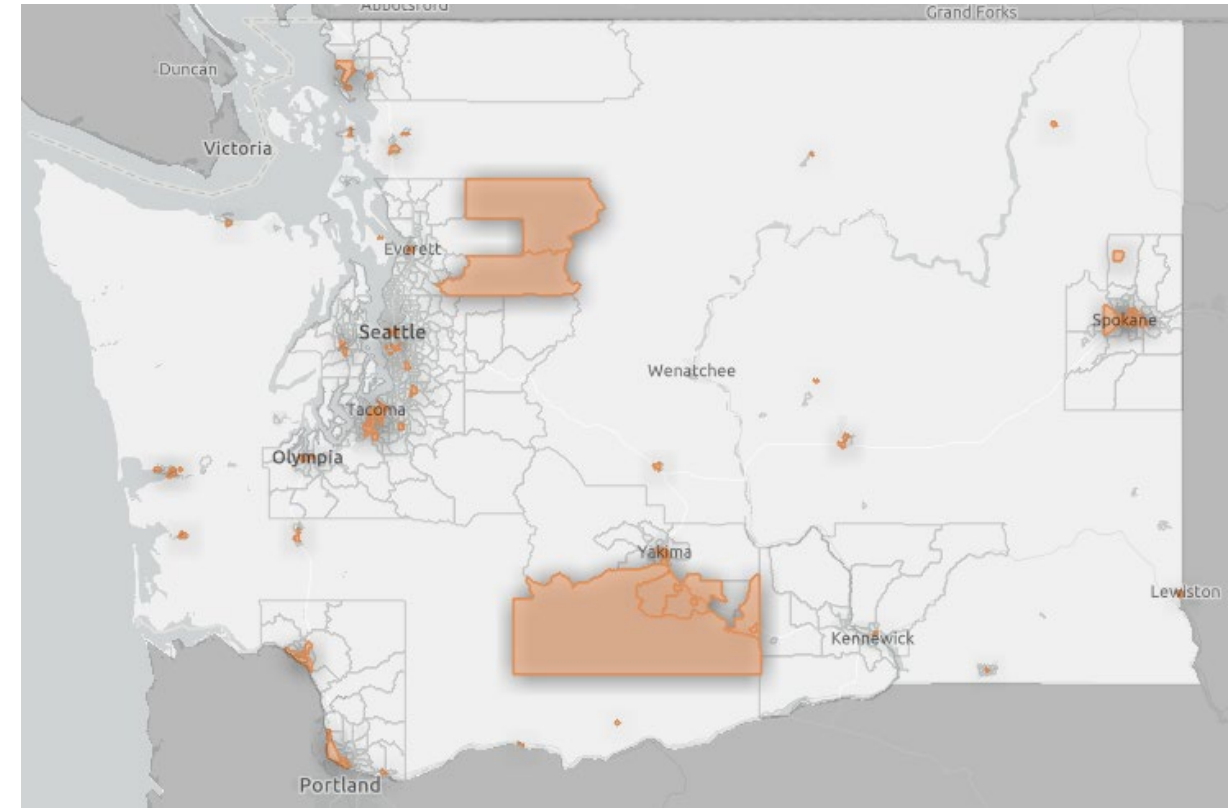


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## 1980 DIA – Comparison



**2024 Update**



**Original**



## Address Lookup - Example

### Disproportionately Impacted Areas

6961 37th Ave S, Seattle, WA, 98118, USA

Results: 4

4

- Census Tract G5300330011001 (2010)**  
In 2010, this Census Tract was disproportionately impacted
- Census Tract G5300330011000 (2000)**  
In 2000, this Census Tract was disproportionately impacted
- Census Tract G53003300110 (1990)**  
In 1990, this Census Tract was disproportionately impacted
- Census Tract G53003300110 (1980)**  
In 1980, this Census Tract was disproportionately impacted

Clear search location



# Disproportionately Impacted Areas

## Next Steps:

- The new draft maps will be shared on our website this afternoon:
  - Use the **Address Lookup Map** to search for a specific address to determine whether it was in a DIA.
  - To review of the DIA census tracts across the state, maps are viewable by decade: **1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010**.
- LCB would like to seek feedback from the community to consider if additional indicators should be used in determining these areas.
- Feedback can be submitted directly to [LicensingSocialEquity@lcb.wa.gov](mailto:LicensingSocialEquity@lcb.wa.gov) by February 29<sup>th</sup>.



**Thank You!**

