

Town of Medway

Social Equity Policy and Plan for Marijuana Establishment Applicants

Purpose:

On August 11, 2022, Governor Charlie Baker signed Chapter 180 of the Acts of 2022, “An Act Relative to Equity in the Cannabis Industry” (the “Act”), into law. Pursuant to the Act, the Cannabis Control Commission (the “Commission”) implemented regulations, 935 CMR 500.000 *et seq.* and 935 CMR 501.000 *et seq.* (the “Regulations”), which require host municipalities to establish policies to promote Equity in the cannabis industry.

In accordance with the Act, Regulations and Guidance issued by the Commission, the Town of Medway adopts this Social Equity Plan and Policy relative to Social Equity applicants seeking to establish businesses in town.

Applicability:

The Commission’s Social Equity programs provide training and technical assistance to applicants who have been disproportionately impacted by the War on Drugs, marijuana prohibition, arrests, and incarceration and who meet certain income and residency requirements. This Plan and Policy shall apply to Social Equity Businesses, Social Equity Program Participants, Economic Empowerment Priority Applicants, and other all other Applicants seeking to locate and operate a Marijuana Establishment and/or Medical Marijuana Treatment Center in the Town of Medway; provided, however, that nothing in this Plan and Policy shall be construed to supersede federal, state and local laws.

The Town does not discriminate against members of protected classes defined under Massachusetts state law in the administration of this Plan and Policy. As reflected in the Commission’s Regulations, it is the Commission (and not the Town) that determines an Applicant’s status as a Social Equity Business, Social Equity Program Participant, and/or Economic Empowerment Priority Applicant. Terms used herein that are not defined below shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Regulations.

In the event of a conflict between this Plan and Policy and relevant federal or state laws or regulations, certain provisions of this Plan and Policy may be suspended pending clarification of applicable law.

Policy and Plan:

It is the Town’s intention to comply with the Commission’s regulatory requirements, insofar as they are consistent with federal, state, and municipal anti-discrimination laws and regulations. Therefore, to encourage greater participation by Social Equity applicants in Medway’s cannabis industry, the Town shall:

1. Waive any requirement for a Host Community Agreement and attendant community impact fees.

2. Provide permitting technical assistance for Social Equity and Economic Empowerment applicants navigating Medway's cannabis permitting process.
3. Create a webpage with guidance and resources for applicants and a list of all required permits, including necessary forms and the information required by Commission's equity standards at 935 CMR 500.181(3)(b) and 935 CMR 501.181(3)(b); such information will also be available in a conspicuous location at Town offices.
4. List a municipal contact on the Town website who will work closely with Social Equity applicants in the permitting process from initial inquiry through the special permit and building permit process.

Approved by Select Board: September 15, 2025