

## New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission

### Public In-Writing Comments

**SEEF Hearings: February 2025**

**Name:** Josette Jackson

**Affiliated Organization:**

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**Comment:** I have lived in about four or five different counties and the state of New Jersey, and have made friends in those areas and have had family members in those areas. What the main consensus is among the circles in the different counties that I had resided in was that there was many able-bodied, healthy, young and middle age and elderly adults who want to work who want to go to work and be tax paying citizens, but they have a problem because they have no reliable transportation. The funds from the sale of the cannabis in the state of New Jersey should be allotted to offering transportation to anyone who needs safe reliable transportation and who are ready to go to work. Transportation should be provided from different checkpoints throughout towns and different counties and the state of New Jersey should make it possible for all Citizens of the state to be able to get jobs and get to and from jobs safely at any time of the day or night thank you.

**Name:** Alice Rowe

**Affiliated Organization:**

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**Comment:** The key words here are: SOCIAL EQUITY. Our country has had a historical hand in continuing the practice of believing that white man is superior to all, & they are not, as history has proven time and time again. This money MUST be used to improve the neighborhoods of ALL of the non-white citizens, PERIOD!

**Name:** Michael Gibbons

**Affiliated Organization:**

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**Comment:** We should use the profits to lower the cost of Medical Marijuana for patients. It's unaffordable mainly because most patients can't work and rely on Social Security disability or regular social security. The cost between paying a doctor 100 dollars every three months to renew prescription and the ridiculous cost to medical patients is so unaffordable.

**Name:** Kayla Massent

**Affiliated Organization:** The Vault - Legacy Micro Conditional License Holder

**Email address:** thevaultmailbox@gmail.com

**Comment:** I feel the SEEF funding should be put in a fund to assist Legacy holders to open up. I think would help stop a lot of the predatory practices from investors and potential landlords that is going on. I also feel, with what is required for opening as it relates to capitol, the amounts for some of the legacy holders are legitimately unattainable.

I also feel many legacy holder do not have the speed necessary to type in for what grants you may have available. I just think 40% of the funds so go into a pot that legacy and social equity holders can apply for assistance in opening and 10% for them to receive professional services from some of your panelist or other professionals of their choice needed in opening. Then 40% for the other classifications, and 10% for whatever you need to run the CRC ie staffing, orientations, trainings etc.

**Name:** Peter Romanoli  
**Affiliated Organization:** NJFB  
**Email address:** promanoli262@comcast.net  
**Comment:** Use it to REDUCE PROPERTY TAX!!

**Name:** Robert Macster  
**Affiliated Organization:**  
**Email address:** rmacster@yahoo.com  
**Comment:** Are dispensary prices set by the state? Throughout New Jersey, prices are nearly the same, and that includes four dispensaries within one mile of one another on rt. 22 in Union County.  
A dispensary in Phillipsburg has prices twice as much as those in the same dispensary in Bethlehem Pa, 8 miles away.

**Name:** Yanira Quiles  
**Affiliated Organization:** High With Class  
**Email address:** yaniraquiles@gmail.com  
**Comment:** Hi I would like to say that we need more hand to hand assistants with each other. The world has turn to technology so much it left humanity to the side with creates disasters with-in each other. We need to open up the doors and help each other with paper work in person or over zoom to help each other grow instead most individuals are sending humans link after link website after website which at times does not help the process. If we help small business grows like we did when we did not have technology we will see the growth increase.

**Name:** Cymand Garrett  
**Affiliated Organization:** Golden Tender Enterprises LLC  
**Email address:** a1njapplications@gmail.com  
**Comment:** Our thoughts for the use of SEEF funds would be to assist Social Equity Applicants that have been previously incarcerated for marijuana or other minor offenses; since they are often the ones with the greatest need to acquire business funding. Additionally, SEEF could also go toward rehabilitation programs for previously incarcerated individuals. Programs such as educational and vocational training would go a long way to transform lives, prevent recidivism, and help strengthen communities. Thank you for listening.

