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**Office of Cannabis  
Management**

## **BOARD APPROVES 123 ADULT-USE LICENSES, BRINGING TOTAL ADULT-USE LICENSES TO 951 ISSUED IN 2024 SO FAR**

*2024 Year-to-Date Sales Have Reached \$590.7 Million, More Than Doubling  
2023's Total Sales*

*Office Announces Seed-to-Sale Fee Waivers to Reduce Costs for Licensees*

*Late August Recorded the First \$20 million+ Sales Week*

*185 Adult-Use Dispensaries Open & Operating Across the Empire State*

**New York, NY--** New York State Cannabis Control Board (CCB) took steps to advance the state's cannabis regulatory framework during this month's CCB meeting. Held at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center in Buffalo, the CCB meeting covered several areas: adult-use license approvals, approval of proposed regulations for public comment that will allow the Office to consider requests for public convenience and advantage, enforcement updates, and a presentation on the progress of the budding cannabusiness market.

The CCB approved the highest number of licenses at a single meeting to date: 123 adult-use cannabis licenses across the cannabis supply chain, including microbusinesses, cultivators, processors, distributors, and adult-use retail dispensaries. In collaboration with the Office of Cannabis Management, the CCB's work today helps pave the way for entrepreneurs and businesses to enter the growing cannabis market, driving economic growth and fostering industry innovation. To date this is the largest license approval from the general application window.

The 123 licenses include:

Adult-Use Cultivator License: 19

Adult-Use Distributor License: 15

Adult-Use Microbusiness License: 24

Adult-Use Processor License: 39

Adult-Use Retail Dispensary License: 26

\*50 out of the 123 are transitioning conditional cultivators or conditional processors.

“The continued growth of New York’s cannabis industry is truly a testament to the entrepreneurial spirit that drives our state **said Tremaine Wright, Chairperson of The New York State Cannabis Control Board (CCB)**. With each new license issued, we are expanding diversity within the market—both in terms of ownership and the variety of products available to consumers. This progress shows our commitment to creating a more inclusive industry that provides opportunities for all.”

### ***Office Announces Fee Waiver for Cannabis Licensee Amendment Requests***

The Office is pleased to announce that it will waive fees for both the seed-to-sale system and license amendments, offering significant financial relief to businesses. The waiver includes the \$250,000 seed-to-sale fee for purchasing tags to ensure compliance with the system, and the amendment fees for licensees requesting changes until April 1, 2025.

By removing these fees, the OCM is reinforcing its commitment to reducing operational and compliance costs for licensees, allowing business owners to focus on growth without the added burden of these expenses. This initiative is a key part of a broader strategy to foster a thriving cannabis market by eliminating financial barriers and supporting the industry’s continued expansion.

"I am thrilled that OCM is able to share the fee waiver news with the cannabis community as it has been a long time coming. I want to specifically thank Sue Filburn, OCM’s Systems Improvement Officer, for her work on this. OCM is constantly searching for ways to be most supportive to licensees and this move underscores the agency’s commitment to making sure that a deep understanding of the industry shows up in positive initiatives," **said Felicia A.B. Reid, Acting Executive Director of The New York State Office of Cannabis Management (OCM)**.

### ***CCB Approves Resolution to Consider Regulations for Public Convenience and Advantage***

The CCB also considered proposed regulations for Public Convenience and Advantage (PCA). The regulations are **not** effective immediately and will enter a 60-day public comment period, allowing stakeholders to provide critical feedback that will help shape the final rule.

These regulations have been updated from a previous version that was discussed at the August 6th CCB Meeting. Revisions were made in response to feedback received, including clearer definitions of who can request a PCA waiver and including criteria the CCB will use when evaluating PCA requests. By specifying these parameters, the CCB aims to gather more precise and informative stakeholder feedback during the public comment period. PCA is not meant to replace or do away with the proximity buffer distances between retail dispensaries. The waiver process is intended to be limited for specific circumstances that could justify allowing a dispensary to be located within the boundary distance outlined in the regulations.

