



CANNABIS CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Meeting

October 10, 2019

10:00AM

Western New England University
School of Law
1215 Wilbraham Road
Springfield, MA

Agenda

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Chairman's Comments & Updates
- 3) Approval of Minutes
- 4) Executive Director's Report
 - a. Fall River Correspondence
 - b. Update on Financial Due Diligence
- 5) Staff Recommendations on Renewals
- 6) Staff Recommendations on Changes of Location
- 7) Staff Recommendations on Final Licenses
- 8) Staff Recommendations on Provisional Licenses
- 9) Responsible Vendor Accreditation
- 10) Commission Discussion and Votes
- 11) New Business that the Chairman did not anticipate at time of posting
- 12) Next Meeting Date

Licensing Applications | October 10, 2019

The totals below are applications that have submitted all four packets and are pending review.

Type	#
Craft Marijuana Cooperative	2
Independent Testing Laboratory	3
Marijuana Cultivator	111
Marijuana Microbusiness	9
Marijuana Product Manufacturer	89
Marijuana Research Facility	4
Marijuana Retailer	155
Marijuana Transporter with Other Existing ME License	1
Third Party Transporter	3
Total	377

Licensing Applications | October 10, 2019

The totals below are all license application received to date.

Type	#
Pending (All 4 packets submitted)	377
Withdrawn	374
Incomplete (Less than 4 packets submitted)	3379
Denied	4
Approved	196
Total	4330

Licensing Applications | October 10, 2019

The totals below are number of licenses approved by category.

Type	#
Craft Marijuana Cooperative	0
Independent Testing Laboratory	3
Marijuana Cultivator	59
Marijuana Microbusiness	4
Marijuana Product Manufacturer	51
Marijuana Research Facility	0
Marijuana Retailer	76
Marijuana Third Party Transporter	1
Marijuana Transporter with Other Existing ME License	2
Total	196

Licensing Applications | October 10, 2019

The totals below are number of licenses approved by stage.

Type	#
Provisionally Approved	1
Provisional License	106
Final License	23
Commence Operations	66
Total	196

Provisionally approved means approved by the Commission but has not submitted license fee payment yet – provisional license has not started

Licensing Applications | October 10, 2019

The totals below are distinct license numbers that have submitted all required packets.

The 500 applications represent 265 separate entities

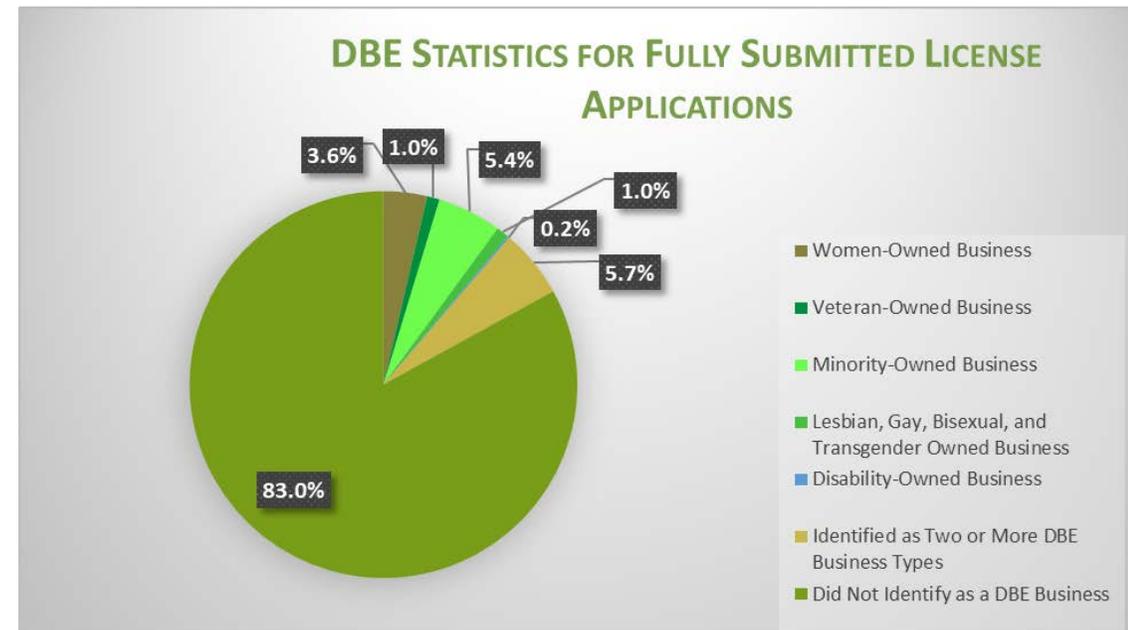
Type	#
RMD Priority	221
Economic Empowerment Priority	14
General Applicant	342
Total	577

Licensing Applications | October 10, 2019

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Statistics

The totals below are distinct license numbers that have submitted all required packets.

