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Announcement on Social Equity Criteria Lottery Portal UPDATE

We are pleased to announce the correct Cannabis Dispensary License application is now available on IDFPR's website for the Social Equity Criteria Lottery. You may apply online by going to https://online-dfpr.micropact.com/ and creating an account.

In addition, the application window has been extended to March 10, 2023.

Announcement on Social Equity Criteria Lottery Portal (from January 31, 2023)

Due to a technical error, an outdated Cannabis Dispensary License application ("application") for the Social Equity Criteria Lottery ("SECL") was made available through the Department's online portal. The Department became aware of the incorrect application information on the evening of January 30, 2023. Upon confirmation of this error, the Department removed the application from the portal and immediately sought information as to its source.

The Department in conjunction with its third-party vendor, prepared and tested for the successful upload of the application. Unfortunately, due to a glitch upon deployment, the outdated version of the application launched.

The Department closed the online portal and is working to ensure the correct application is made available. The Department will announce when the application window is reopened and anticipates that it will be fully functional in the coming days. The Department will extend the application window appropriately so that all potential applicants have the same amount of time to apply. Please be sure to monitor the Department's website for updates.

A limited number of applications were already submitted. The Department is contacting these applicants to ensure that they instead complete and submit the correct application. These applicants will not have to submit a new application fee. The Department apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused.

The Department remains committed to the integrity of the SECL and this application process. We have worked to streamline this new process to create an accessible and straight-forward application for this new round of dispensary licensing and will continue our best efforts to accomplish this goal. We have also received assurances from our third-party vendor of steps they will take to avoid this situation from arising in the future.

As a reminder, the correct application will closely follow this mock application, available <u>here</u>.