

## **“Get Ready, Get Set” Office of Cannabis Management Announces New In-Person Workshops & Digital Tool-Kit to Help Equity-Entrepreneurs Apply For First Retail Cannabis License**

*“Get Ready, Get Set” Workshops to Include Detailed Discussion of Conditional Adult-Use Retail Application and Documentation Needed; Virtual Sessions to Follow*

*OCM Provides Digital Tool-Kit With Frequently Asked Questions and Answers*

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

Today, the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) announced the expansion of its “Get Ready, Get Set” workshops to now include a detailed discussion of the application for the Conditional Adult-use Retail Dispensary (CAURD) application that was [approved](#) by the Cannabis Control Board at its July 14 meeting. CAURD is a pillar of the New York State Seeding Opportunity Initiative. Through the Initiative, New York’s first 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.

To help ensure New Yorkers are aware of the opportunity, the OCM initially launched “Get Ready, Get Set” workshops virtually in May, which were soon followed by in-person events across the state including in Brooklyn, Buffalo, Rochester, Albany, Schenectady, Utica, and Syracuse. With the application for CAURD approved by the Cannabis Control Board, the outreach effort will now include additional information on the application and requirements to help individuals apply for CAURD. This will include a discussion of the types of documents applicants must submit such as materials proving they have a qualifying cannabis-related offense, details related to the applicant’s qualifying business or nonprofit, and financial disclosures for the True Parties of Interest in the applicant, and other basic information. Additionally, the OCM is providing a digital toolkit, including frequently asked questions and answers, which can be found [here](#).

“Expanding the ‘Get Ready, Get Set’ workshops to provide New Yorkers with detailed information on the CAURD application process is an exciting next step in the Seeding Opportunity Initiative and the equitable market we’re building,” said **Cannabis Control Board Chair Tremaine Wright**. “As a former coffee shop owner, I know the preparation to operate a business is demanding and entrepreneurs need reliable and complete information to plan for their application submissions. The application window opens later this summer, and I can’t wait to see the applications start rolling in.”

“Connecting with New Yorkers and delivering the information they need to seize the opportunities this industry will generate is key to the national model we’re developing for a

truly inclusive and equitable adult-use cannabis program,” said **OCM Executive Director Chris Alexander**. “By expanding ‘Get Ready, Get Set’ to include this important information will help New Yorkers get the information they need without having to turn to costly third parties.”

‘Get Ready, Get Set’ Outreach Sessions:

The following are initial offerings and the OCM will continue to update the schedule here <https://cannabis.ny.gov/events> as more events are scheduled across the state. Additionally, the OCM is preparing virtual training sessions that will be released prior to the opening of the application window.

- **Harlem/Upper Manhattan: July 26 at 6 p.m. (Doors open at 5:45 PM)**

- Albany Clayton Powell State Office Building

163 W 125<sup>th</sup> St.

New York, NY 10027

Pre-Register Here: <https://forms.office.com/g/ZAwT7UWzVQ>

- **Southeast Queens: July 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. (Doors open at 6:00 PM)**

- Black Spectrum Theater

177-01 Baisley Blvd.

Jamaica, NY 11434

Pre-Register Here: <https://forms.office.com/g/1LK3hdSH6E>

Proof of Vaccination will be required upon entry

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.