



# Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board

## **Social Equity Program Updates**

January 31, 2024



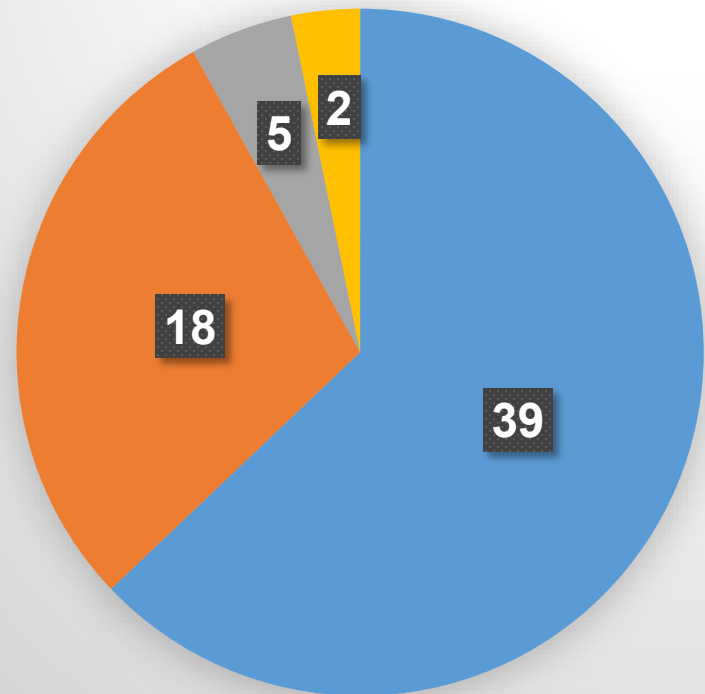
## Overview

- Steps of the Licensing process completed by Social Equity Applicants.
- Social Equity Plan – one-time reimbursement.
- Social Equity Team – progress on Senate Bill (E2SSB) 5080.
- Rulemaking.
- Disproportionately Impacted Areas (DIAs).



## Steps of the Licensing Process

Of the 40 Social Equity Applicants

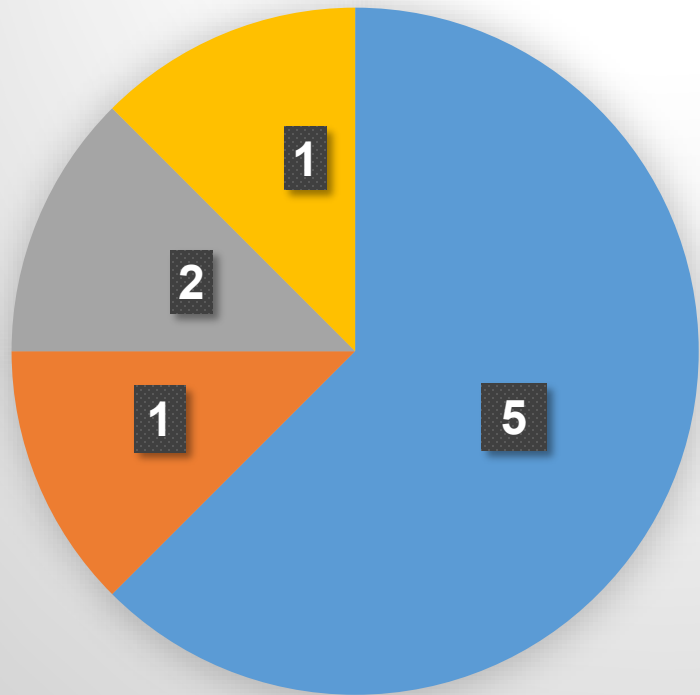


- Completed Interview
- Submitted Documents
- Secured Location
- License Issued



## Licensing Process - Title Certificate Holders

Of the 5 Title Certificate Holders



- Completed Interview
- Submitted Documents
- Secured Location
- License Issued



# Navigating Applicant Barriers

The two most common barriers are:

- Finding/securing a location.
- Start-up capital.

Measures we are taking to assist:

- Reaching out to local authorities.
- Consistent contact from Licensing Specialists.
- Monthly check-ins from the Social Equity Team.
- Availability to meet with local jurisdictions and collaborate in supporting applicants.



## Social Equity Plan – One-Time Reimbursement

Legislation recently passed that encourages licensees to submit a social equity plan outlining measures they will take to promote social equity in their community. After submitting a completed plan, the licensee can receive a one-time license fee reimbursement per entity.

- The Social Equity team has developed a procedure and a social equity operating plan template for licensees to utilize.
- The social equity operating plan template will be available on the Social Equity page starting today.
- Additional information can be found on LCB's Social Equity page at [lcb.wa.gov/se/cannabis-social-equity](http://lcb.wa.gov/se/cannabis-social-equity).
- An email address has been created for licensees to submit any questions regarding this process and to submit the completed operating plan.

