

Social Equity Newsletter

February 2022

[Click here to read the summary of the Social Equity Fund in the FY 2023 NYS Executive Budget Memo of Support](#)

[Click here to read the Article VII budget bill language in the Article VII on pages 113-119.](#)

Board Member Reuben McDaniel Briefs Board on Governor Hochul’s New York Social Equity Cannabis Investment Fund

At today’s meeting, Board Member Reuben McDaniel briefed the Board on the \$200 million New York Social Equity Cannabis Fund that Governor Kathy Hochul included in her State of the State Address earlier this month. The public-private fund will provide funding to certain eligible applicants from communities impacted

by disproportionate policing during the decades-long cannabis prohibition. The fund will have support from licensing fees and revenue, drawing in private investors and making it possible to bring the fund to life early in the process of building the new cannabis industry. The Fund will provide support to certain licensed social and economic equity entrepreneurs for the costs of establishing and operating adult-use cannabis retail dispensaries. In addition, the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York will deliver a range of services directly to certain social equity cannabis

retail operators, including but not limited to: Identifying and acquiring or leasing retail dispensary locations; Designing, constructing, and renovating the locations to operate as adult-use cannabis dispensaries; and Fitting out locations with furniture and other equipment as needed to operate the establishments, among other activities.

cannabis.ny.gov

Empire State Cannabis Update: Social & Economic Equity – What is it, Who Qualifies, and the Path to Licensure

New Yorkers received their first glimpse of the benefits social equity applicants will receive under the MRTA. As part of her State of the State address, Governor Kathy Hochul’s accompanying State of the State Book made a major commitment—a “\$200 million public-private fund. . . [to] provide direct capital and startup financing to social equity applicants as the state takes meaningful steps to ensuring that New York’s cannabis industry is the most diverse and inclusive in the nation.”

JDSURPA

Featured articles

State cannabis social equity programs leave many depleted

A Los Angeles Times review of state data found that equity applicants represented only a small fraction – less than 8% – of all people granted cannabis licenses through the end of 2020 in several of the state’s largest jurisdictions. In addition, local officials around the state created different regulations for licensing cannabis businesses and meeting social equity qualifications. So far, existing medical pot dispensaries and established cannabis chains with vastly more experience and resources are frequently winning out. Even city leaders and officials in charge of clearing a pathway for more inclusion acknowledge the programs have struggled.

Daily Republic

Some Cannabis Leaders Are Helping to Pave the Way for Minority Business Owners (greenentrepreneur.com)

With social equity programs failing, some trailblazing executives are taking matters into their own hands. “There’s not enough diversity. The cannabis industry looks a lot like tech,” says Tiffany McBride, Managing Director of Social Equity Ventures at The Parent Company. Last November, McBride was appointed to her position to help elevate diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts within the cannabis sector. The data backs her up. White men comprise 80 percent of the cannabis industry, while the number of minority business owners in cannabis consisted of 5.7 percent Latinos, 4.3 percent Blacks, and 2.4 percent Asians.

Green Entrepreneur

Minority Cannabis Business Association to Release National Cannabis Equity Report, Digital Research Map

The Minority Cannabis Business Association (MCBA) is set to release its National Cannabis Equity Report and National Cannabis Equity Map Feb. 10 to present data it has collected on social equity programs across the country, and MCBA Executive Director Amber Littlejohn said the data paints a bleak picture of social equity in the industry. The National Cannabis Equity Report and National Cannabis Equity Map, made possible with support from the ArcView Group and in association with Weedmaps and Parallel, provide critical data from social equity programs, as well as other policies that impact equity in state and municipal medical and adult-use markets.

Cannabis Business Times

Events

Virtual Lunch & Learn Webinar Series: *Friday, February 11th* *12pm – 1pm*

Join us as Joshua Alb explains the specifics of the Endocannabinoid System. Joshua Alb has been a scientist, activist, and entrepreneur in the Cannabis industry for nearly a decade. His collaborative research in industry and academia has begun to help provide the path for a better understanding of cannabinoids and the endocannabinoid system

Office of Cannabis Management: Cannabis Conversations

Links & Resources

OCM Releases Filed Local Opt-out Data