

Social Equity Technical Assistance Grants

A presentation to the Technical Assistance
& Mentorship Workgroup

Rick Anderson

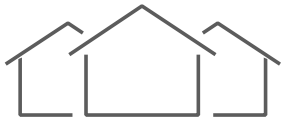
POLICY ADVISOR, OEDC

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Washington State
Department of
Commerce

We strengthen communities



**HOUSING
HOMELESSNESS**



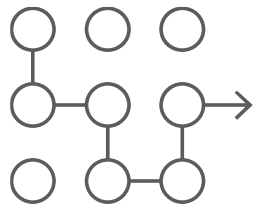
INFRASTRUCTURE



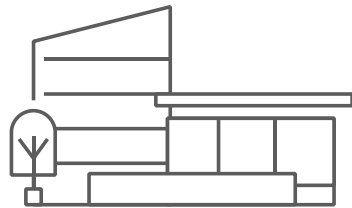
**BUSINESS
ASSISTANCE**



ENERGY



PLANNING



COMMUNITY FACILITIES



**CRIME VICTIMS &
PUBLIC SAFETY**



**COMMUNITY
SERVICES**

Goals for today

Communicate our understanding of law (relating to grants)

- What we (think we) know
- What we don't (yet) know

Build a shared understanding

- Capture and incorporate lived knowledge

What we know

... And don't know (yet)!



Available Funding

FY 2022 Grant

- **\$1.65 million**
- 7/1/21 - 6/30/22

FY 2023 Grant

- **\$1.65 million**
- 7/1/22 - 6/30/23

Staff

- Expect to hire
1 FTE in July
2021

Technical Assistance Grants

Technical Assistance – Required Section 1(2)

- Assistance navigating cannabis licensure process
- Business education and plan development specific to cannabis
- Regulatory compliance training
- Financial management training and assistance seeking financing
- Strengthening a social equity plan
- Connecting applicants with mentors

Roster of Mentors – Optional Section 1(4)

- Develop roster of mentors to support eligible applicants and license holders

Elements of a Social Equity Plan

1443 - Section 2(6)(d)

- (i) Eligibility qualifications
- (ii) Social equity goals
- (iii) History w/criminal justice system
- (iv) Workforce composition
- (v) Neighborhood characteristics

And . . . any additional requirements approved by LCB after consultation with Task Force

Current relationship between equity plans and grant awards



Social Equity Plans:
Equity Considerations

Grant Awards:
Business Viability

- LCB may adopt rules to impose additional requirements on social equity plans after consultation with Task Force.
- Commerce may adopt rules for grants.

Board rule-making may affect timing of grants

Required

- Board **must** adopt rules to define length of time w/in a “disproportionately impacted area”.

Optional

- Characteristics of “disproportionately impacted area”
- Applicant criteria
- Plan elements
- Implement Task Force recommendations

Reports/Recommendations may affect timing of grants

Task Force

- Recommendations on grant program – Section 3(9)(h)

Overview of known grant considerations

2022 grants must be distributed in FY 2022

2023 grants must be distributed in FY 2023

LCB eligibility criteria must be finalized in rule **prior to grant distribution**

Task Force recommendations (must be/will be) finalized **prior to grant distribution**

Uncertainties affecting funding process

Relationship between plans and grants

- Equity considerations v. business viability considerations

Timing of decisions/recommendations

- LCB rules
- Task Force

Needs of Applicants

- What type of assistance needed?
- How is it best delivered?
- Do needs differ across applicants?
- How many applicants are expected?

Needs of entities awarded a license

- What type of assistance is needed?
- How best delivered?

Building a shared understanding



Initial grant implementation questions

Should **business viability** elements be included in social equity plans?

What type of business technical assistance do **eligible entities** want/need?

- Do “applicants” have different needs from eligible license holders

Which entities are most likely to provide effective advice as mentor?

Should roster grants be **competitive**?

- How many applicants are likely to submit plans?

What type of business technical assistance do entities receive a cannabis retail license want/need?

- Will all entities need/want technical assistance?



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Thank you

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