Cannabis Social Equity Plan
<p><b>Summarize your proposed Social Equity Plan. Please do not exceed 500 words per box.</b></p> <p><b>Proposed plan:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hiring individual(s) with prior cannabis offenses, convictions, or incarcerations.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A community project that aids and supports highly impacted areas or people.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other.</p> <p>Please provide a brief description:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; width: 100%;"></div>
<p><b>Intended impact of proposed plan:</b></p>



# Social Equity Team



Aaron Washington  
**Program Manager**



Sarah Davis  
**Case Manager**



Josephine Waddington  
**Program Specialist**



Kelly Hancock  
**Program Specialist**





# Social Equity Blog

- Blog Goals
  - Provide frequent program updates.
  - Elaborate on program developments for Senate Bill 5080.
  - Invite public engagement.
  - Increase accessibility to program information.

<https://medium.com/lcbsocialequity>





## Social Equity Team – Senate Bill 5080

- Community outreach:
  - Social Equity blog.
  - Website updates.
  - Educational opportunities.
- Monthly check-ins with applicants.
- Partnering with Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises.
- Partnering with the Department of Commerce.
- Lessons learned – interactive sessions with leadership.



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# Social Equity Rulemaking

Implementing E2SSB 5080



# Purpose of Rulemaking

- Modify the current rules (Chapter 314-55 WAC) to implement the 2023 legislation for expanding and improving the Cannabis Social Equity Program.
  - Rulemaking began on Nov. 8, 2023 (CR-101 filed as [WSR 23-23-062](#))



# Understanding the Rulemaking Process

- **The Inquiry Phase (CR-101)**
  - Stakeholder engagement
  - Rule development, drafting, and analysis
- **The Proposal Phase (CR-102)**
  - Public hearing/comments
  - Agency responds to comments
- **The Adoption Phase (CR-103)**
  - Board votes to approve rules
  - Rules become effective



# *Tentative* Rule Development Timeline

- Informal public comment period will close on **Feb. 29, 2024, at 11:59 P.M.**
- **April/May 2024**
  - Develop policy options to consider and draft proposed rules.
- **May 2024**
  - Request Board approval of CR-102.
- **June/July 2024**
  - Request Board approval of CR-103.
- **Aug./Sept. 2024**
  - Rules become effective.



# Participate in the Rulemaking Process

*Make a difference – Let your voice be heard!*

- **Ways to Engage**

- Participate in outreach sessions
- Submit written public comments
- Testify at a public hearing

- **Contact Information and Resources**

- ✓ To stay up to date with upcoming outreach and receive updates about the rulemaking activities, sign up to receive emails from the rules team.
- ✓ Submit comments and questions to the LCB rules team by emailing [rules@lcb.wa.gov](mailto:rules@lcb.wa.gov) or reach out directly to Cassidy West, Policy and Rules Manager, at [cassidy.west@lcb.wa.gov](mailto:cassidy.west@lcb.wa.gov).
- ✓ Visit the social equity blog and [lcb.wa.gov/laws-and-rules](http://lcb.wa.gov/laws-and-rules) for more information about the regulatory process, current rulemaking activities, and participating in the regulatory process.



