



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT AND VIRTUAL HEARING
FOR PROPOSED NEW REGULATION

400 CMR 8.00 “Cannabis Social Equity Trust Fund”

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A that the Executive Office of Economic Development (“EOED”) will hold a virtual public hearing relative to the adoption of a new regulation, 400 CMR 8.00, entitled “Cannabis Social Equity Trust Fund.” (“Regulation”).

Section 14A of Chapter 94G of the Massachusetts General Laws (“Authorizing Statute”) establishes the Cannabis Social Equity Trust Fund (“Trust Fund”) to encourage the full participation in the Commonwealth's regulated marijuana industry for entrepreneurs from communities that have been disproportionately harmed by marijuana prohibition and enforcement. The Authorizing Statute requires EOED to administer the Trust Fund by making grants or loans to eligible applicants and to promulgate regulations that govern the structure and administration of the Trust Fund.

A virtual public hearing will be conducted on the proposed Regulation.

Location: Virtual Hearing via Zoom
<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/9tZAcOqrqjIoEtY6tgjL5GVtEWzMvWUk5pcN#/registration>

Date: Friday, January 12th, 2024 at 10:00 am

Verbal testimony will be accepted at the hearing. Written comments will be accepted from December 22, 2023 until 5:00 pm on Friday, January 12, 2024 and may be submitted via email to Robert.McGovern@mass.gov or mailed to: Robert McGovern, Executive Office of Economic Development, 1 Ashburton Place, Room 2101, Boston, MA 02108. Copies of the proposed regulations may be obtained from the EOED website available at <https://mass.gov/regulations/400-CMR-800-cannabis-social-equity-trust-fund>.

By Yvonne Hao
Secretary of the Executive Office of Economic Development

Small Business Impact Statement

(As required by M.G.L. c. 30A §§ 2, 3 & 5)

CMR No: 400 CMR 8.00: Cannabis Social Equity Trust Fund

Estimate of the Number of Small Businesses Impacted by the Regulation: N/A.

Select Yes or No and Briefly Explain

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will small businesses have to create, file, or issue additional reports? No.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will small businesses have to implement additional recordkeeping procedures? No.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will small businesses have to provide additional administrative oversight? No.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will small businesses have to hire additional employees in order to comply with the proposed regulation? No.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does compliance with the regulation require small businesses to hire other professionals (e.g. a lawyer, accountant, engineer, etc.)? No.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the regulation require small businesses to purchase a product or make any other capital investments in order to comply with the regulation? No.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Are performance standards more appropriate than design/operational standards to accomplish the regulatory objective? (Performance standards express requirements in terms of outcomes, giving the regulated party flexibility to achieve regulatory objectives and design/operational standards specify exactly what actions regulated parties must take.) No.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Do any other regulations duplicate or conflict with the proposed regulation? No.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the regulation require small businesses to cooperate with audits, inspections or other regulatory enforcement activities? No.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the regulation require small businesses to provide educational services to keep up to date with regulatory requirements? No.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is the regulation likely to <i>deter</i> the formation of small businesses in Massachusetts? No.

Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Is the regulation likely to <i>encourage</i> the formation of small businesses in Massachusetts? Yes. Entrepreneurs that may not be able to enter the regulatory marijuana industry may be encouraged to form small businesses with financial assistance from the Cannabis Social Equity Trust Fund.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the regulation provide for less stringent compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses? No.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the regulation establish less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses? No.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Did the agency consolidate or simplify compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses? No.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Can performance standards for small businesses replace design or operational standards without hindering delivery of the regulatory objective? No.
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Are there alternative regulatory methods that would minimize the adverse impact on small businesses? No.