

Date: 5/03/2021

Subject: Family Definition Proposal

To: Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force

### Background:

Sec 2. ESHB 2870 states that a “Social Equity Applicant” is an applicant who has at-least 51% ownership and control by at least one individual who has been convicted of a marijuana offense (or any drug offense (HB1443)) or is a **family member** of such an individual.”

Sec 5. ESHB2870 states “The purpose of the taskforce is to make **recommendations** to the board including but not limited to establishing a social equity program for the issuance and reissuance of existing retail cannabis licenses.”

Proposed Question: How does the Disproportionately Impacted Communities Workgroup recommend the board define family within their eligibility criteria?

### Suggestion:

“Family member” includes a biological, adopted, or foster child, a stepchild, a child’s spouse, or a child to whom the applicant stands loco parentis(in place of a parent), is a legal guardian, or is a de facto parent, regardless of age or dependency status; grandchild, grandparent, parent, sibling, or spouse, and also includes any individual who regularly resides in the applicant’s home or where the relationship creates an expectation that the applicant care for the person and that individual depends on the applicant for care. Except that it does not include an individual who simply resides in the same home with no expectation that the employee care for the individual.

### Rationale:

The definition is taken from the definition of “family member” in ESSB 5097, Relating to Expanding coverage of the Paid Family and Medical Leave Program (2021 Regular Session). During meetings of the Disproportionately Impacted Communities Workgroup, members and community participants recommended a broad definition for “family member” for the social equity program in order to be inclusive and capture non-biological and de facto relatives.

### Implementation:

The Disproportionately Impacted Communities Workgroup recommends that the Social Equity Application remain as low barrier as possible. The Workgroup understands that the applicants who will be applying under this program are faced with social, political and economic barriers every day. Therefore, the workgroup proposes that the eligibility requirement be in the form of a low barrier “check box” with a few lines to explain the relation.