# Disproportionately Impacted Areas

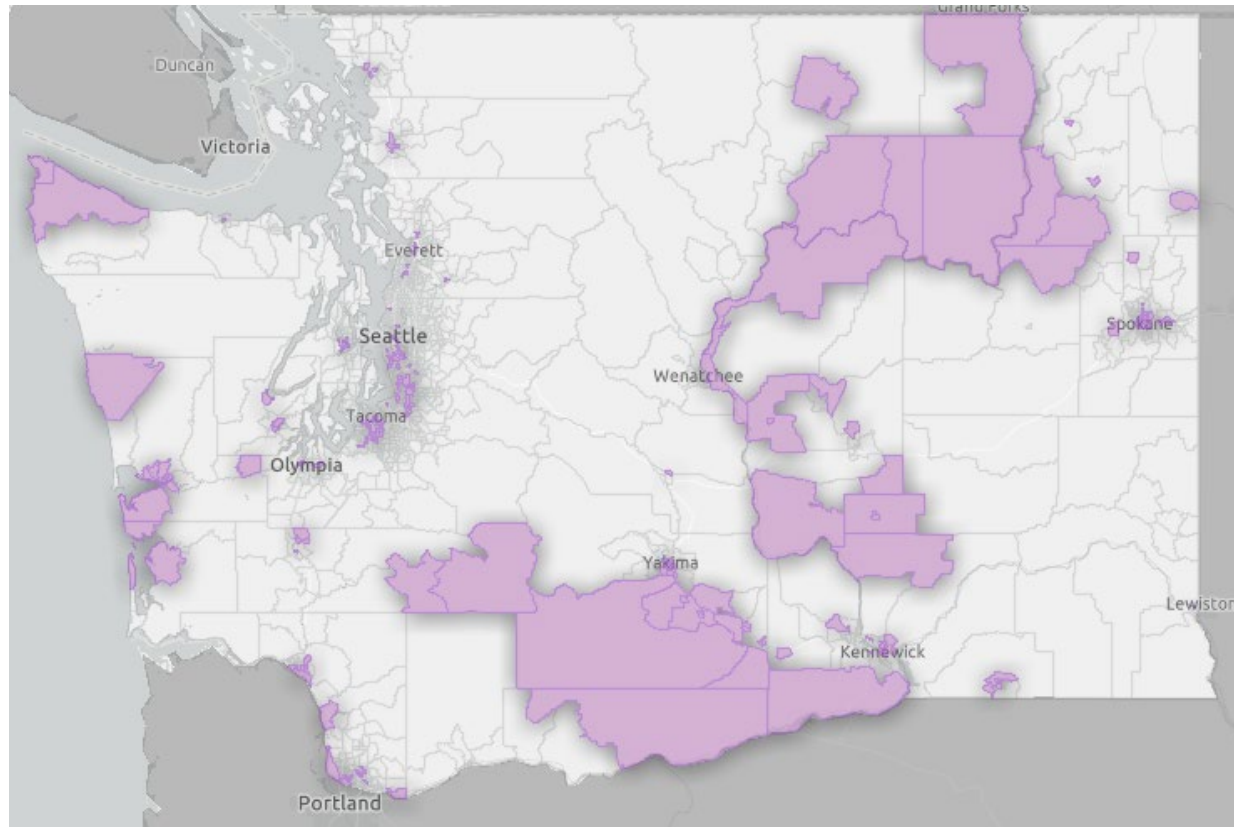
- Disproportionately Impacted Areas (DIAs) are one of the four requirements that may qualify an applicant for the Social Equity Program.
- Last legislative session, the criteria changed for what qualifies as a DIA.
- The new criteria defines DIAs as census tracts that are in the top 15% in at least two of the following indicators:
  - High rate of people living under the federal poverty level;
  - High rate of people who did not graduate from high school;
  - High rate of unemployment; or
  - High rate of people receiving public assistance.
- LCB contracted with a third-party to pull and analyze the data, and another to map the data.



