



Key Takeaways & Reflections from Workgroup Homework

Disproportionately Impacted Communities Workgroup Meeting

March 24, 2021

What is the aim of this cannabis social equity program?

- Build generational wealth & equitable economic opportunity through business ownership, especially for communities and individuals who have been excluded from the cannabis industry
- Increase diversity & improve inclusion in the industry that prioritizes individuals, families and communities negatively impacted by the criminalization of cannabis and/or the evolution of policy in WA to regulate the industry, with a particular emphasis on Black, Indigenous, & People of Color
- Support those most harmed by the War on Drugs, directly or indirectly, through grants, technical assistance, & mentorship
- Identify & remove or lower barriers to the licensing process; level the playing field & remove advantages of large corporations that are dominating the industry
- Address institutional discrimination & racism in the industry
- Promote racial equity in both the cannabis industry & all connected industries
- The social equity program should expand to look at equity and cannabis more fully, including repair actions other than participation in the industry and a consideration of disparate public health impacts in the legal market

Agree? Disagree? What else?

Is there a certain population you think should be the focus?

- Focus on those most harmed by cannabis enforcement & changes in market regulation = African American & Black individuals, families, & communities, followed by Latinx individuals, families, and communities
- BIPOC youth, while not a primary focus, may be considerably impacted by changes made to the cannabis market that have the effect of increasing access and desirability, especially if no prevention efforts counter these changes.
 - Funds should be set aside to provide resources for youth
- Communities affected by clustering of existing cannabis retail ownership from inside and outside the community
- Tribes with compacts in the industry should be encouraged to provide employment & mentorship opportunities for Tribal members & other members of their communities
- African American medical license shop owners, who were not previously granted licenses
- African Americans, who filed applications and feel they were not given fair consideration
- African American, BIPOC, and other I 502 licensees, who lost their licenses
- Non minorities, who had their licenses taken unfairly should also be eligible for reparations under another program. Several small businesses suffered irreparable harm because of overly harsh policies that have since been changed

Agree? Disagree? What else?

Is this a form of reparations? If so, for whom?

- Potentially a form of reparations, but the SE program should examine how excise tax revenue can be use more completely to repair the harms of criminalization beyond being part of the industry (e.g. see Evanston, IL).
- It could be if done well. Reparations would be for people and communities disparately impacted and harmed by the drug war, poverty, and the related lack of potential for economic mobility and financial success.
- Not in this form. There is the potential to follow in Illinois's path and allow local jurisdictions to impose a separate cannabis tax that could be used as direct reparations.
- No. Reparations programs have a wide public benefit such as direct compensation or dedicated funding for impacted populations. This doesn't seem to be either. It is very narrowly targeted for a specific purpose & will benefit only a small number of eventual license holders.
- IDEA: Communities that host a large number of 1 502 businesses should be recipients of funds for economic development to fund recreational facilities, farmers markets and food banks, etc.

Agree? Disagree? What else?

In five years from now, with a data review of social equity licenses, what would “success” look like?

- Success would look like having more people DIRECTLY impacted by the drug war holding licenses
- Social equity licensees would be represented in the regulated cannabis industry across all current and future license types at a rate equal or greater than the demographic representation in each county
- At least 60% of the initial licenses are still operating and held by at least 51% SE qualified person
- No risk of additional harms to public health, including not clustering in areas of low opportunity
- Inclusion of producers & processors in the SE program
- More diverse staff & leadership at the LCB
- LCB creates an ongoing support program ensuring that licensees will be compliant with LCB rules and guidelines.
- Jurisdictions that ban marijuana businesses will not receive any tax dollars from marijuana taxes
- Grants will be provided for social equity licensees for training opportunities and to acquire property and form cooperatives
- Incentives will be provided to I-502s to purchase BIPOC brands & use BIPOC electricians, light specialists, builders, alarm companies, packaging companies, etc.
- All new licensees, including those who buy into the industry will be required to develop a social equity plan and report yearly progress; I 502 licensees required to support their surrounding communities & mentor others

Agree? Disagree? What else?