

Social Equity Program Updates Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. When will programming for the first cohort end?

The first cohort will complete its programming in April 2020.

2. When will the Commission begin reviewing applications for a second cohort for the Social Equity Program?

The Cannabis Control Commission (Commission) plans to begin reviewing applications in March through May 2020. All applications received after the first cohort deadline, July 8, 2019, will be reviewed and considered for the second cohort. If you previously applied, you will receive communications about next steps in your application process once the review process begins.

With the exception of training and technical assistance, all other program benefits are available immediately upon acceptance into the Program. Please find a list of program benefits below.

3. When is the application deadline to apply for second cohort consideration?

The application deadline for second cohort consideration is May 1, 2020.

4. What are the new income restrictions required to be eligible to apply under Qualification 1?

Under the updated qualification, to be eligible for the program, you must reside in an Area of Disproportionate Impact (ADI) for five of the past 10 years and your income may not exceed 400% Area Median Income (AMI) of your town of residence, based on ADIs. The Commission updated this qualification to expand eligibility in the Social Equity Program for those impacted.

AMI is the midpoint of a region's income. Please use the table below to identify what 400% AMI is in your town.



400% Area Median Income Limits			
Abington	\$363,492.00	New Bedford	\$175,956.00
Amherst	\$207,512.00	North Adams	\$157,644.00
Boston	\$263,532.00	Pittsfield	\$194,220.00
Braintree	\$379,780.00	Quincy	\$287,232.00
Brockton	\$220,560.00	Randolph	\$294,788.00
Chelsea	\$213,120.00	Revere	\$220,080.00
Fall River	\$166,340.00	Southbridge	\$203,148.00
Fitchburg	\$221,108.00	Spencer	\$287,320.00
Greenfield	\$194,612.00	Springfield	\$146,920.00
Haverhill	\$262,316.00	Taunton	\$248,740.00
Holyoke	\$162,624.00	Walpole	\$451,588.00
Lowell	\$207,948.00	Wareham	\$253,460.00
Lynn	\$218,392.00	West Springfield	\$205,888.00
Mansfield	\$458,880.00	Worcester	\$185,628.00
Monson	\$329,708.00		

5. What are the benefits of the Social Equity Program?

Benefits of the program include training and technical assistance and on an ongoing basis:

- Expedited License Application Review;
- Waived Licensing Application Fee: This does not include the costs associated with background checks. However, you may submit a general waiver request form to the Commission for costs associated with background checks or other fees here, <https://mass-cannabis-control.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Waiver-Request-Form-General.pdf>;
- Waived METRC monthly program fees: This waiver does not include other costs associated with the seed-to-sale licensing system, specifically the fees for plant and package tags;
- 50% reduction of the Annual Renewal Fees; and
- For at least a two-year period, exclusive access to Social Consumption and Delivery-Only license types as well as a pre-certification application that provides applicants with a streamlined process and an initial determination from the Commission which can then be used in interactions with property owners, local officials, investors, and more.

6. What should I do if I paid for any of the benefits while awaiting benefits to become available?

Reach out to Equity@CCCMass.com with details of what you have already paid for and we will work with the Licensing Department to respond to your inquiry.



7. When will the Delivery-Only and Social Consumption applications become available?

During its 2019 regulatory review, the Commission authorized a pilot program for a Social Consumption License and expects to start accepting license applications for adult-use cannabis delivery this spring. A Delivery-Only License type will be offered exclusively for Certified Economic Empowerment Priority Applicants, Social Equity Program participants, and Microbusinesses with a Delivery Endorsement from the Commission, for an initial period of two years. Delivery for adult-use cannabis consumers will be permitted in municipalities in which retail sales are permitted, delivery businesses are located, and those that notify the Commission that delivery is permitted within their borders. Please note, however, that the Commission’s social consumption pilot program cannot begin without a change in state law that will first allow cities and towns to authorize social consumption in their communities.

8. I’ve completed my programming as a first cohort participant, will I have access to updated resources as the program progresses?

Yes. Current and future program participants will have access to all updated resources and materials as the program progresses. The Commission is currently exploring online Learning Management Systems (LMS) to streamline programming and allow continued access to materials for all participants. The Commission will provide updates to all participants with those developments.

9. Why can’t the Commission create a Social Equity fund?

The Commission does not have the legal authority to create a fund under state law. Only the Legislature has the authority to create laws and establish such funds. The Commission has, however, advocated for the establishment of such a fund.

10. Can the Commission work one-on-one with us to prepare our applications?

No. The Commission is a regulatory agency responsible for reviewing ME applications and determining whether the applications are compliant with adult-use (935 CMR 500.00) and medical-use (935 CMR 501.000) regulations. Our role as regulators prevents us from providing one-on-one guidance on how to write an application for any applicant, regardless of their status.

While we are prohibited from providing one-on-one consultation, the Commission can and does provide clarification on licensing requirements and our interpretation of the regulations via [guidance documents](#). More specifically and as mentioned above, the Commission developed a guidance for the licensing process, which can be found [here](#).



11. Can the Commission help me fill out my Social Equity Program application?

Yes, since the Social Equity Program is not a license type, the Commission is able to assist. The Commission is planning three clinic events in the coming months at computer labs across the Commonwealth in order to assist individuals with their Social Equity Program applications in real time. Please sign up for the Social Equity Program's mailing list [here](#) to receive details when they are released.