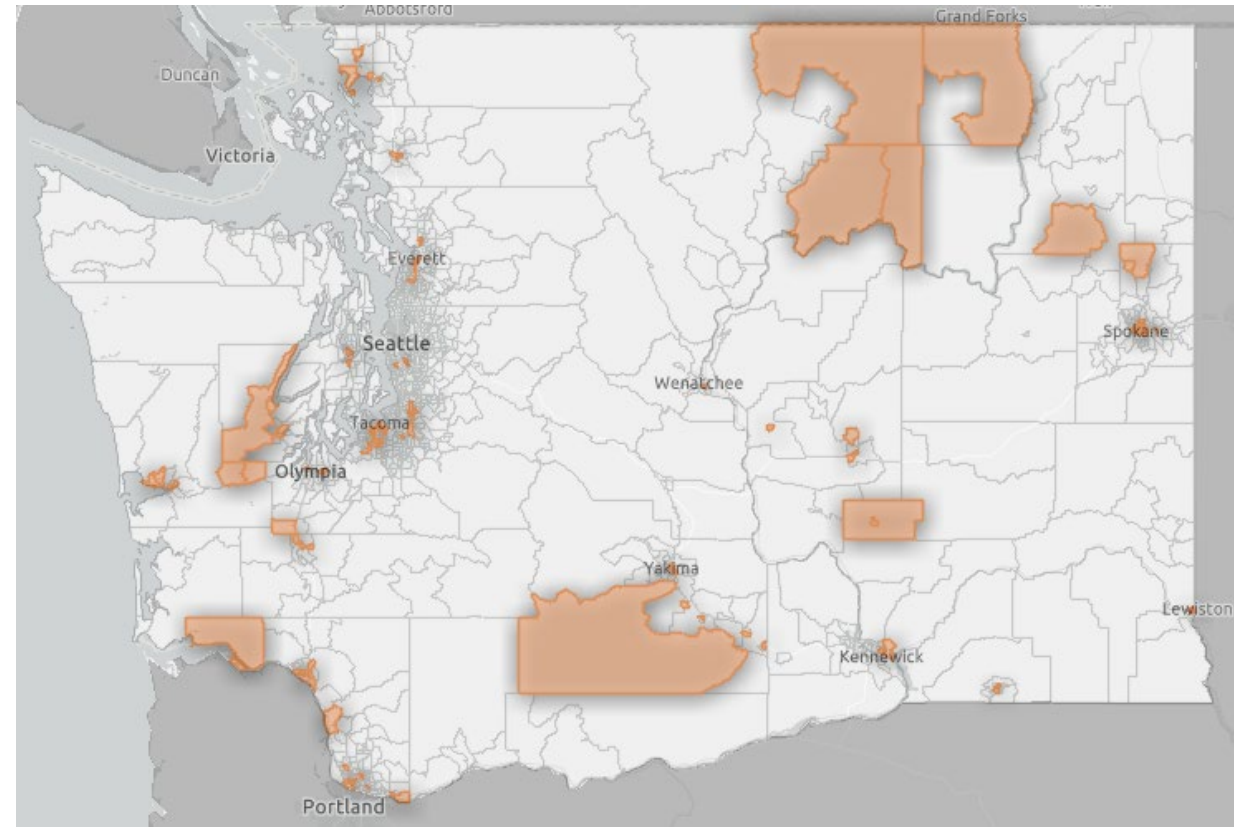


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## 2010 DIA – Comparison



2024 Update

