



Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

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Microbusiness Applicant Eligibility Variance

Pursuant to 19 CSR 100-1.020(1)(A), the Department of Health and Senior Services, Division of Cannabis Regulation (the Department) is granting a variance to microbusiness applicants seeking eligibility through residence in a ZIP code or census tract area with a historic rate of incarceration for marijuana-related offenses fifty percent (50%) higher than the rate for the entire state. This variance is applicable during the July 27-August 10, 2023 application time period only.

Proposed rule 19 CSR 100-1.060(4)(B) provides a list of eligible ZIP codes in Missouri. Applicants residing in another state or in a different Missouri ZIP code other than those listed may demonstrate eligibility by providing documentation sufficient to show the ZIP code or census tract area of residence has a historic rate of incarceration for marijuana-related offenses fifty percent (50%) higher than the rate for the entire resident state.

Such documentation should provide an objective basis for concluding a ZIP code qualifies under this standard, such as results of an independent study or an attestation from a state or local official.

The Department has determined good cause for granting the variance. The Department is required by Article XIV to grant microbusiness licenses to eligible applicants. While the Department has identified a list of ZIP codes with incarceration rates fifty percent (50%) higher than the statewide rate using the best data available, the Department acknowledges there could be additional ZIP codes that should qualify. This variance ensures all individuals who may qualify under this eligibility criteria will have the opportunity to apply for a microbusiness license.

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PROMOTING HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' vision is optimal health and safety for all Missourians, in all communities, for life.