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# Oregon Cannabis Social Equity

Willamette Law Students for Sensible Drug Policy (LSSDP)

## What is Cannabis Social Equity?

- Cannabis social equity programs work to remove barriers that have kept the populations most impacted by cannabis prohibition out of the legal market.

## Why is Social Equity Needed?

- Due to the substantial capital needed to enter the legal cannabis market, communities of color have not been able to effectively enter the market. African-American, Latino-American, and Native-American communities have historically lacked access to capital, and federal prohibition does not allow cannabis companies to take advantage of federal economic development programs.

## How Can Oregon Create an Effective Social Equity Program?

- Oregon can establish a cannabis social equity office within the OLCC to administer the equity program and be tasked with:
  - (1) Designating areas and populations in Oregon most disproportionately affected by prohibition who should be given “social equity” designation.
  - (2) Providing application workshops and technical support to social equity enterprises.
  - (3) Fast tracking social equity enterprises licensing requests and renewals.
  - (4) Providing grants and low-to zero-interest loans to social equity enterprises. With back payments going back into the grant program, creating a self sustaining source of capital.
  - (5) Creating community investment plans to provide for reentry services, job training, and criminal record-change assistance to residents of disproportionately impacted areas.

## In What Ways Will Social Equity Benefit Oregon?

- Cannabis Social Equity will rebuild communities most impacted by cannabis prohibition through economic development and community reinvestment.
- Social Equity will help small and local Oregon cannabis businesses stay competitive with out of state businesses. This in turn will ensure that the benefits of the growing cannabis industry will stimulate the State’s economy and increase tax revenue for the state and local counties.

## How Will the Program be Funded?

- Cannabis tax revenue, which topped \$102 million in the 2019 fiscal year.
- Oregon Lottery revenue, which historically has been used for economic development programs.
- Offering a state approved “social equity” seal to companies who donate a percentage of their revenue to the social equity program.



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