**Name:** Christina Barilla  
**Affiliated Organization:**  
**Email address:** christinabarilla@gmail.com  
**Comment:** I personally believe that any excess of profits on taxes from recreational marijuana should be invested in combatting the road signs that tell you not to drive while

high because people are just going to assume any time you are upset on the road while driving isn't due to other people with other recreational or medical conditions. Such as, I have Fibromyalgia, and sometimes my arms or legs lock in fear if I see an accident or almost accident on the road. Sometimes I even swerve to avoid one if the conditions are clear to do so.

**Name:** Sean Mcgarr

**Affiliated Organization:**

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**Comment:** Why don't we use the money to promote medical marijuana cards to help build that program and let home growers who have a medical marijuana card Grow

**Name:** Stanley Philippe

**Affiliated Organization:** Park11llc

**Email address:** Mrsuperb4000@gmail.com

**Comment:** Nj have the possibility of extending mobile cannabis license why it's not happening also should be no more than 2500 or less

**Name:** Kayla Massenat

**Affiliated Organization:** The Vault

**Email address:** thevaultmailbox@gmail.com

**Comment:** Assist and fund us in being about to give back to our own communities and programs within our communities, whether we are open or not, as long as our license is valid and we are at least in conditional standing. That will help introduce us into the communities.

**Name:** Lisa Hamlett

**Affiliated Organization:**

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**Comment:** Can we have some of the revenue from recreational sales offset medical patients' needs? The medicine from the dispensaries is extremely expensive and more discounts need to be applied. One dispensary, Curaleaf, does not allow medical patients to "stack" discounts. You are only allowed to use your medical discount but not on already discounted items, like when they have a sale.

**Name:** Donna Puleo

**Affiliated Organization:**

**Email address:** themiraclekid@gmail.com

**Comment:** Good Day.

I follow all of the NJ-CRC hearings and the public information provided to residents of NJ. As a registered nurse, I am astonished to see the hundreds of millions of dollars being spent on both Recreational Marijuana, as well as the Medical Marijuana. The numbers keep soaring, and I am uncertain specifically how these dollars are being spent. With the onslaught of government cuts, I would hope the money is best served where the deficits have occurred. I also believe that the majority of marijuana users are NOT aware of the dangers of high THC products. I am also aghast that these products containing such high levels of THC are being offered to the public, especially to those who are using

products recreationally. I happen to pass one dispensary everyday on my way home. I cannot tell you how dangerous it has become to be in line with highway traffic exiting from one of your dispensaries, and experiencing drivers who obviously do not have control of their vehicles. This includes driving very slowly into ongoing traffic travelling at 55 mph on a highway. What may not be illegal does not assure that these users and drivers are not impaired-tremendously. Have you ever been travelling on a highway, and in front of you is a user who maintains a speed of 20-25 mph? Or changes lanes without looking and then goes 20mph??

I feel that the tremendous amount of dollars profiting from marijuana use could at least be spent in EDUCATING the public. There are many dangers involved with products containing 20-50 THC levels, and I can tell you that I have crossed paths with many high school & college students, as well as adults, who have had little to no education making these choices when purchasing marijuana/THC products. Please. Please put the money where we can control harm to marijuana users. Middle School. High Schools. Colleges. Clinics. Hospitals. Publicity on TV and Radio. One or more of these individuals may easily be part of your family and social circle. We have enough hardship in our state, and need not increase brain damage, psychosis, schizophrenia, lung cancer & addiction. Educate before it's too late. Thank you. Donna Puleo, RN

