

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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OCM AND OGS ENCOURAGE ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS TO APPLY FOR ‘TAP’ GRANTS TO SUPPORT CANNABIS ENTREPRENEURS

New York Continues the Work of Building an Inclusive, Accessible & Diverse Cannabis Industry

Grant Program is Partnership Between New York’s Office of Cannabis Management & Office of General Services

ALBANY, NY – Today, New York State’s Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) and the New York State Office of General Services (OGS) are raising awareness of the Technical and License Application Assistance Program (TAP) grants and encouraging eligible organizations throughout the United States to apply. The TAP grants will provide funding to eligible organizations to provide expert guidance and equip qualifying Social & Economic Equity (SEE) applicants and licensees with knowledge, tools, and information necessary to successfully understand and navigate the application and licensing process of the New York State cannabis landscape. Eligible organizations will also provide newly licensed businesses with support and training in regulatory compliance and may apply for a grant up to \$75,000.

OGS shared a formal [Request for Application](#) on February 29, 2024 and applications are due by 2 PM EST on April 17, 2024. OCM is promoting this grant opportunity extensively through its website, and social media channels to maximize awareness and participation. Eligible organizations that are interested are encouraged to submit grant applications. Please note, applicants must achieve prequalification status with the [New York State Statewide Financial System](#) prior to submitting an application. Given the multi-step nature of this process, eligible organizations that are interested are encouraged to begin their prequalification journey immediately to ensure timely completion.

“At the heart of our mission is our commitment to support entrepreneurs from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds. This grant program is meticulously crafted to equalize opportunities, offering essential support to individuals who have traditionally been overlooked or marginalized within the cannabis industry,” said **Chris Alexander, Executive Director of New York State’s Office of Cannabis Management**. “Our aim is not just to level the playing field but to ensure that these entrepreneurs are equipped with the tools and knowledge they need to thrive and make impactful contributions to the industry and their communities.”

New York State already has the most diverse cannabis industry in the nation. As of March 17, more than a quarter (26%) of NY’s adult-use dispensaries were majority Black owned, nearly

half (44%) are majority minority owned. In total, around 70% of New York's open dispensaries are Minority and Women-Owned Businesses.

Further, New York has tripled the estimated national rate for minority and women owned retail dispensary licensees in the state's inaugural round of adult-use licensing. An analysis of the composition of February's adult-use retail dispensary licensees indicates that a full 88 percent are SEE-owned businesses. 60 percent are minority-owned business, 50 percent are women-owned businesses, and 20 percent are minority-women owned businesses. The early resulting level of diversity of ownership within New York's retail industry will have positive ripple effects for years to come as diversely owned small cannabis brands seek out shelf space.

Other successful initiatives from OCM's SEE efforts include the [Cannabis Compliance Training and Mentorship](#) program, mapping and [identifying communities disproportionately impacted](#) during prohibition reflecting a disparate enforcement of cannabis prohibition during a specific time period relative to the rest of the State, and an accelerator program to assist [Conditional Adult-Use Retail Dispensary licensees](#).

For more information about the grant program and how to apply, [visit the OGS Bid Calendar](#).

Any questions or inquires related to this opportunity must be submitted to the designated contact(s) identified in section 1.2 of RFA #2855.

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