



TOWN OF TYNGSBOROUGH

Office of the Select Board

Town Offices | 25 Bryant Lane

Tyngsborough, MA 01879

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Town of Tyngsborough Cannabis Social Equity Policies

Purpose and Scope

On August 11, 2022, Governor Charlie Baker signed S. 3096, *An Act Relative to Equity in the Cannabis Industry*, into law. The new law requires host municipalities to establish initial policies to promote equity in the cannabis industry no later than July 1, 2023, or be subject to monetary penalties. The Massachusetts Cannabis Control Committee (CCC) encourages cities and towns in Massachusetts to consider incentives for increased participation by social equity applicants in their local cannabis ecosystem.

Based on cannabis social equity best practices, guidance from the CCC, and lessons learned from the Town of Tyngsborough's current cannabis business permitting program, the Town of Tyngsborough adopts a set of policies to further promote equity for new social equity applicants seeking to establish businesses in Tyngsborough.

Applicability

The CCC Social Equity program provides training and technical assistance to applicants who have been disproportionately impacted by the War on Drugs, marijuana prohibition, arrests, and incarceration and who meet certain income and residency requirements. The Town of Tyngsborough defines qualifying social equity applicants under Tyngsborough's Cannabis Social Equity Policies as those that have been certified as eligible to participate in the CCC Social Equity Program or are Certified Economic Empowerment Priority Applicants by the CCC.

The Town of Tyngsborough Cannabis Social Equity Policies include:

1. To encourage greater participation by social equity applicants in Tyngsborough's cannabis industry the Town will develop a standard evaluation form that prioritizes equity in the overall evaluation of a License Applicant. In creating a Local Approval Process for equity applicants that is administered on a 1:1 basis, where a General Applicant may be approved only after a Social Equity Business has commenced operations, the Town of Tyngsborough will administer a 1:1 Local Approval Process until such time as 50% of the Licensees operating in the Tyngsborough are Social Equity Businesses.
2. The Town of Tyngsborough will enhance marketing and outreach to potential social equity applicants by promoting available HCAs to the Cannabis Control Commissions' social equity program, promoting on the Town's website and social media, and enhanced business outreach.
3. The Town of Tyngsborough will provide permitting technical assistance for social equity and economic empowerment applicants navigating the Town of Tyngsborough's cannabis permitting process. The Town will provide guidance and resources for applicants on the Town's website. A



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municipal contact will be listed on the Town website and will work closely with social equity applicants in the permitting process from initial inquiry through the special permit and building permit process.

4. The Town of Tyngsborough will continue to allow cannabis delivery operator and courier uses by Special Permit in the Industrial Zone with no cap on the number allowed, which helps to open up availability of these business types to social equity applicants. Under the state program, social equity and economic empowerment applicants are eligible for exclusive access to Delivery Licenses, including Marijuana Courier Marijuana and Delivery Operator licenses, for at least a three-year period from April 1, 2022 to April 1, 2025.
5. Wherever possible, the Town of Tyngsborough will reduce financial barriers and expedite the permitting for social equity and economic empowerment applicants. Throughout the Town of Tyngsborough's special permit process, the Planning Department will endeavor to streamline permitting for these applicants.

Approved 8/30/2023

Approved with amendments 10/20/2025