**Name:** Jasmine Wynn

**Affiliated Organization:**

**Email address:** wynnjazmine@gmail.com

**Comment:** my name is jasmine wynn, i have a real compassion for wanting my own cannabis store i am permanently disabled {10 years} a black female. Yes i know the grant for someone like me who has seen what drugs did to my/community{family's}b and i have tried really tried and to understand that paper work and looking at portieres, of course my b\credit is not the best and i dont have 600.00 and down for reingestion, also i have went to banks and that got me no where and why isn't this process more streamered line for people( disabled ) i would be interested in having a partner or mentorship? also during this process to help financially. my speech is part of my disability , also it seems like now you can grown, also were you feel 100% certain that you or community { elderly }can come in always and help, understand what is my Consumers need .and i would have samples so you know how it effects you, every time i do go a

**Name:** Denise Manco

**Affiliated Organization:**

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**Comment:** I feel SEEF funds should go towards building a dog sanctuary in Ocean County. Yes there are several animal shelters but no sanctuaries. A dog sanctuary in Ocean County will also help overflow from crowded shelters. An ideal sanctuary would be a few acres of land with housing areas for dogs and compassionate employees to love, feed, train, and exercise them. A dog sanctuary is LONG overdue for one of the highest taxed states in the country (NJ). My life dream is to make/build a dog sanctuary in Ocean County where I was born and raised. Unfortunately I don't have the money to make it happen

**Name:** Danielle Hunter

**Affiliated Organization:**

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**Comment:** I believe funding should go towards establishing patient assistance programs for medical cannabis patients in urban economic/ disadvantage zones. Those in need of financial help; with paying for their cannabis.

**Name:** Susana M. Sotillo

**Affiliated Organization:** Emerita Montclair State University Professor

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**Comment:** To Members of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission

I attended the Tuesday, February 25th meeting via zoom and had the opportunity to listen to various speakers who were arguing for setting aside part of the \$6 million in the Social Equity Excise Fee (SEEF) funds to benefit New Jersey communities. Many proposed training programs for minority entrepreneurs to maximize their cannabis profit while adhering to regulations. Others proposed investing in licenses since cannabis, according to some speakers, is a driver of economic growth in NJ, where an ounce of cannabis costs between \$200 to \$450. More sensible speakers felt that these SEEF funds should be invested in after-school programs in communities affected by the war on drugs, as ACLU and other entities have argued. Very few proposed mental health programs which are a must given the current research in medical (JAMA), addiction, and psychiatric journals.

I live in Bloomfield, NJ, one of the many towns overrun by cannabis dispensaries and smoke and tobacco shops, where one sees high school and middle school students smoking pot as they leave school. Some smoke near small business stores and greatly inconvenience customers trying to get into these stores. A recent JAMA article (reprinted February 6, 2025), also reported on in The New York Times, found that individuals who received emergency department care or hospitalization for cannabis use disorder (CUD) were 2.8 times more likely than the general population to die within 5 years. This study was based on data from 11.6 million Canadians in Ontario between 2006 and 2021. The results showed that 3.5% of those receiving hospital-based care for CUD died within five years, which was six times higher than the 0.6% rate among the general population.

I have found 12–13-year-old boys smoking pot right across from my house, but since I have read many medical, addiction, and psychiatric journals and often consulted with my Psychiatrist brother and Anesthesiologist niece, I have spoken to them and others about the dangers of high THC content on their developing brains. The most recent research in these journals clearly shows that high levels of THC, which are now about 35%, not your flower child low levels of the 60s, damage developing brains of adolescents and young adults up to the age of 25. Why do children smoke pot? The answer is simple: irresponsible parents or adults who smoke in front of them model this type of addictive behavior, with negative consequences for their academic achievement and future endeavors. People who have rarely read scientific journals or investigated the

dangers of high levels of THC continue to push for more dispensaries in Bloomfield and nearby towns. I kept hearing that SEEF funds should be awarded to minority and women entrepreneurs to open more dispensaries. This is absurd given the fact that we are surrounded by these dispensaries everywhere, even though many of us who don't smoke, drink, or do drugs feel that our rights as citizens are violated by having to endure the stench of Marijuana everywhere we walk. I am thus proposing that these SEEF funds be allocated for drop-in mental and counseling centers for youngsters who want to deal with their addiction but need to find a place with a young and qualified professional with whom they can talk and share their concerns. Youngsters dislike being patronized. Thus they are not going to call a town's social worker or arrange for an appointment with someone whom they don't know or trust.

