



CAURD Grant Program

WHAT IS THE CAURD GRANT PROGRAM?

The New York State **Conditional Adult-Use Retail Dispensary (CAURD) Grant Program (Program)** exists to support active CAURD licensees with startup costs related to launching and operating a retail cannabis dispensary in New York. **The Program provides grants to cover essential startup costs including commercial rent, capital improvements for retail locations, security equipment purchases and installation, point of sale system purchases, inventory tracking systems, and insurance costs.**

On behalf of the Office of Cannabis Management, Empire State Development has entered into a contract with FORWARD, an experienced third-party service to administer the CAURD Grant Program, to award eligible CAURD licensees with vital funding to support their business operations. **Grant applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until the \$5 million dollars is exhausted.**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THE GRANT?

All New York State based businesses that hold an active, final CAURD license issued by the New York State Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) are eligible to apply. **Licensees must be in compliance with all NYS Cannabis Laws and related regulations requirements, as determined by OCM.** To be eligible, all applicants must have a business bank account in a name that matches the name of the CAURD license holder. Additionally, all applicants must be incorporated to do business in New York State and must be in substantial compliance with all state and local laws. Each Employer Identification Number (EIN) is eligible to receive a maximum of one grant award under this Program.

WHAT IS THE TOTAL AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR EACH AWARDEE?

Awards will be up to \$30,000 for eligible expenses as defined below. **Applications must include a minimum of \$10,000 in eligible expenses to qualify for an award.** Funds will be issued to awardees on a reimbursement basis. Grant awardees will need to provide receipts of eligible expenses incurred in order to receive the funding. Approved applicants will receive a one-time ACH payment for approved expenses. Awards will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis until available funding has been depleted.

WHAT EXPENSES WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR REIMBURSEMENT?

- Commercial rent for the retail establishment authorized by the CAURD license;
- Improvements that fulfill OCM regulatory compliance requirements, including but not necessarily limited to:
 - Point-of-Sale systems and hardware;
 - Inventory tracking systems;
 - Security systems and hardware, including related installation costs;
 - Secure product storage and transportation systems and equipment;
 - Insurance costs;
 - Cosmetic Improvements as approved by OCM and ESD;
 - Other documented costs as approved by OCM and ESD.
- Eligible expenses can be reimbursed starting from the date the licensee received final license notice from OCM.

WHEN WILL APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR THIS GRANT OPPORTUNITY?

The application opened on March 18, 2025. To learn more about the Program, visit: forwardplatform.com/new-york-esd-caurd-grant-program. Any questions about the opportunity should be sent to Support@forwardplatform.zendesk.com or call 1 (855) 933-5556.