



## State of New Jersey

### CANNABIS REGULATORY COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 216  
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PHILLIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
*Lt. Governor*

DIANNA HOUEYOU, *Chair*  
SAMUEL DELGADO, *Vice Chair*  
KRISTA NASH, *Commissioner*  
MARIA DEL CID-KOSSO, *Commissioner*  
CHARLES BARKER, *Commissioner*  
JEFF BROWN, *Executive Director*

### **RESOLUTION 2023-73** **APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSION'S REPORT ON RECOMMENDED USES OF** **SOCIAL EQUITY EXCISE FEES**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 24:6I-50(d)(1)(a), not less than 60 days prior to the first day of each State fiscal year, the Commission shall consult and make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature for making social equity appropriations based upon the amount of any revenues collected during the current fiscal year for the Social Equity Excise Fee pursuant to section 39 of P.L.2021, c.16 (C.54:47F-1), or, if the Commission has not imposed or adjusted the excise fee in the current fiscal year pursuant to that section, then appropriations to be made from the General Fund in an amount equal to the revenues that would have been collected had it imposed or adjusted the fee, in order to invest, through grants, loans, reimbursements of expenses, and other financial assistance, in private for-profit and non-profit organizations, public entities, including any municipality defined as an "impact zone" pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2021, c.16 (C.24:6I-33), as well as provide direct financial assistance to qualifying persons as determined by the Commission, in order to create, expand, or promote educational and economic opportunities and activities, and the health and well-being of both communities and individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant N.J.S.A. 24:6I-50(d)(1) (b), not less than 30 days prior to submitting its recommendations to the Governor and Legislature pursuant to subparagraph (a) of this paragraph, the Commission shall hold at least three regional public hearings throughout the state, with at least one hearing in the northern, central, and southern regions of the state, to solicit the public input on the social equity investments to be made as described in this section; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant N.J.S.A. 24:6I-50(d)(1)(b)(2), the Commission's recommendations to the Governor and Legislature may include, but are not limited to, recommending investments in the following categories of social equity programs: (a) educational support, including literacy programs, extended learning time programs that endeavor to close the achievement gap and provide services for enrolled students after the traditional school day, General Education Development Test application and preparedness assistance, tutoring programs, vocational programming, and financial literacy; (b) economic development, including the encouragement and support of community activities so as to stimulate economic activity or increase or preserve residential amenities, and business marketing, and job skills and readiness training, specific employment training, and apprenticeships; (c) social support services, including food assistance, mental health services, substance use disorders treatment and recovery, youth recreation and mentoring services, life skills support services, and reentry and other rehabilitative services for adults and juveniles being released from incarceration; and (d) legal aid for civil and criminal cases; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant N.J.S.A. 24:6I-50(d)(1)(b)(3), The Commission may also, subject to the annual appropriations act, recommend that it retain a portion of the Social Equity Excise Fee to administer startup grants, low-interest loans, application fee assistance, and job training programs through the Commission’s Office of Minority, Disabled Veterans and Women Cannabis Business Development established by section 32 of P.L.2019, c.153 (24:6I-25); and

**WHEREAS** on November 15, 16, and 17, 2022, January 10 and January 18, 2023, the Commission conducted virtual public hearings and solicited the public input on the recommended social equity appropriations; and

**WHEREAS** the Commission prepared a report for the Governor and Legislature on the recommended uses on the amount of any revenues collected for the Social Equity Excise Fees; and

**WHEREAS** the report recommends investments in the following categories of social equity programs: economic and community development, justice reinvestment, public health, and workforce development and education;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission pursuant to N.J.S.A. 24:6I-50, that the Commission’s report on the recommended uses of Social Equity Excise Fees is hereby **APPROVED**.

Submitted by:   
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 Dianna Houenou, Chair

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Resolution adopted by the Cannabis Regulatory Commission at its meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of February 2023.

  
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 Christopher Riggs, Chief Counsel

<b>Vote on the Approval of This Resolution</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Commissioner Barker				X		
Commissioner Del Cid-Kosso	X		X			
Commissioner Delgado			X			
Chairwoman Houenou			X			
Commissioner Nash		X	X			