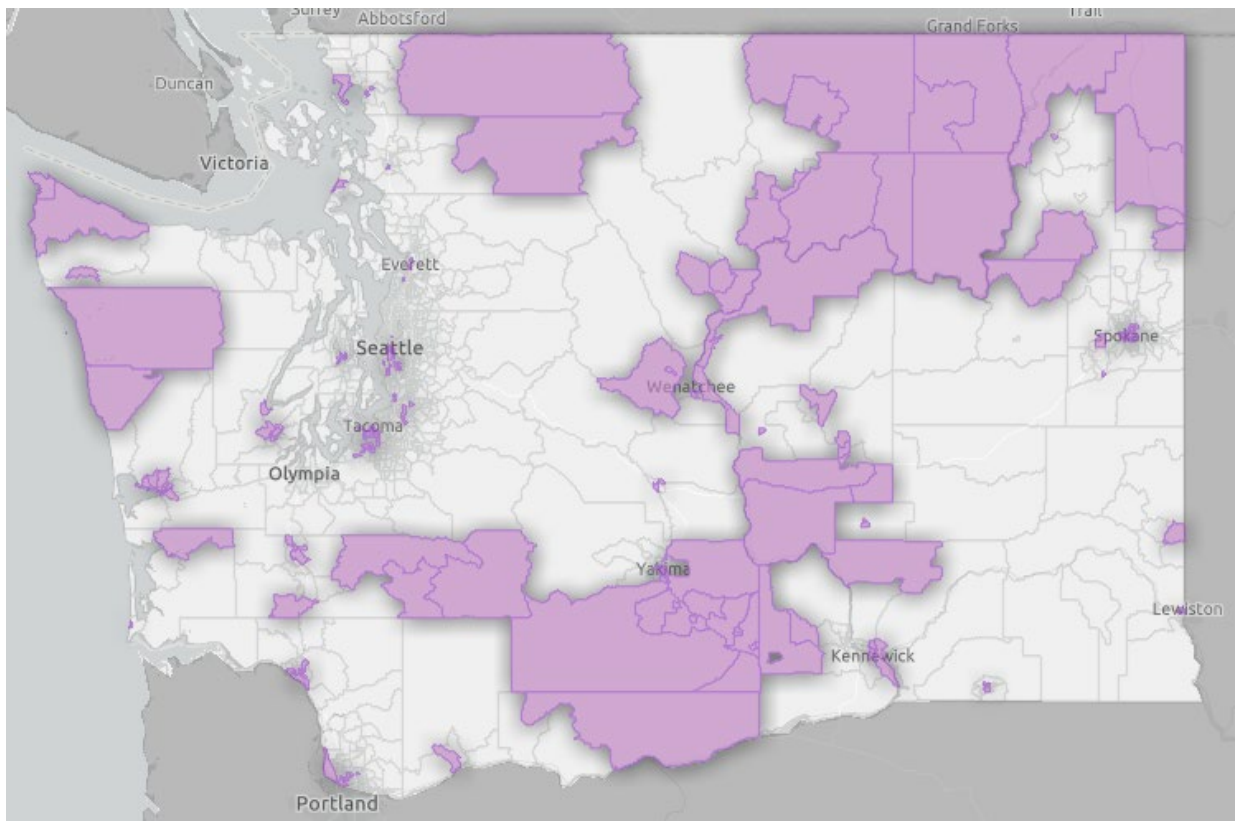


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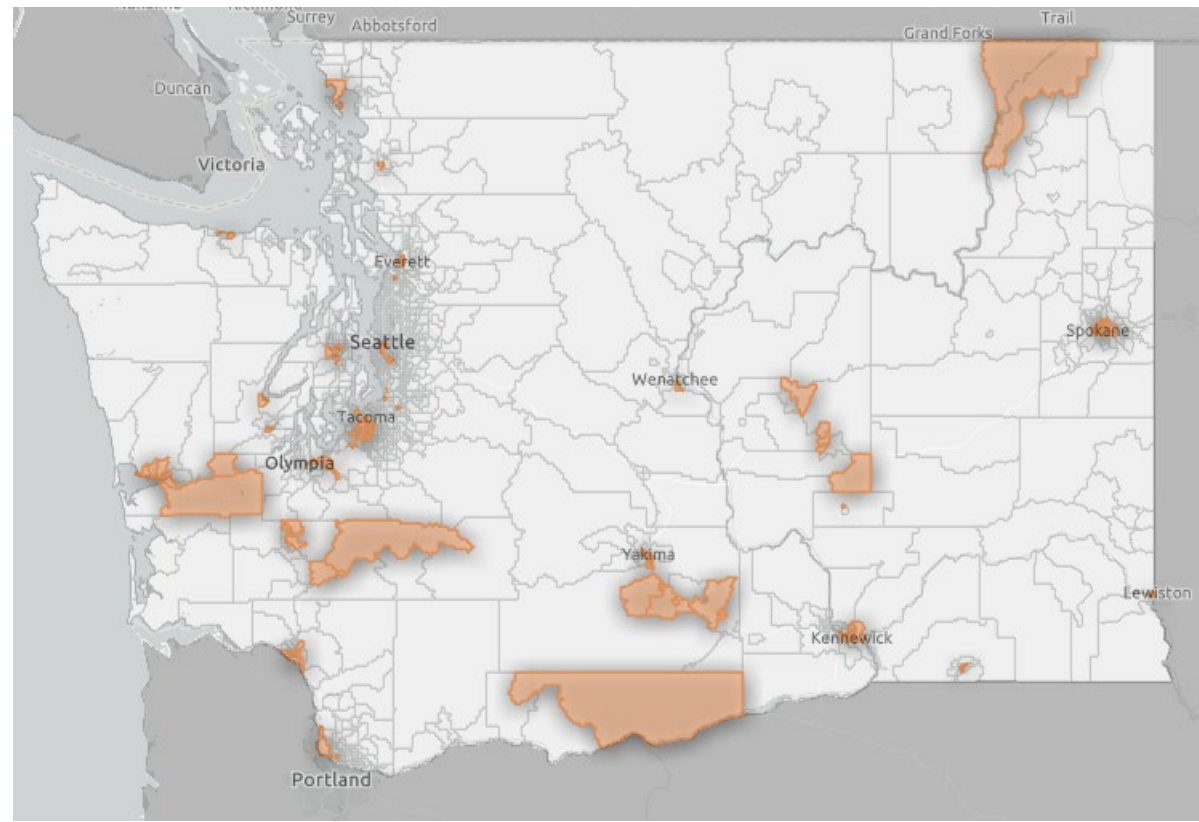