I urge the Commission to give those of us who want what is best for our children and grandchildren an opportunity to consider spending those funds in helping young people stay away from the lure of the for-profit cannabis and big tobacco industries.

**Name:** Debra Cline

**Affiliated Organization:**

**Email address:** debcline1@comcast.net

**Comment:** I would like to know when are they going to lower the price on flower and I also want to know why our insurance doesn't cover medical Marijuana.

**Name:** Karen Lynn Mccroy

**Affiliated Organization:**

**Email address:** jlkm2221965@gmail.com

**Comment:** Why do medical Marijuana patients have to be made to pay higher prices? They take away our pain medication and we have to live in pain 24-7! We need this to change. We need to be like other states! We need our prices to be lowered and grow our own! Let the recreational people be made to pay more! They are doing it for fun! That's all! We us in pain are trying to get relief!! Take it easy on us!! Let the people who are not in pain, pay more! They don't care about pain, just getting stoned!!!!

**Name:** Mariah Williams

**Affiliated Organization:**

**Email address:** riah12381@gmail.com

**Comment:** No comment.

**Name:** Krystal Marte

**Affiliated Organization:**

**Email address:** bmckmarte@gmail.com

**Comment:** Hi, I believe we should use the social equity fee funds to support workforce development programs at high schools. As college becomes unaffordable for students, the value of high-paying, union protected jobs increases.

**Name:** Michael D'Amico

**Affiliated Organization:** Oaks Integrated Care

**Email address:** Michael.Damico@oaksintcare.org

**Comment:** My name is Michael D'Amico. I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Vice President of Oaks Integrated Care. In addition, I have worked closely with organizations such as the Trenton Health Team, where I served on their board for nearly 5 years, and the Camden Coalition of Health Care providers as a member of their Quality Board Committee. I am also a member of the NJDMHAS Professional Advisory Council and throughout my career, I have also served on many other local, county, and state-based committees providing input, support, and guidance on programs serving our communities in a variety of ways.

Oaks Integrated Care is one of New Jersey's largest and most comprehensive providers of the full continuum of behavioral health services serving over 40,000 consumers annually. Since its inception in 1962, Oaks has remained dedicated to improving the quality of life for children, adults, and families living with a mental illness, addiction, or developmental disability offering over 240 programs throughout New Jersey designed to meet the needs of our community with compassion. By focusing on integrated care, we treat the whole person to achieve both mental and physical wellness. Oaks is rooted in the communities we serve. We provide services in 19 Counties, including Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Mercer, and more.

My recommendations for the investment of funds are reflective of my experiences working with many communities throughout the state as well as diverse populations with varied needs and resources. That said, my recommendations are as follows:

1. Investment into Housing resources for individuals in recovery from Mental Health and/or Substance Use issues. Specifically, there is a need for affordable housing options for individuals with varying resources and at different stages of their journey. Individuals earlier in their recovery may not have resources or funding to obtain housing in sober living facilities and those who receive managed housing vouchers or subsidies, struggle to find adequate housing with rental amounts within the state's current fair market value schedule.
2. Access to Care: Investment in initiatives that engage individuals in the community and offer opportunities for initiation of care and access to resources. As an example, some Mobile BH programs have been able to collaborate with communities, law enforcement and other institutions to provide outposts for providers to connect organically with individuals who may not otherwise have the means, resources, or motivation to initiate care at a provider site. These types of initiatives help to break down barriers to care and address stigma.
3. Educational Investments: We have two recommendations in the educational/vocational space.
  - a. First, we recommend that funds be used to support initiatives that provide individuals in recovery with opportunities for educational and/or vocational training and

job placement. Research has consistently shown that individuals in recovery from MH and SUD conditions are more successful in their recovery journey and less likely to relapse or decompensate when they are pursuing educational opportunities and/or are gainful/meaningfully employed.

