

Who qualifies as a Social Equity Applicant?

In order to qualify as a Social Equity Applicant, an individual must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- The applicant is a Colorado resident, and
- The applicant has not been the beneficial owner of a license subject to administrative action issued by the State Licensing Authority or the Department of Excise and Licenses (local requirement) resulting in the revocation of a marijuana license, and
- The applicant demonstrates at least one of the following:
 - The applicant has resided for at least fifteen years between 1980 and 2010 in a census tract designated by the office of economic development and international trade (OEDIT) as an opportunity zone or a census tract designated as a Disproportionate Impacted Area by the State Licensing Authority; or
 - The applicant or the applicant's parent, legal guardian, sibling, spouse, child, or minor in their guardianship was arrested for a marijuana offense, convicted of a marijuana offense, or was subject to civil asset forfeiture related to a marijuana investigation; or
 - The applicant's household income in the year prior to application did not exceed 50% of the state median income as measured by the number of people who reside in the applicant's household.
- A social equity applicant, alone or together with other Social Equity Applicants, must own at least 51% of the license. More specific questions about the state's definition of a Social Equity Applicant should be directed to the Colorado Marijuana Enforcement Division (MED).

How do I show proof of eligibility?

Social Equity Applicants must provide proof of eligibility for any Social Equity Licensee listed in the ownership structure of a new business license.

Every Social Equity Applicant must provide:

- Correspondence from the Colorado Marijuana Enforcement Division that shows the applicant has been found suitable for ownership.

In addition, every Social Equity Applicant must provide proof that they meet one of the three eligibility criteria. Applicants are encouraged to submit documentation for every criteria under which they may qualify. By way of example, applicants may provide documents including, but not limited to:

- School records, rental agreements, lease agreements, utility bills, mortgage statements, loan documents, bank records, or tax returns that show the applicant's address(es), or a signed, notarized affidavit that includes the applicant's address(es) and says the applicant resided for at least fifteen years between 1980 and 2010 in a census tract designated by the office of economic development and international trade (OEDIT) as an opportunity zone or a census tract designated as a Disproportionate Impacted Area by the State Licensing Authority and contact information for at least one individual who can verify the applicant's place of residence during the time period at issue; or
- The applicant's arrest or conviction records; or a family member's arrest or conviction records and an affirmation of the familial relationship signed by the applicant and the family member; or
- The applicant's tax return(s) demonstrating their income for the prior year (e.g., 2021 tax returns if the applicant is applying for a business license in 2022).

Applicants may be required to provide more information and documentation upon request by the Department.

Save your documents as PDF files, and [use a free, online tool](#) to merge the PDFs into a single file. (You will only be allowed to upload one document to show proof of eligibility as a Social Equity Applicant, so you must merge files into a single PDF.) Upload the document with your new business license application in the Denver Online Permitting and Licensing Center.