Type	#	% of Group
Women-Owned Business	21	3.6
Veteran-Owned Business	6	1.0
Minority-Owned Business	31	5.4
Lesbian Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Owned Business	6	1.0
Disability-Owned Business	1	0.2
Identified as Two or More DBE Business Types	33	5.7
Did Not Identify as a DBE Business	479	83.0
Total	577	100.0



Licensing Applications | October 10, 2019

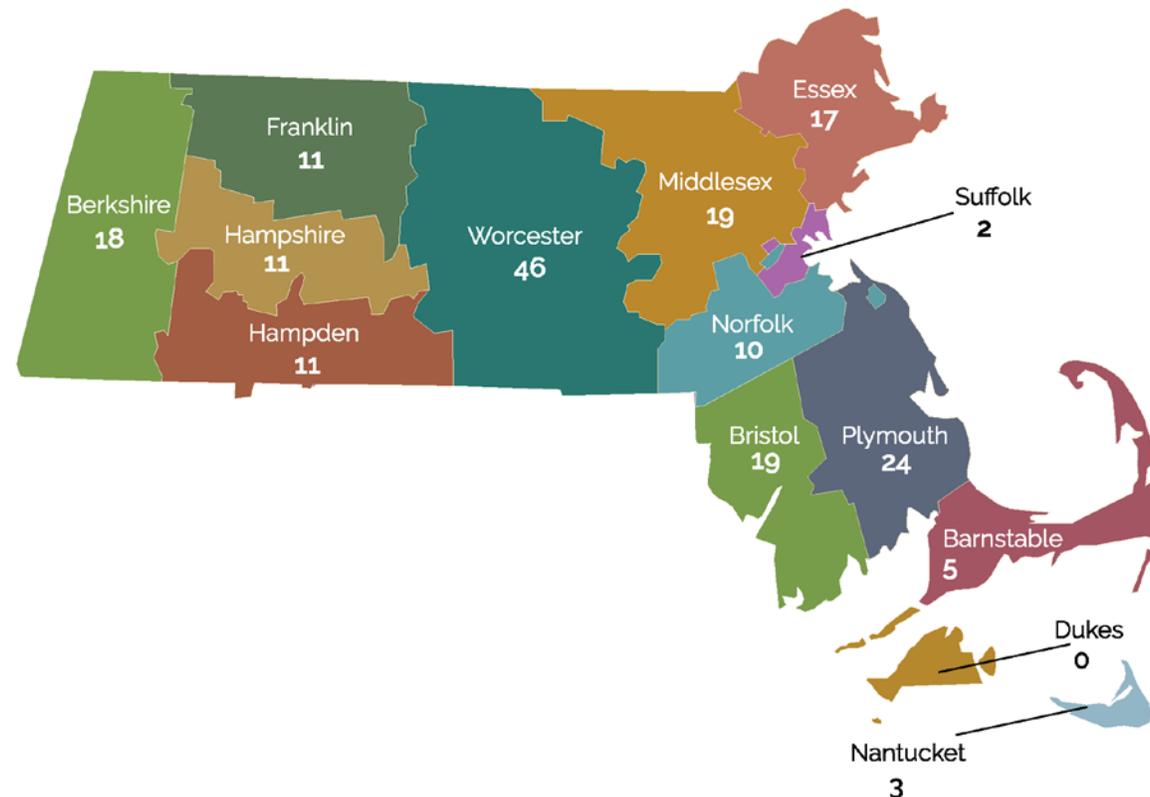
Status	#
Application Submitted: Awaiting Review	184
Application Reviewed: More Information Requested	127
Application Deemed Complete: Awaiting 3 rd Party Responses	55
All Information Received: Awaiting Staff Recommendation	11
Applications Considered by Commission	200
Total	577



Licensing Applications | October 10, 2019

The totals below are the total number of licenses by county.

