



Cannabis and Cannabis-Related Research Request for Information

Background

On March 31, 2021, New York State passed the Marihuana Regulation & Taxation Act (MRTA) providing a framework for the comprehensive regulation of adult-use cannabis, medical cannabis, and cannabinoid hemp (CBD). The legislation was developed in a manner that promotes social equity and economic development, while also prioritizing and protecting public health and safety. Under the MRTA, OCM is authorized to issue licenses and develop regulations for the cultivation, processing, manufacture, distribution, transportation, research, and sale of cannabis and cannabinoid hemp in New York State.

Despite its legalization in New York and many other states, cannabis remains designated as a Schedule I controlled substance federally. This has created numerous barriers for researchers interested in conducting cannabis and cannabis-related research. These barriers include the lack of funding available for studies; the lengthy and burdensome process to obtain federal approvals; the availability of and access to the appropriate cannabis products and/or personnel; and the ambivalence surrounding cannabis use and its potential medicinal properties.

Pursuant to Cannabis Law § 38, OCM is implementing a cannabis research license to allow for the production, processing, purchase, and/or possession of cannabis for limited research purposes along with the framework to support the advancement of cannabis research in New York. The data and information collected through research helps to inform clinicians, regulators, educators, elected officials, and consumers on cannabis and make more informed decisions about its regulation and use. OCM recognizes that intentional actions towards the expansion of cannabis research is needed to strengthen the scientific evidence related to cannabis and cannabis-related products.

Purpose of the Request for Information (RFI)

The purpose of the RFI is to obtain information about cannabis research currently being conducted or seriously contemplated. The information gathered will reside with OCM for informative purposes only, and a report will not be generated for publication. The intent of the information gathered is to provide OCM with a better understanding of the interests, challenges, and resource needs associated with cannabis research. This understanding will aid OCM in the development of policies, programs, and resources that support cannabis researchers.

Response Items

Please provide responses to the following questions, if applicable, in a clear and concise manner. Respondents may provide additional pertinent information not covered by the questions posed below.

1. Provide a brief overview of any cannabis or cannabis-related research studies that you are conducting or seriously contemplating. If available, attach peer-reviewed articles you have published on the topic.
2. Provide information about the amount and forms of cannabis needed to conduct the proposed studies. Include details about the source or anticipated source of the cannabis expected to be handled for research purposes. For observational studies, please describe where study participants obtain their cannabis.



3. Describe the role and expertise of the study personnel who will conduct/support the cannabis research study, including any external collaborators or partnerships.
4. Describe any existing and/or desired resources or infrastructure (funding, equipment, facilities, institutional support, etc.) required to effectively conduct cannabis research studies.
5. Describe any specific challenges you've experienced conducting or attempting to conduct cannabis-related research and any potential resources that would assist you in advancing the proposed research studies.
6. Describe any recommendations you have for ways New York State could develop a cannabis research license and program that would help mitigate challenges you've experienced, or challenges that inhibit your ability, to effectively advance cannabis research studies.
7. Please provide any additional relevant information for OCM to consider.

Areas of specific interest include, but are not limited to:

- Pre-clinical or clinical studies
- Chemical synthesis and analysis studies
- Methods or technologies used to detect levels of cannabis in the human body
- Pharmaceutical drug development utilizing the cannabis plant
- Research on cannabinoids and other cannabis plant constituents
- Genomic studies
- Agricultural and environmental studies

Input from all interested parties is welcome. OCM is especially interested in receiving feedback from those who are currently conducting, or have previously conducted, cannabis research.

RFI Submission Instructions

This RFI is a formal, non-competitive inquiry that is being released to obtain relevant information and input on cannabis or cannabis-related research in NYS. This is not a Request for Proposal (RFP) and does not commit OCM to any future RFPs. Submittal of this RFI is for informational purposes only and shall not be interpreted as a procurement or solicitation for bids. Consequently, it is understood that OCM will not be responsible for expenses incurred and no obligation or commitment is made to any entity preparing and submitting a response to this RFI. The submission of a response to this RFI is not required to participate in or respond to any potential future RFPs. Failure to respond to this RFI will not disadvantage any participant in any potential future RFP.

Please submit responses to this RFI as a single PDF document to research@ocm.ny.gov with the subject line "[Entity or Contact Name]- OCM Research RFI". Publications may be attached separately and should be named in the same manner to include an appropriate description of the document (ex: "University at Albany - OCM Research RFI - Publication 1").

1. Cover Letter

Respondents **must** provide a cover letter that includes the following information:

- Contact Name
- Contact Title
- Entity Name
- Entity Type
- Contact phone #
- Contact e-mail address



- Mailing address

2. RFI Response and Submission Requirements

The response provided should address each applicable question thoroughly and be limited to a total of five (5) single-sided pages, not including the cover letter and any attached published peer-reviewed articles. Responses to each question must indicate which response item the information is being provided for.

General Provisions

Freedom of Information Law (“FOIL”)

All responses may be disclosed or used by OCM to the extent permitted by law. OCM may disclose a response to any person for the purposes of research and planning, or for any other lawful purpose. All responses will become State agency records, which will be available to the public in accordance with the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL).

Any portion of the response that a respondent believes constitutes proprietary information entitled to confidential handling, as an exception to the Freedom of Information Law, must be clearly and specifically designated in the response.

If OCM agrees with the proprietary claim, the designated portion of the response will be withheld from public disclosure. Blanket assertions of proprietary material will not be accepted, and failure to specifically designate proprietary material may be deemed a waiver of any right to confidential handling of such material.

Inquiries

Inquiries concerning this notice may be directed to research@ocm.ny.gov.