

# CT Social Equity Council Reviews First Lottery Retail Cannabis License Applications

*6 Retail and 14 Equity Joint Venture applications reviewed by the Social Equity Council*

**HARTFORD, CT. (July 28, 2022)** — Connecticut’s Social Equity Council (SEC), which was developed to ensure the equity of the state’s adult-use cannabis program, reviewed and voted on retail lottery cannabis social equity applications as well as Equity Joint Venture (EJV) applications during a special meeting of the council today.

During the meeting, the SEC reviewed 6 retail lottery applications and voted to forward 5 retail applications to the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) for further processing. If approved, for provisional licenses, the retail applicants will have the opportunity to prepare for full licensure from DCP to sell recreational use cannabis directly to adult consumers or through a delivery service.

The SEC also reviewed 14 EJV applications. All 14 were recommended for denial because they did not meet the social equity criteria requirements. EJVs are not subject to the lottery, and if denied, applicants may re-submit their application for licensure to DCP. The law was amended this year to allow licensed cultivators and dispensaries to create up to two equity joint ventures.

All applicants seeking social equity eligibility are first reviewed by the auditing and accounting firm of CohnReznick, a third-party reviewer hired by the SEC to create a comprehensive review system.

“I am proud of the progress the SEC continues to make in reviewing social equity applications and creating opportunities for those are ready for a seat at the table. The adult use cannabis industry is alive and moving forward”, said **GINNE-RAE CLAY, SEC Executive Director**. “The process for reviewing applications is designed to be inclusive of as many applicants as possible. Those applications denied under the non-lottery EJV review, can resubmit their applications and we encourage the applicants to do so.”

Cannabis was approved for adult-use on July 1, 2021. Adult-use cannabis retail sales are anticipated to begin in the state by the end of 2022. For information about Adult-Use Cannabis, visit [www.ct.gov/cannabis](http://www.ct.gov/cannabis).

## **About the CT Social Equity Council (SEC)**

The Social Equity Council was created to make sure the adult-use cannabis program is grown equitably and ensures that funds from the adult-use cannabis program are brought back to the communities hit hardest by the "war on drugs." The SEC oversees the verification of equity applicants, creates new programs to support cannabis businesses and businesses in other industries, and manages the more general community investments derived from the cannabis tax revenue. To learn more about Social Equity Council announcements, upcoming meetings, and adult-use cannabis information, visit [Social Equity Council \(ct.gov\)](http://SocialEquityCouncil.ct.gov).

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