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## 2000 DIA – Comparison



**2024 Update**



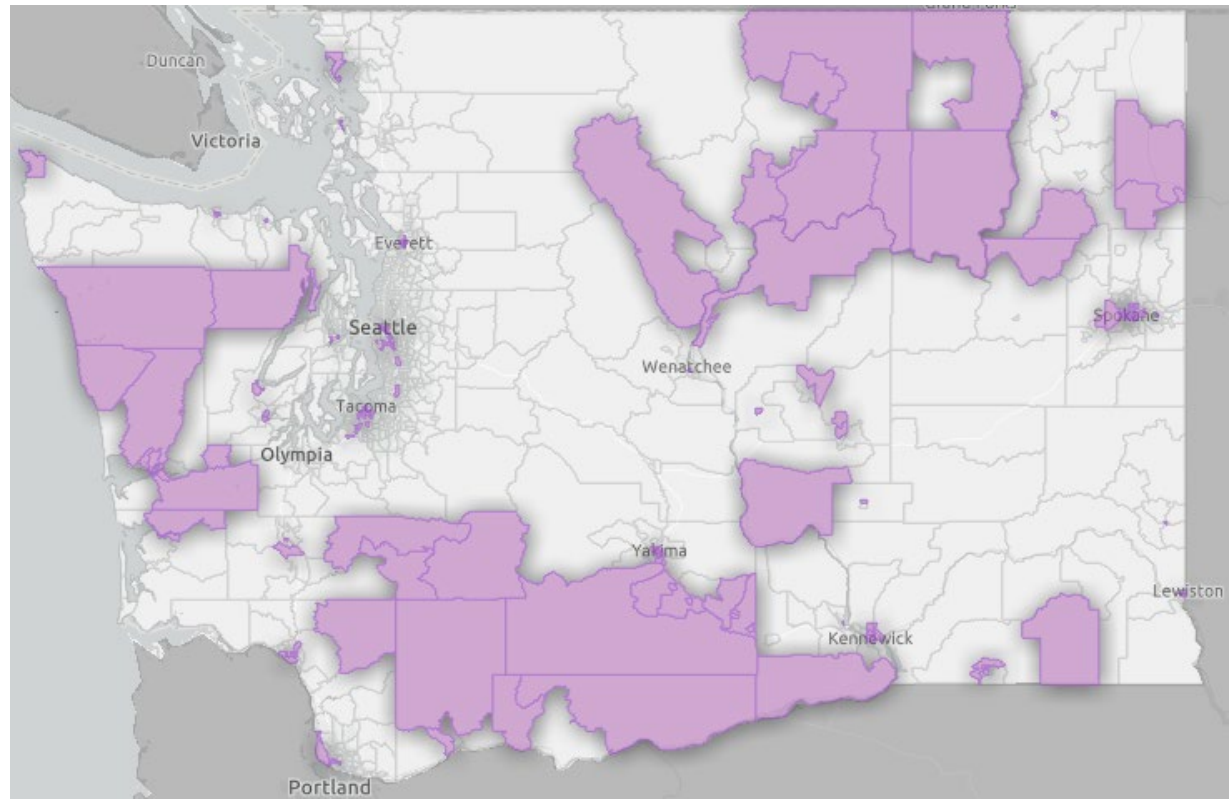
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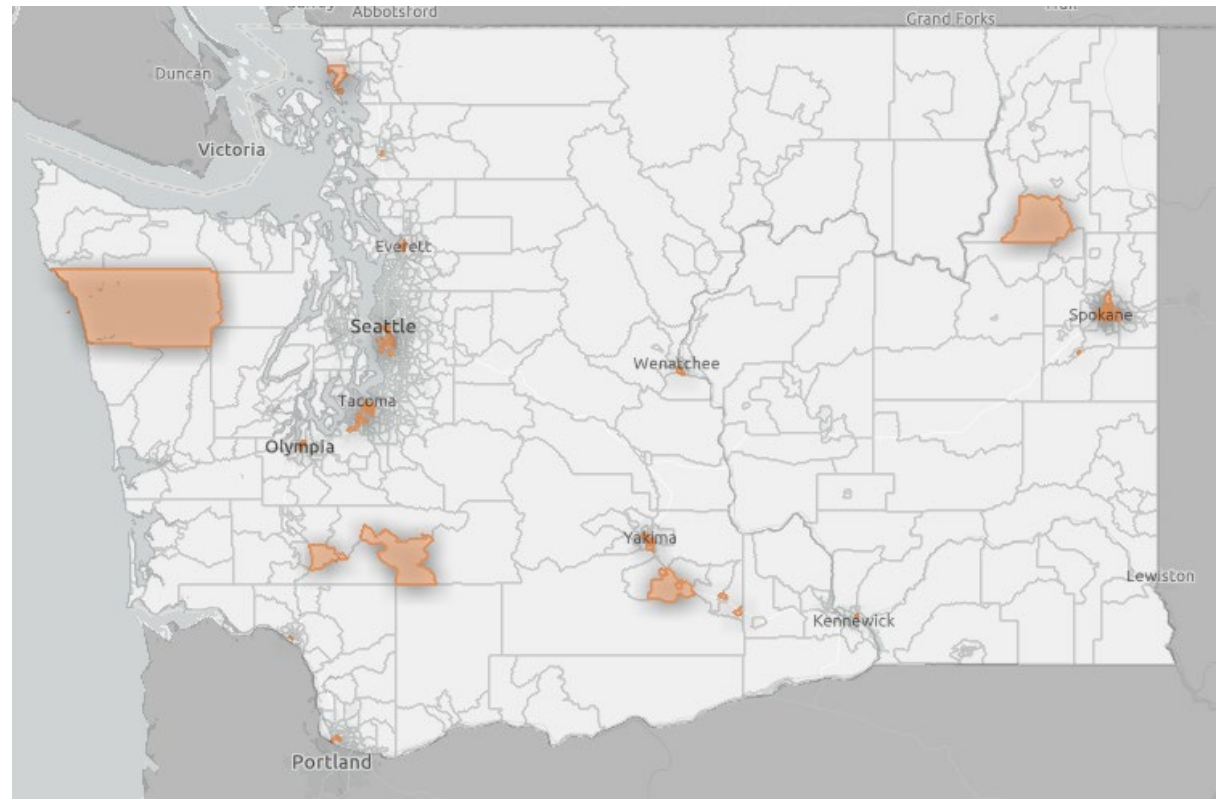