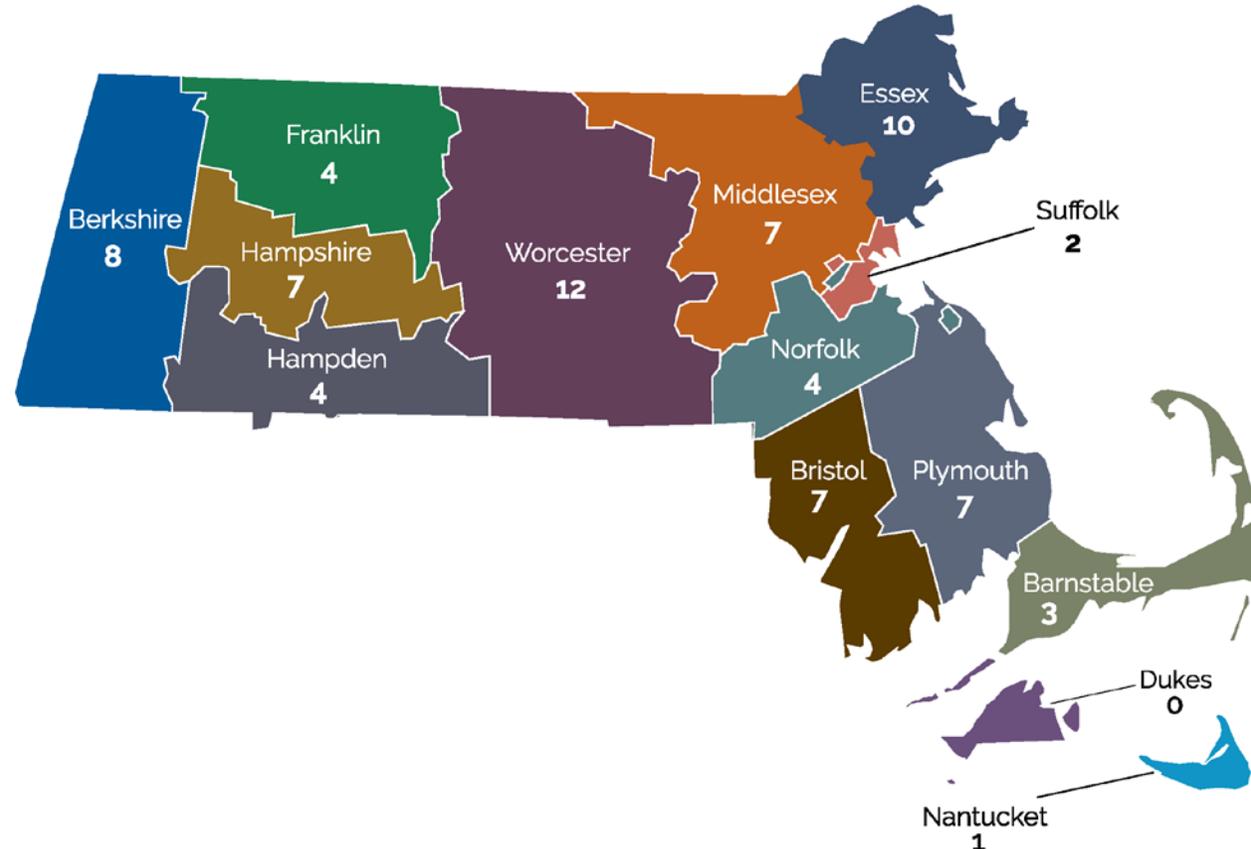
County	+/-
Barnstable	+1
Berkshire	
Bristol	
Dukes	
Essex	+3
Franklin	+2
Hampden	
Hampshire	+1
Middlesex	
Nantucket	
Norfolk	
Plymouth	
Suffolk	
Worcester	
Total	+7



Retail Applications | October 10, 2019

The totals below are the total number of retail licenses by county.

County	+/-
Barnstable	+1
Berkshire	
Bristol	
Dukes	
Essex	+1
Franklin	
Hampden	
Hampshire	+1
Middlesex	
Nantucket	
Norfolk	
Plymouth	
Suffolk	
Worcester	
Total	+3



Licensing Applications | October 10, 2019

TYPE	PENDING APPLICATION	INITIAL LICENSE DENIED	PROVISIONAL LY APPROVED	PROVISIONAL LICENSE	FINAL LICENSE	COMMENCE OPERATION	TOTAL
Craft Marijuana Cooperative	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Independent Testing Laboratory	3	0	0	1	0	2	6
Marijuana Cultivator	111	2	0	32	10	17	172
Marijuana Microbusiness	9	0	1	2	1	0	13
Marijuana Product Manufacturer	89	1	0	27	7	17	141
Marijuana Research Facility	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Marijuana Retailer	155	1	0	43	5	28	232
Marijuana Transporter with Other Existing ME License	1	0	0	0	0	2	3
Third Party Transporter	3	0	0	1	0	0	4
Total	377	4	1	106	23	66	577

Adult Use Agent Applications | October 10, 2019

8,893 Total Agent Applications:

- 259
Total
- 252 Pending Establishment Agents
 - 7 Pending Laboratory Agents
 - 447 Withdrawn
 - 992 Incomplete
 - 984 Surrendered
 - 6,211 Active

