

“GET READY, GET SET,” OFFICE OF CANNABIS MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCES WORKSHOPS TO HELP EQUITY-ENTREPRENEURS APPLY FOR FIRST RETAIL CANNABIS LICENSES

The first “Get Ready, Get Set” Workshops will begin May 17

Will Help New Yorkers Directly Impacted by the Overcriminalization of Cannabis Prepare to Apply for Conditional Adult-Use Retail Licenses

Rochester, NY – Today, the Office of Cannabis Management announced the first “Get Ready, Get Set” virtual workshops to help eligible New Yorkers prepare applications for Conditional Adult-Use Retail Dispensary (CAURD) Licenses to sell cannabis in New York. The CAURD licenses are one of the cornerstones of the Seeding Opportunity Initiative, announced by Governor Kathy Hochul in March, which ensures the first adult-use cannabis is grown by New York farmers and sold by individuals directly impacted by the overcriminalization of cannabis prohibition.

“As a former coffee shop owner I know how hard it can be to launch and operate a retail space. And that’s why I’m excited to offer the ‘Get Ready, Get Set’ workshops. These trainings will simplify and explain the process for applying for a license to sell adult-use cannabis in New York,” said **Tremaine Wright, Chairperson of the Cannabis Control Board**. “This isn’t just about us sharing information, it’s also about OCM learning from those interested in applying for CAURD licenses and seeing exactly how we can meet the needs of applicants, then empower them to be successful cannabis business owners.”

“As we continue to build the most inclusive and equitable cannabis industry in the nation, the ‘Get Ready, Get Set’ workshops, will make sure New Yorkers harmed by cannabis prohibition are at the front of the starting line of this new and burgeoning industry, just as our state’s Cannabis Law designed,” said **Chris Alexander, Executive Director of the Office of Cannabis Management**. “We are building an industry for New Yorkers: for people stopped and frisked and convicted for carrying a plant, for small farmers struggling to compete with mega-corporations, for those who have been shut out of other industries for reasons beyond their control. To make that happen, we are working to make sure every business owner with a cannabis-conviction, or their family members, knows how to apply for a CAURD license, and that includes connecting with community organizations across the state to spread the word. We are designing similar outreach and support for all license types – CAURD is just one opportunity of many to come for equity applicants.”

The “Get Ready, Get Set” workshops are a two-part series of virtual events in May. The first phase of events will be two learning-sessions focused on providing information and education to CAURD-eligible individuals and the organizations that work with them. The second phase of events will be two listening-sessions the first focused on obtaining feedback from individuals and community organizations on how to support cannabis cultivation in New York State, followed by a second session on how to help ensure equity is successfully integrated into the developing New York State cannabis industry.

Learning Series:

Tuesday, May 17 at 4 p.m.

- Am I Eligible for a CAURD License? How do I Apply for a Conditional License?

Wednesday, May 18 at 4 p.m.

- How to Support Individuals with a Cannabis Conviction in Applying for License

Listening Series:

Tuesday, May 24 at 4 p.m.

- How to Support Cannabis Cultivation in NYS

Wednesday, May 25 at 4 p.m.

- How to Ensure Equity in the NYS Cannabis Industry

These events will be streamed online, you can find sign-up forms to RSVP to these events [HERE](#).

These workshops were announced by OCM Executive Director Chris Alexander today in Rochester at the Cannabusiness Conference hosted by the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce.

The *Seeding Opportunity Initiative*, [announced by Governor Hochul March 10, 2022](#), positions equity-entrepreneurs to be the first to make adult-use cannabis sales in New York with products grown by New York farmers. Under the Initiative, these initial equity-entrepreneur, retail owners must meet two prongs of eligibility to qualify. First, they must have a cannabis-related conviction that occurred prior to the passage of the Marijuana Regulation and Tax Act (MRTA) on March 31, 2021, or had a parent, guardian, child, spouse, or dependent with a pre-MRTA cannabis-related conviction in the State of New York. Second, they must also have experience owning and operating a successful business in the State of New York. Empowering local farms is essential to growing an equitable cannabis industry [that starts with New Yorkers](#).