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## 1990 DIA – Comparison



**2024 Update**

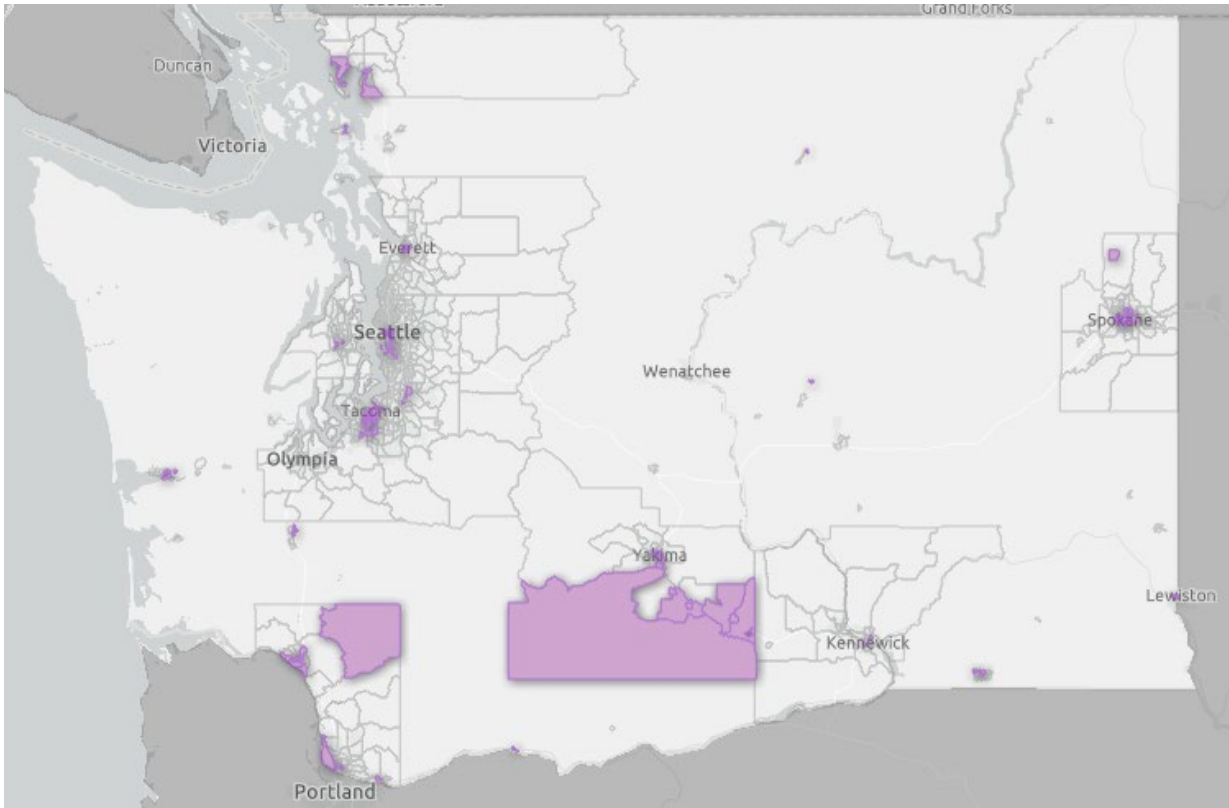


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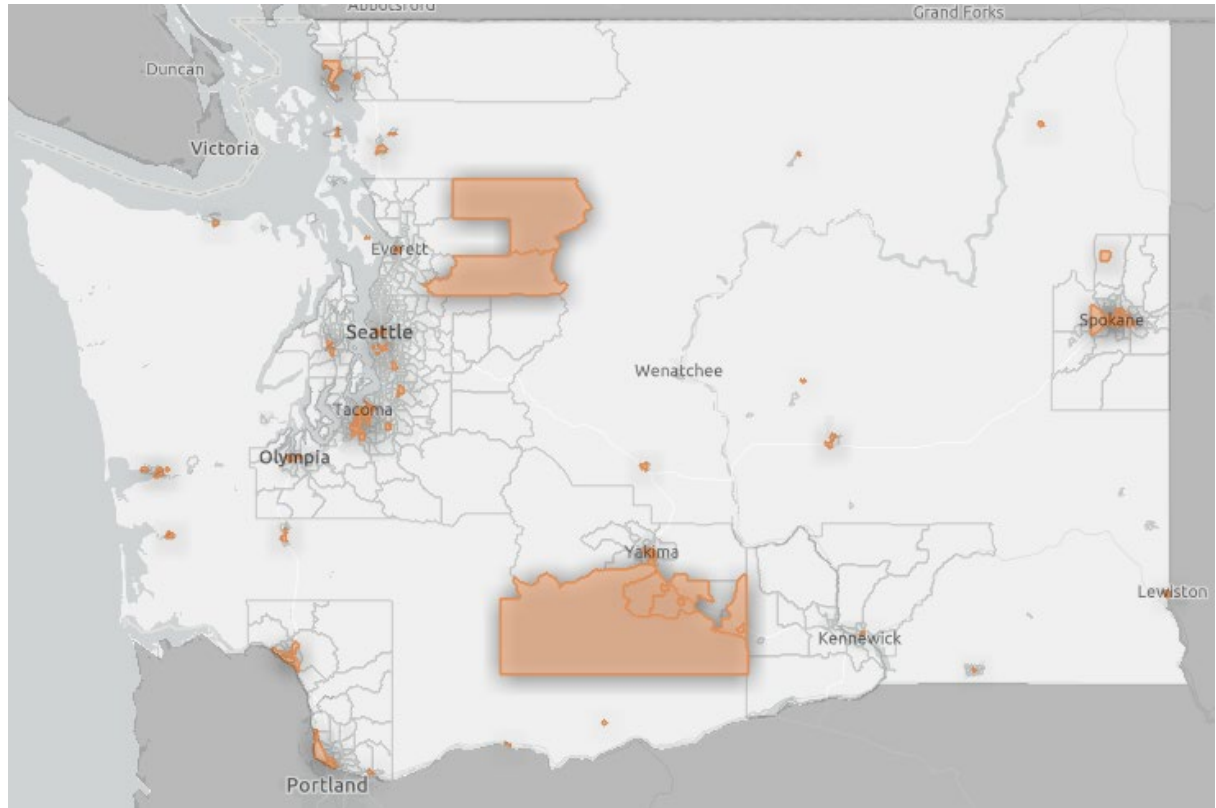