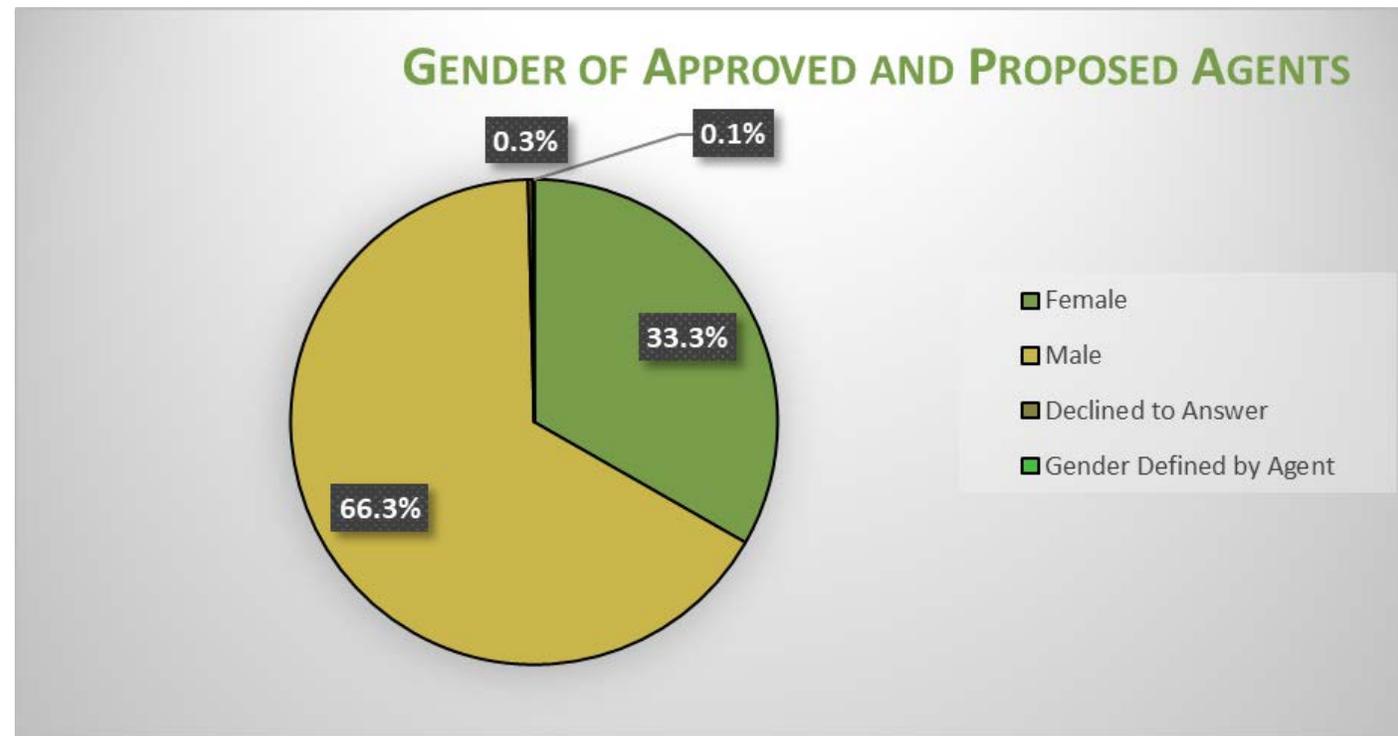
Of Total Pending:

- 154 not yet reviewed
- 100 CCC requested more information
- 5 awaiting third party response
- 0 Review complete; awaiting approval

Agent Applications | October 10, 2019

Demographics of Approved and Pending Agents

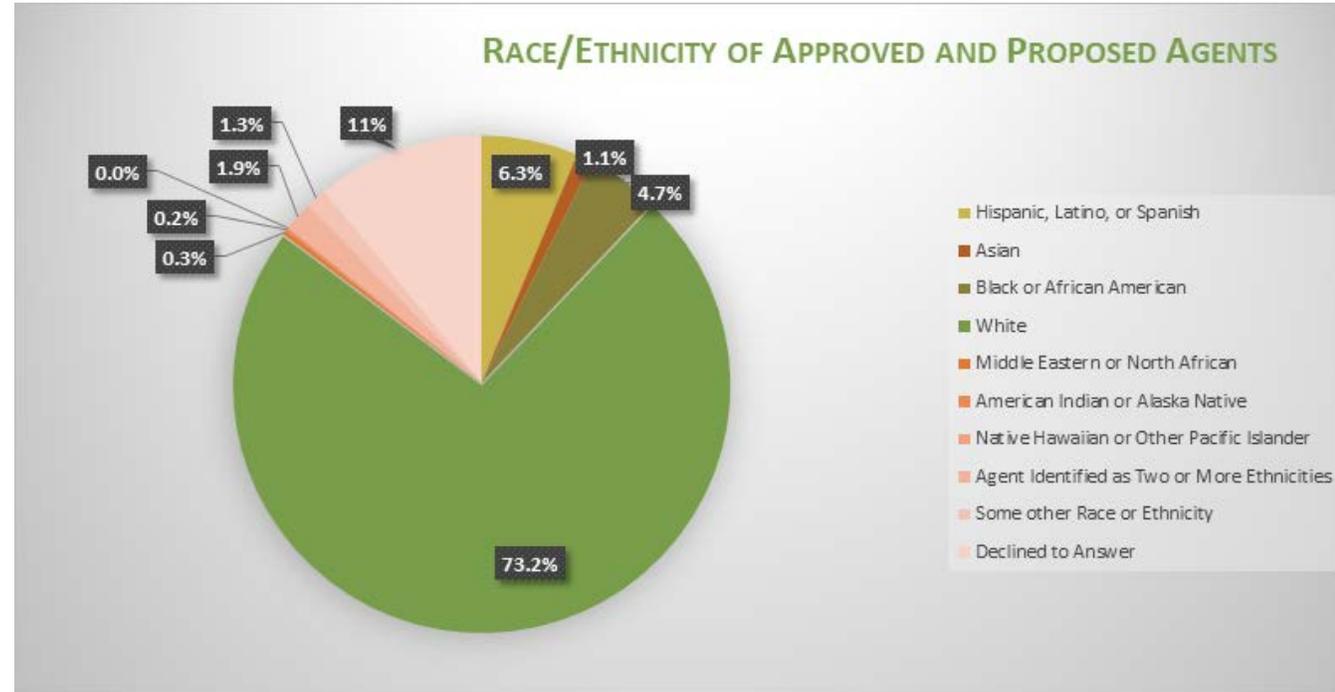
Gender	#	%
Female	2,153	33.3
Male	4,291	66.3
Declined to Answer	20	0.3
Gender Defined by Applicant	6	0.1
Total	6,470	100.0



