

Town of Charlemont – Host Community Equity Plan

Pursuant to 935 CMR 500.181(3)(b)(2) and 935 CMR 501.181(3)(b)(2)

Date: 08/05/2026

1. Introduction

The Town of Charlemont is committed to promoting equity and ensuring that individuals and communities disproportionately harmed by marijuana prohibition are provided meaningful participation in the legal cannabis industry. This Host Community Equity Plan outlines specific goals, strategies, and evaluation metrics to foster inclusive economic development, in alignment with Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) regulations.

2. Objectives

- To **encourage applications** from Social Equity Businesses, Social Equity Program (SEP) Participants, and Economic Empowerment (EE) Priority Applicants.
 - To **implement programs** that lower barriers to entry and success in the cannabis industry for disproportionately harmed individuals.
 - To **monitor and measure progress** toward increasing equity participation in local cannabis-related opportunities.
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3. Encouragement Strategies

a. Outreach and Engagement

- Partner with the CCC to host **annual informational sessions** in Charlemont and neighboring communities to educate eligible applicants about cannabis licensing and support resources.
- Publicize cannabis business opportunities in **diverse and inclusive media outlets**, including community newsletters, local job boards, and social media platforms accessible to underrepresented groups.
- Establish a point of contact within town administration to assist Social Equity and Economic Empowerment applicants with local permitting questions and municipal processes.

b. Local Prioritization

- Consider **priority review and scheduling** of cannabis-related permits and approvals for SEP and EE applicants.
- **1:1 Local Approval Commitment:**
The Town of Charlemont affirms its commitment to a **1:1 local approval framework** for cannabis establishments. This means that the Town will endeavor to balance approvals such that each non-SEP/EE cannabis establishment approved locally is matched by the approval of an SEP Participant or EE Priority Applicant. This commitment is subject to compliance with all applicable state and local laws, zoning requirements, and the submission of complete and qualified applications.

4. Programmatic Support

a. Technical Assistance

- Collaborate with regional planning agencies or community development corporations to offer **technical assistance** programs to SEP and EE applicants, including:
 - Business planning
 - Financial literacy and capital access
 - Zoning and permitting navigation

b. Local Incentives

- Explore the development of a **fee reduction or waiver program** for SEP and EE applicants for local cannabis-related licensing or application fees.

5. Metrics and Evaluation

The Town of Charlemont will track and publicly report the following metrics on an **annual basis**:

Metric	Target	Frequency
Number of SEP/EE applicants that inquire or apply for licenses	+10% year-over-year growth	Annually
Number of SEP/EE businesses approved to operate	At least 1 active licensee in 3 years	Annually
Participation in educational outreach sessions	Minimum 25 attendees annually	Annually
Satisfaction of SEP/EE applicants with municipal support	Survey-based feedback $\geq 80\%$ positive	Biannually

Reports will be made available via the town's website and discussed during public meetings.

6. Plan Review and Updates

This plan will be reviewed and updated every **two years**, or sooner if required by changes in law, regulation, or based on community feedback. The town will seek public input before making substantive changes to ensure transparency and continued alignment with community needs.

7. Conclusion

The Town of Charlemont affirms its commitment to fostering equitable participation in the cannabis industry. By implementing inclusive strategies, offering support, and monitoring progress, Charlemont will help address the historical harm of cannabis prohibition and contribute to a more just and inclusive local economy.