

# **CANNABIS CONTROL BOARD APPROVES REGULATIONS AND APPLICATION FOR NEW YORK'S FIRST RETAIL CANNABIS DISPENSARIES**

*Seeding Opportunity Initiative Advanced as Application Provides  
Details on Documentation Applicants Will Need to Prepare  
For Licensing Window Opening*

*CCB Also Voted to Advance to Final Public Comment For  
Revised Medical Cannabis Draft Regulations*

*The Cannabis Control Board Approved an Additional 20 Adult-  
Use Conditional Cultivators, There Are Now 223 Farms Licensed  
in New York to Grow Adult-Use Cannabis*

Today, the Cannabis Control Board advanced the Seeding Opportunity Initiative with approval of final regulations for Conditional Adult-use Retail Dispensary (CAURD) licenses. CAURD is a key pillar of the New York State Seeding Opportunity Initiative. Through the Initiative, New York's first legal adult-use retail dispensaries will be operated by those most impacted by the enforcement of the prohibition of cannabis and who also have strong business backgrounds. They will make the first sales of adult-use cannabis in New York with products grown by New York farmers before the end of this year.

The resolution that passed today approves the application form for CAURD licenses. It also establishes that the OCM must post the opening date on its website, [cannabis.ny.gov](https://cannabis.ny.gov), at least 14 days before the application period opens, which is expected later this summer.

"Today's vote confirms New York's commitment to prioritizing equity, and keeps us on track to have the first sales before the end of 2022," said **Tremaine Wright, Chair of the Cannabis Control Board**. "Thanks to the tremendous effort to advance the Seeding Opportunity Initiative, we're succeeding in a way that has never been seen before. New York is launching its legal, regulated industry with business savvy entrepreneurs who have been directly harmed by the prohibition of cannabis."

“The Seeding Opportunity Initiative continues to move ahead with regulations and applications for CAURD licenses and I can’t wait to connect with potential applicants and make sure they know what they’ll need to apply so they’re ready when the window to do so opens later this summer,” said **Chris Alexander, Executive Director of the Office of Cannabis Management**. “This is how we build a model for establishing a truly equitable and inclusive cannabis industry that other states can follow.”

In March 2022, the [Cannabis Control Board](#) voted to issue proposed regulations for the Conditional Adult-Use Retail Dispensary (CAURD) licensees for public comment. The public comment period closed on May 31, 2022. The Office has conducted an assessment of the comments and will be sharing the assessment on its website in the coming days. With the Board’s approval today, the regulations will become effective on August 3, 2022.

The Seeding Opportunity Initiative 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, licenses would be awarded for Conditional Adult-Use Retail Dispensaries to equity-entrepreneurs who 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.

## *Automatic Patient Registration Advances with Cannabis Control Board Vote*

## *Revised Medical Cannabis Program Regulations Head to 45-day Public Comment Period*

Today, the Cannabis Control Board voted to approve revised medical cannabis draft regulations that make the patient registration process smoother. After hearing from patients, care providers and other stakeholders, the Office of Cannabis Management made several revisions to the regulations, including:

Streamlining the patient registration process to allow for auto-registration;

Revised packaging, labeling, marketing and advertising regulations to align with proposed regulations for the adult-use cannabis industry;

Requiring pharmacist supervision to be fully in-person

“Since the first day of the establishment of the Office of Cannabis Management, we have been laser-focused on improving New York’s medical cannabis program so patients can better access the medicine they need,” said **Chris Alexander, Executive Director of the Office of Cannabis Management**. “The revised regulations approved today will improve care and access for patients. I’m especially proud of the improvement in the patient registration process. Getting cannabis from a medical dispensary should be as easy as it is to fulfill any other script at a pharmacy and creating an auto-registration process does just that.”

These medical cannabis draft regulations will be posted for an additional 45-day public comment period starting August 3, comments can be submitted on the Office’s website, [cannabis.ny.gov](http://cannabis.ny.gov). The initial draft medical cannabis regulations were directed to a 60-day public comment period by the Cannabis Control Board at a meeting in February, and the comment period closed on May 9.

### *Cannabis Control Board Approves an Additional 20 Adult-Use Conditional Cultivators, There Are Now 223 Farms in New York Approved to Grow Adult-Use Cannabis*

The Board approved 20 Adult-use Cannabis Conditional Cultivator Licenses, growing the total approved to 223. The awarding of the licenses demonstrates the further advancement of the Seeding Opportunity Initiative.

The now 223 approved licenses are from a pool of more than 250 applications submitted to the Office of Cannabis Management following the March 15 opening of the online application portal.

The deadline to submit an application was on June 30, 2022, and the OCM will continue to review and approve the valid applications submitted before the deadline.