Agent Applications | October 10, 2019

Demographics of Approved and Pending Agents

Race/Ethnicity	#	%
Hispanic; Latino; Spanish	407	6.3
Asian	68	1.1
Black; African American	306	4.7
White	4,737	73.2
Middle Eastern; North African	18	0.3
American Indian; Alaska Native	13	0.2
Native Hawaiian; Other Pacific Islander	2	0.0
Identified as Two or More Ethnicities	124	1.9
Other Race or Ethnicity	87	1.3
Declined to Answer	708	10.9
Total	6,470	100.0



MMJ Licensing Data | October 10, 2019

MTC License Applications	#
Pending-Application of Intent Stage	38
Pending-Management and Operations Profile Stage	13
Pending-Siting Profile Stage	6
Application Expired	102
Application Withdrawn	3
Total	162

MTC Licenses	#
Provisional	95
Final	5
Commence Operations	53
License Expired	11
Total	164

MMJ Agent and Program Data | October 10, 2019

The numbers below are a snapshot of the program for the month of September.

MTC Agent Applications	#
Pending-MTC Agent Applications	62
Pending-Laboratory Agents	5
Revoked	3
Surrendered	2,420
Expired	387
Active	4,632
Total	7,509

MMJ Program	#
Certified Patients	67,480
Certified Active Patients	60,971
Active Caregivers	6,438
Registered Certifying Clinicians	318
Ounces Sold	41,080

5) Staff Recommendations on Renewals

- a. Late Spring, Inc d/b/a Gage Cannabis (#MRR205540), Retail Renewal
- b. Central Ave Compassionate Care, Inc. (#MCR139830), Cultivation Renewal
- c. Central Ave Compassionate Care, Inc. (#MPR243488), Product Manufacturer Renewal
- d. Northeast Alternatives, Inc. (#MRR205534), Retail Renewal
- e. Theory Wellness, Inc. (#MRR205537), Retail Renewal
- f. Curaleaf Massachusetts, Inc. (#MRR205542), Retail Renewal
- g. Curaleaf Massachusetts, Inc. (#MCR139839), Cultivation Renewal
- h. Curaleaf Massachusetts, Inc. (#MPR243492), Product Manufacturer Renewal
- i. 253 Organic, LLC (#MCR139831), Cultivation Renewal
- j. Caroline's Cannabis, LLC (#MRR205536), Retail Renewal
- k. 253 Organic, LLC (#MPR343487), Product Manufacturer Renewal
- l. 253 Organic, LLC (#MRR205539), Retail Renewal

5) Staff Recommendations on Renewals

- m. Commonwealth Cultivation, Inc. (#MCR139832), Cultivation Renewal
- n. East Coast Organics, LLC (#MCR139833), Cultivation Renewal
- o. East Coast Organics, LLC (#MPR243489), Product Manufacturer Renewal
- p. Ashlis Farm, Inc. (#MCR139841), Cultivation Renewal
- q. Ashil's Extract, Inc. (#MPR243495), Product Manufacturer Renewal
- r. Ashli's, Inc. (#MRR205541), Retail Renewal
- s. Sanctuary Medicinals, LLC (#MCR139835), Cultivation Renewal
- t. Theory Wellness, Inc. (#MCR139842), Cultivation Renewal
- u. Theory Wellness, Inc. (#MPR243493), Product Manufacturer Renewal
- v. Sanctuary Medicinals, LLC (#MPR243490), Product Manufacturer Renewal
- w. Health Circle, Inc., Vertically Integrated Medical Treatment Center Renewal
- x. M3 Ventures, Inc. (#RMD-806), Vertically Integrated Medical Treatment Center Renewal