b. Second, we recommend that investment be made to increase the workforce in the social services and behavioral health fields. Analysis of the BH workforce nationally and in NJ by several organizations has shown a significant contraction of our workforce while also experiencing an unprecedented demand for services. This can be done by investing in high school and college programs that can provide exposure and training opportunities to promote interest in the field as well as a pipeline of trained individuals to join the workforce. It can also be done with higher education programs by investing in programs such as the work done by TCNJ, to provide alternative pathways for degrees; apprenticeships; and tuition reductions for those working at nonprofits.

**Name:** Diane Litterer

**Affiliated Organization:** New Jersey Prevention Network

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**Comment:** The Cannabis Regulatory Commission has invited comments regarding the distribution of cannabis-related revenues, specifically those accrued via the Social Equity Excise Fee (SEEF). We applaud the Governor, Legislature and CRC for their commitment to the goal of building social equity through the distribution of these resources.

In order to ensure that these funds are maximized, we urge that they be used to support and expand upon critical infrastructure that exists rather than creating a new system that may duplicate current efforts. There is currently a well-established system of substance use prevention agencies who have been engaging youth, parents and community leaders and delivering universal evidence-based prevention interventions in schools and communities for the last 10 years. The agencies are long-standing and trusted non-profit organizations in their communities and have deep ties and cultural knowledge to best serve their localities, including all of the designated Impact Zones eligible for SEEF funding.

Among the evidence-based programs offered are the nationally renowned Strengthening Families, WISE (Wellness Initiative for Senior Education), Over the Counter Medication Safety Training, Don't Get Vaped In, PreVenture, LifeSkills, and others, intended to reduce substance use risk among youth, educate them on alcohol, marijuana, tobacco, and other drugs, and build resiliency by providing healthy coping skills for stress and mental health. These agencies also provide schools with training and capacity building on universal prevention techniques such as screening with evidence-based tools such as SBIRT (Screening to Brief Intervention and Treatment), and providing resources and training to school personnel.



The Prevention Hubs provide a one-stop-shop for local communities and regularly make referrals and connections to resources and providers, address social determinants of health, and addiction and mental health needs. The Prevention Hubs in each county are here:

[https://www.njpreventionhub.org/\\_files/ugd/4b99b6\\_0c224a81164e45a49160ee16617cfa5f.pdf](https://www.njpreventionhub.org/_files/ugd/4b99b6_0c224a81164e45a49160ee16617cfa5f.pdf)

Rather than re-invent the wheel, we urge the Governor, Legislature and CRC to invest SEEF funds in the existing Prevention Hub infrastructure, supporting the agencies already imbedded in Impact Zones and providing critical programs and resources to the youth and families of those communities.

**Name:** Jasmine Wynn

**Affiliated Organization:**

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**Comment:** I HAD SENT A QUESTION ABOUT HOW OR WHEN WILL THIS PROCES BEI MORE STREAM ROLLED AS FAR AS IF YOU DONT HAVE A GOOD CREDIT SCORE AND 600 TO 2000 IS NEEDED TO JUST BE RISTGERED ESICALLY IF YOUR SOMEONE LIKE ME WHO HAS A LEARNING DISABILITY AND IT AFRICAN AMERICAN , FR INSTENCE STEPPING PEOPLE WITH MENTORS OR PARTNERS THAT CAN HELP EASY THE FINNACLE BERDIN,,EVER ASSIGMENT OF MARKETING TO BANKS EVERYU BANK HAS SAID NO BECAUSE OF INDURSTY , MY COLOR AND DISABILITY

Several commenters offered non-responsive statements and provided no requests to the Commission or provided statements beyond the scope of this rulemaking;