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## 1980 DIA – Comparison



2024 Update



Original



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## Address Lookup - Example

### Disproportionately Impacted Areas

6961 37th Ave S, Seattle, WA, 98118, USA

Results:4

4

Census Tract G5300330011001 (2010)

In 2010, this Census Tract was disproportionately impacted

Census Tract G5300330011000 (2000)

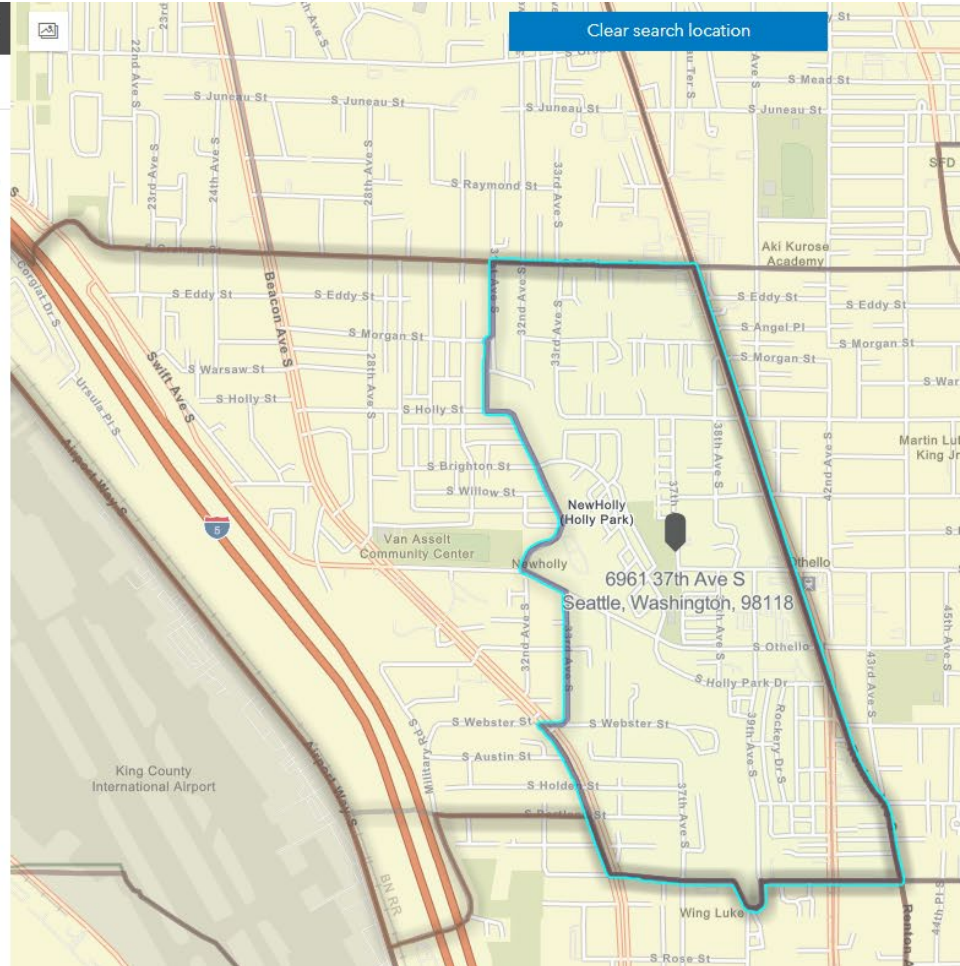
In 2000, this Census Tract was disproportionately impacted

Census Tract G53003300110 (1990)

In 1990, this Census Tract was disproportionately impacted

Census Tract G53003300110 (1980)

In 1980, this Census Tract was disproportionately impacted







# Disproportionately Impacted Areas

## Next Steps:

- The new draft maps will be shared on our website this afternoon:
  - Use the **Address Lookup Map** to search for a specific address to determine whether it was in a DIA.
  - To review of the DIA census tracts across the state, maps are viewable by decade: **1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010**.
- LCB would like to seek feedback from the community to consider if additional indicators should be used in determining these areas.
- Feedback can be submitted directly to [LicensingSocialEquity@lcb.wa.gov](mailto:LicensingSocialEquity@lcb.wa.gov) by February 29<sup>th</sup>.



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**Thank You!**