5) Staff Recommendations on Renewals

- y. M3 Ventures, Inc. (#RMD-465), Vertically Integrated Medical Treatment Center Renewal
- z. Mission MA, Inc. (RMD-1125), Vertically Integrated Medical Treatment Center Renewal
- aa. Apothca, Inc. (#RMD-345), Vertically Integrated Medical Treatment Center Renewal
- bb. Mass Wellspring, LLC (#RMDN-665), Vertically Integrated Medical Treatment Center Renewal
- cc. The Heirloom Collective, Inc. (#RMD-825), Vertically Integrated Medical Treatment Center Renewal
- dd. HVV Massachusetts, Inc., Vertically Integrated Medical Treatment Center Renewal
- ee. HVV Massachusetts, Inc. (#RMD-1185), Vertically Integrated Medical Treatment Center Renewal
- ff. Theory Wellness, Inc. (#RMD-525), Vertically Integrated Medical Treatment Center Renewal

5) Staff Recommendations on Renewals

- gg. Bask, Inc. (#RMD-445), Vertically Integrated Medical Treatment Center Renewal
- hh. MassMedicum Corp. (#RMD-945), Vertically Integrated Medical Treatment Center Renewal
- ii. Patriot Care Corp. (#RMD-265), Vertically Integrated Medical Treatment Center Renewal
- jj. Patriot Care Corp. (#RMD-727), Vertically Integrated Medical Treatment Center Renewal
- kk. The Botanist, Inc. (#RMD-1145), Vertically Integrated Medical Treatment Center Renewal
- ll. Altitude Organic Corporation of Massachusetts, Vertically Integrated Medical Treatment Center Renewal

6) Staff Recommendations on Change Of Location

- a. ARL Healthcare, Inc., MTC Provisional License, Cultivation and Processing
- b. Bask, Inc., MTC Provisional License, Cultivation and Processing
- c. Mayflower Medicinals, Inc., MTC Provisional License, Dispensing
- d. Nature's Remedy of Massachusetts, Inc., MTC Provisional License, Dispensing

7) Staff Recommendations on Final Licenses

- a. CommCan, Inc. (#MR282205), Retail
- b. CommCan, Inc. (#RMD-565), Vertically Integrated Medical Treatment Center
- c. I.N.S.A., Inc (#MR281892), Retail

8) Staff Recommendations on Provisional Licenses

- a. Haverhill Stem, LLC (#MRN281327), Retail
- b. JustinCredible Cultivation, LLC (#MCN281313), Cultivation – Tier 1 / Indoor
- c. Alternative Compassion Services, Inc. (#MCN282054), Cultivation – Tier 2 / Indoor
- d. Alternative Compassion Services, Inc. (#MPN281628), Product Manufacturer
- e. Liberty Market, LLC (#MRN281804), Retail
- f. Good Chemistry of Massachusetts, Inc. (MRN282554), Retail
- g. Native Sun Wellness, Inc. (#MCN281599), Cultivation – Tier 5 / Indoor
- h. ACK Natural, Inc, Vertically Integrated Medical Treatment Center
- i. TDMA Orange, LLC. (#MCN281982), Cultivation – Tier 2 / Indoor
- j. TDMA Orange, LLC. (#MPN281616), Product Manufacturer
- k. TDMA Orange, LLC. (#MCN282031), Cultivation – Tier 5 / Indoor
- l. TDMA Orange, LLC. (#MRN282376), Retail

9) Responsible Vendor Accreditation

- a. Quality Control Analytics
- b. Cannabis Trainers
- c. Stocker Consulting, LLC
- d. Anthony Bartucca

10) Commission Discussion and Votes

- a. Next Regulatory Cycle: Scope of Foreseeable Topics (Subject to Change)
- b. Priority RMD Status
- c. Considerations for Social Equity Applicants
- d. Annual Activities Report to the Legislature
- e. Research Presentation: Positive Impact Plan Special Report

