

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 5, 2026

CONTACTS:

Vanessa.Cheeks@ocm.ny.gov

TaylorRandi.Lee@ocm.ny.gov



**Office of Cannabis
Management**

**NEW YORK STATE CANNABIS CONTROL
BOARD APPROVES 36 NEW ADULT-USE
LICENSES, SHARES MARKET GROWTH AND
REGULATORY UPDATES**

Board Approves New Adult-Use Licenses, Receives Market and Seed-to-Sale Updates, Highlights Workforce Survey Extension

New York, NY — The New York State Cannabis Control Board (CCB) today approved 36 new adult-use cannabis licenses, dozens of license renewals, received key updates related to market activity, social and economic equity, and seed-to-sale implementation, and considered actions to strengthen regulatory oversight and operational efficiency across the state’s cannabis industry.

The meeting included remarks from **Susan Filburn, Acting Executive Director of the New York State Office of Cannabis Management (OCM)**, who emphasized the agency’s continued focus on stable growth, accountability, and protecting public health.

“New York’s cannabis market continues to demonstrate both momentum and purpose,” **said Filburn**. “Each approval, regulation, and programmatic update reflects our commitment to building a market that is safe, transparent, and positioned for long-term success.”

The February meeting reflects ongoing progress toward a fully regulated cannabis marketplace that supports licensees, workers, and New York communities.

Adult-Use License Approvals

The CCB approved 36 new adult-use cannabis licenses, bringing the total number of adult-use licenses issued statewide to **2,110**.

The newly approved licenses include:

- Adult-Use Cultivator Licenses: 4
- Adult-Use Processor Licenses: 13
- Adult-Use Retail Dispensary Licenses: 17
- CAURD Licenses: 2

“New York is shaping a cannabis market with staying power,” **said Jessica Garcia, Chair of the Cannabis Control Board**. “Each approval advances an ecosystem grounded in fairness, responsibility, and long-term opportunity across the supply chain, and in New York’s communities.”

Seed-to-Sale Update

OCM provided a high-level update on the phased rollout of New York’s statewide seed-to-sale tracking system and upcoming milestones for retail item-level identification, reaffirming a continued focus on licensee onboarding, data accuracy, and system stability. More information is available at: <https://cannabis.ny.gov/seed-to-sale>

Workforce Composition Survey Extension

OCM shared an update on its ongoing effort to better understand workforce conditions across New York’s cannabis and hemp industries through the Workforce Composition Survey. The survey helps inform data-driven policy decisions, workforce development strategies, and resources that reflect real conditions faced by licensees statewide.

The Office announced an extension of the Workforce Composition Survey deadline to Friday, February 13, 2026, allowing additional time for licensees to participate. Responses are confidential and reported only in aggregate.

Market and Social Equity Update

New York’s legal cannabis market is showing strong year-over-year growth and early momentum in 2026. Reported retail sales reached \$1.69 billion in 2025, with \$127.1 million in sales recorded so far in 2026. Retail activity remains robust, with approximately 582 dispensaries now open statewide and 18 new stores opening so far in 2026. The 287 stores that opened in 2025 accounted for roughly 40 percent of

December 2025 retail sales, demonstrating the growing contribution of newer market participants.

As of January 2026, New York has issued 2,110 active adult-use licenses, including:

- 239 cultivators
- 229 distributors
- 319 microbusinesses
- 514 processors
- 484 retail dispensaries

Of all licenses issued statewide, 57 percent have been awarded to Social and Economic Equity (SEE) applicants. In addition, the state has 324 active CAURD licensees.

“These numbers reflect important progress, but they are not an endpoint,” said **L. Simone Washington, Chief Equity Officer of the Office of Cannabis Management**. “Our responsibility is to continually evaluate what is working, address gaps where they exist, and ensure that equity commitments translate into real access, meaningful participation, and fair treatment across the market.”

Among the 36 adult-use applications approved today, 53 percent are from SEE applicants, including Community Disproportionately Impacted (CDI), minority-owned, women-owned, and dually designated businesses. All SEE approvals in this cohort are processor licenses.

To date there are [582 legal dispensaries](#) open for business across the Empire State. A full list of New York’s licensed, operational adult-use cannabis retailers is available [here](#).

Next Cannabis Control Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Cannabis Control Board is scheduled for Thursday, March 5, 2026, in Albany, New York. Agenda details and livestream information will be posted in advance at: <https://cannabis.ny.gov>

###

The New York State Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) oversees the State’s medical, adult-use, and cannabinoid hemp programs. Guided by its core pillars — public health and safety, social and economic equity, community reinvestment, environmental sustainability, and consumer education — the Office works to advance a regulated cannabis marketplace rooted in transparency, accountability, and opportunity. Through

licensing, enforcement, education, and industry support, OCM is committed to building a fair, sustainable, and responsible cannabis industry that benefits all New Yorkers.

Follow us on social media: @nys_cannabis