The Cannabis Law requires the CCB to carefully consider public convenience and advantage in its regulatory processes. These proposed regulations represent the first step in fulfilling that obligation.

### ***Enforcement Taskforce Update***

At today's meeting, OCM provided a final update to the CCB on the progress of the Illicit Cannabis Enforcement Task Force (ICET). Launched by Governor Kathy Hochul on May 21, the three-month enforcement blitz was a critical step forward in shutting down illicit shops across the state to protect public health and protect the growing legal market. In collaboration with the State Police, Department of Tax and Finance (DTF), and local law enforcement, among several other state agencies, the ICET conducted over 700 inspections to crack down on unlicensed cannabis storefronts.

To date, the ICET has padlocked 345 illegal operators, issued 596 Notices of Violation, and seized 7,485 pounds of illicit cannabis, valued at \$28.9 million. The task force's robust enforcement efforts have led to 136 locations voluntarily ceasing illegal operations and 79 administrative hearings, with 52 emergency padlocking decisions upheld. These actions reflect the State's unwavering commitment to undermining the unlicensed market and fostering a safe and sustainable cannabis industry.

Since the expanded enforcement powers were enacted by Governor Hochul earlier this year, New York State has seen a substantial boost in legal cannabis sales. Year-to-date sales in 2024 have reached \$590.7 million, more than doubling 2023's total sales of \$160 million. The surge in sales has been driven in part by the ongoing enforcement blitz, with licensed retailers reporting a 50 percent average increase in sales across the state and a remarkable 97 percent increase in New York City.

OCM's continued efforts to shut down unlicensed cannabis storefronts are playing a pivotal role in supporting the growth of licensed businesses and ensuring that consumers have access to safer, tested cannabis products. As enforcement actions persist, New York's legal cannabis market is on track for continued expansion and success.

### ***CAURD Grant Program***

In partnership with New York State Empire State Development (ESD), OCM is launching the New York State CAURD Grant Program. The New York State CAURD Grant Program was created to provide CAURD licensees across the state with funding for startup costs, including capital improvements, security system purchase and installation, and other necessary investments to jumpstart operations and build a new industry in the state.

The total grant funding is \$5 million. Last month, ESD released the request for proposals seeking a third-party grant administrator who will offer platform efficiencies to reduce program costs and maximize the grants awarded to eligible CAURD licensees. This grant administrator will provide all infrastructure necessary to administer Program grants, including but not necessarily limited to all hardware, software, security, and communication platforms necessary to meet ESD requirements. The request for proposals will close on **September 16, 2024, by 2pm EST**.

### ***Market and Social Economic Equity Update: New York's Growing Cannabis Industry***

New York's cannabis market continues to show strong growth. Sales through August neared \$100 million, bringing the total sales since the market launched to nearly \$590.7 million. The market saw its first \$20 million dollar week underscoring the growing demand for legal cannabis as more stores open and consumer access increases.

A key driver of this success is OCM's Social and Economic Equity (SEE) program, which continues to center diversity, inclusivity, and opportunity within the industry. Analysis of overall retail dispensary licensing, including today's newly issued adult-use retail dispensary licenses, reveals that 84% are SEE-owned businesses.

Following today's CCB meeting, the total number of adult-use dispensary licenses issued in 2024 will climb to 951, with 53 percent held by SEE licensees. After the Office recommended to the Board the 123 adult-use licenses to be awarded at today's Board Meeting, it analyzed the composition across the supply chain. OCM is pleased to report that 65 (53 percent) of today's licensees are social and economic equity (SEE) owned businesses, 35 (43 percent) are women-owned businesses and 22 (36 percent) are minority-owned businesses.

There are currently 185 dispensaries open for business across the Empire State. A full list of New York's licensed, operational adult-use cannabis retailers is [available here](#).