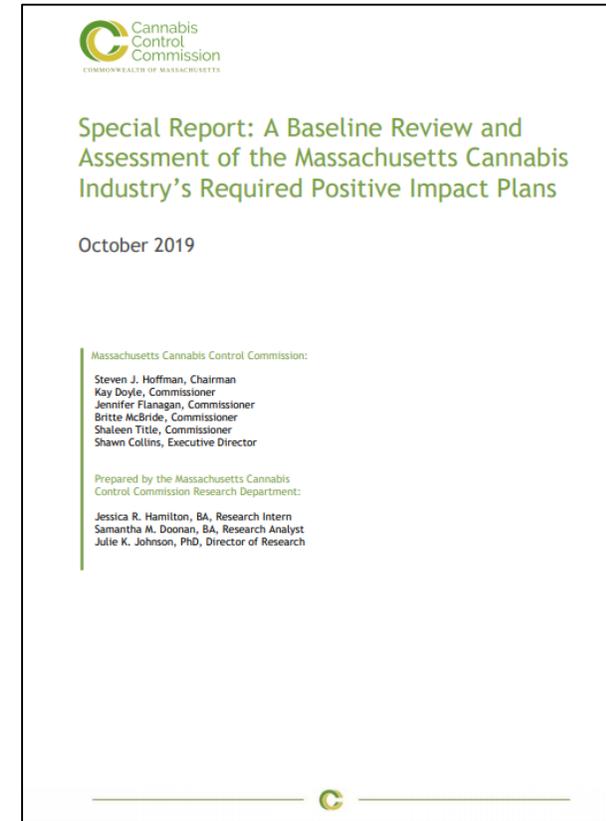
Special Report: A Baseline Review and Assessment of the Massachusetts Cannabis Industry's Required Positive Impact Plans

Public Meeting of the Cannabis Control Commission:
October 10, 2019

Jessica R. Hamilton, B.A.
Samantha M. Doonan, B.A.
Julie K. Johnson, Ph.D.

Background and Purpose

- Author Background
- Special Report
- Purpose



Guiding Research Question:
“To what end are Positive Impact Plan activities oriented?”

Research Goals

- 1) Understand how Marijuana Establishments (MEs) view their role in creating an equitable market;
- 2) Determine the types of activities those MEs currently approved to operate in the market believe will most positively impact disproportionately harmed communities and promote meaning participation in the market;
- 3) Explore the varying interpretations of “Social Equity” as it pertains to the assessment of Positive Impact Plan (PIP) goals and activities;
- 4) Investigate the need for, and potentially connect the narrative associated with the lived experience to publicly available data quantifying the harm done to disproportionately impacted communities; and
- 5) Suggest considerations for equitable plans that align with Commission’s legislative mandate and restorative justice aims.

Methods

- Exploratory study to provide baseline assessment using mixed methods;
- Qualitative analysis of PIPs, Interviews, and Social Equity Applicant responses to identify themes, consensus, and lack of consensus;
- Quantitative methods to identify trends;
- Study Timeframe: June 21, 2018 - June 21, 2019.



Baseline Data

Findings – Public Documents



- Informal Guidance;
- PIPs frequently discussed;
 - Over 15 incidences identified in meeting minutes where PIPs were publicly discussed and assessed.
- Discussion Themes:
 - A need for clarification of an element(s) of the PIP;
 - Need for more information regarding the content of educational activities;
 - Clarification on the ability of identified community organizations to accept donations from the industry; and
 - Questions about measurements for accountability.
- Conditions related to PIPs frequently added.

Findings – Key Stakeholder Interviews

- Consensus among Stakeholders around harm previously caused by marijuana prohibition and enforcement that still actively impacts the lives of targeted communities and populations;
- Consensus among Stakeholders that PIP activities providing **economic benefits** to the cohorts identified for impact are encouraged;
 - Discouragement of strictly donation-based activities or activities that provide industry with marketing/self-promotion kickbacks.
- Key stakeholders **defined social equity in varying ways**, indicating a potential lack of consensus; However common themes also emerged.
 - All stakeholders identified that social equity was related to access and opportunity.
- Stakeholders identified a **range of purposes for the PIP**, indicating a lack of consensus;
 - Good will / community service ideology; and
 - Restorative Justice ideology.

2. Key
Stakeholder I
nterviews
N=5

Findings – Positive Impact Plans

- The Commission states PIPs should include a goal(s) and metrics for accountability, 85% included a goal(s) and 83% included metrics;
- 63% of plans demonstrate understanding the distinction between PIPs and Diversity Plans;
- The Commission identified five cohorts that should be targeted in the PIP, most PIPs target at least one of these cohorts (93%).

3. Positive
Impact Plans
n=72



Qualitative Coding

Findings – Positive Impact Plans

- 38% of plans define social equity in some way;
- 51% include language that demonstrates their understanding of the historical narrative associated with marijuana prohibition and enforcement;
- All plans propose activities, but range in clarity, substance, and commitment;
(e.g. Many plans include economic activities, but these range from grant funding and accelerators to opportunities to apply for jobs).
- Some activities do not focus on target cohorts;
(e.g. Donation to disease-focused nonprofit that does not directly target the priority cohort).
- Some plans include conditional language indicating implementation of proposed activities depends on the success of their business.

3. Positive
Impact Plans
n=72

Findings – Social Equity Participants

Survey Responses



- 82% respondents are from or plan to open a business in an ADI;
- The top activities Social Equity Respondents indicated marijuana businesses should initiate or fund were:
 - (1) Grant funding (73%);
 - (2) Low interest loans (57%);
 - (3) Accelerator or incubator programs (43%);
 - (4) Public information/education sessions about marijuana and the industry in a disproportionately harmed community (34%); and
 - (5) Job creation (27%).

Findings – Social Equity Participants

Survey Responses

- In an open-text answer, respondents suggested the following activities:
 - (1) Funds to public education;
 - (2) Low income housing or down payment program;
 - (3) Record sealing/expungement;
 - (4) Responsible consumption; Application process priority,
 - (5) Mental health counseling; and
 - (6) Trade school investment.

4. Social
Equity
Participant
Responses
n=56

Findings – Social Equity Applicants

Application Responses (Barriers to Entry)

4. Social
Equity
Applicant
Responses
n=532

Identified Barriers to Entry	Number (Percentage)*
Economic Factors	386 (73%)
Government Regulations	307 (58%)
City/Town Regulations	277 (52%)
Racial Discrimination and Prejudice	212 (40%)
Market Conditions	147 (28%)
Other	120 (13%)
Geographic Barriers	68 (13%)

Findings – Social Equity Applicants

Application Responses (What does Social Equity Mean?)

4. Social
Equity
Applicant
Responses
n=399

“Social Equity to me means a sincere, concerted effort to correct wrongs in areas of past societal and systemic inequities in all areas of our lives, especially in regard to economic opportunities and the criminal justice system, by affording support for those who have been impacted by past inequities so that they receive the opportunities that those with more "privilege" take for granted.”

– Social Equity Applicant

“To me, Social Equity is an acknowledgement that certain people have been disadvantaged over the years due to unfair biases and this is an attempt to help level their chances through assistance and support in order to participate and profit from this new industry.”

– Social Equity Applicant

“Social equity to me is a balancing out of injustices from the war on drugs. I have seen many lives hurt and completely ruined by this senseless war including my own and those closest to me. My hope is that it is a chance to heal...I believe there are many others who want the same and just want to do the right thing. This is one of those few chances we get.”

– Social Equity Applicant

Limitations and Future Research

- Only Commissioners were interviewed for Key Stakeholder Interviews.
 - Future exploratory research could have qualitative interviews with ME owners, and people disproportionately impacted by marijuana prohibition and enforcement;
- Unique limitations inherent to qualitative work;
- Full qualitative analysis of social equity application answers could not be conducted due to time constraints;
- Does not examine compliances with stated aims and activities.
 - Future research should examine compliance more broadly and in particular, the effectiveness and impact of stated activities for each ME and MEs in aggregate across the Commonwealth.

Key Takeaways

- Positive Impact Plan - Purpose and Social Equity
- Positive Impact Plan - Activities and Economic Activities
- Positive Impact Plan - Adherence to Guidance



Metropolitan Council [Website: <https://metro council.org/about-us/why-we-matter/Equity.aspx>]

Policy Considerations:

Technical Policy Considerations

Consideration 1: Consider renaming the “Positive Impact Plan” to offer clarity on the purpose and aim of this requirement;

Consideration 2: Consider separating the Guidance for PIPs and Diversity Plans.

Policy Considerations:

Substantive Policy Considerations

Consideration 1: Consider defining in guidance a common meaning of social equity to provide clarity among stakeholders and the public (*e.g. activities to address harm in this context*);

Consideration 2: Consider prioritizing the sentiments, reflections, and perspectives of those most affected by marijuana prohibition and enforcement, including the top three activities identified by recent social equity program participants;

Consideration 3: To address harm, it would be helpful to collectively understand how marijuana prohibition and enforcement played out in Massachusetts (*i.e. “tell the Massachusetts story”*). Social equity applicants are an effective primary data source on lived experiences and perspectives; However, more research and data are needed to quantify the harm done in identified cohorts and communities and provide information on the policies enacted sanctioning prohibition and enforcement;

Policy Considerations:

Substantive Policy Considerations

Consideration 4: Consider updating the “Guidance on Equitable Cannabis Policies for Municipalities” to include information on the history and impact of marijuana prohibition and enforcement on disproportionately impacted communities, and the types of activities that the Commission encourages to address these harms;

Consideration 5: Consider future analysis to update the identified Areas of Disproportionate Impact. These analyses could take into consideration the demographic changes and forced migration patterns of populations (e.g. *gentrification, movement based on the availability of work in a community, movement based on public policy, etc.*) to more accurately identify affected cohorts.

Thank you

Questions?

Hamilton, JR., Doonan SM., Johnson, JK (2019, October). Special Report: A Baseline Review and Assessment of the Massachusetts Cannabis Industry's Required Positive Impact Plans. Boston, MA: *Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission*.

Upcoming Public Meetings

Public
Meeting:
November 7

- 10AM
- Location TBD

Public
Meeting:
December 5

- 10AM
- Time and Location TBD