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NEW YORK STATE CANNABIS CONTROL BOARD APPROVES 27 NEW ADULT-USE LICENSES, ADVANCES RENEWALS AND REGULATORY PRIORITIES

Board Actions Reflect Continued Market Growth, Surpassing \$3 Billion in Sales and Expanding Statewide Access

BUFFALO, NY — [The New York State Cannabis Control Board](#) today approved 27 new adult-use cannabis licenses, and received updates on market performance, regulatory activity, and continued implementation of New York’s Cannabis Law. The Board also voted to adopt regulations related to cannabis showcase events. The regulations will become effective once they are filed with the Department of State.

The meeting included continued focus on building a stable, equitable market as New York surpasses \$3 billion in sales and marks five years since legalization.

“New York’s cannabis market is entering a new phase defined by scale, structure, and accountability,” said **John Kagia, Acting Executive Director of the Office of Cannabis Management**. “As we expand licensing and strengthen oversight, our focus remains on building a market that is both durable and inclusive — one where businesses can operate with clarity and confidence and where equity continues to drive participation across the supply chain.”

Adult Use License Approvals

The Board approved **27 adult use cannabis licenses**, bringing the total number of adult use licenses issued statewide to **2,204**.

New approvals include:

- Adult Use Cultivator Licenses: 1
- Adult Use Distributor Licenses: 2
- Adult Use Microbusiness Licenses: 3
- Adult Use Processor Licenses: 8
- Adult Use Retail Dispensary Licenses: 13

“The Office continues to review applications on a rolling basis and remains engaged with applicants to resolve deficiencies and advance qualified businesses through the licensing process,” **said Jessica Garcia, Chair of the Cannabis Control Board.** “At the same time, the Board and the Office are working to advance regulations that would create a framework for licensed cannabis sales at temporary events, such as farmers markets and pop-ups. While we have reviewed public feedback and are finalizing this framework, these regulations are not yet in effect. Our responsibility is to ensure that when these rules are implemented, they are clear, workable, and uphold the standards for safety, equity, and compliance set by New York’s Cannabis Law.”

Cannabis Showcase Event Regulations

The Board voted to adopt the Cannabis Showcase Event regulations and directed OCM to file them with the Department of State to make them effective. The Cannabis Showcase Event (CSE) regulations establish a framework for cannabis sales at certain events outside of a licensed cannabis retail dispensary, as authorized under Cannabis Law. Eligible licensed retailers must apply to OCM to receive approval for a Cannabis Showcase Event permit. Retailers must partner with at least one licensed cannabis cultivator to operate a Cannabis Showcase Event. Retailers can also partner with a licensed processor but the number of processors participating in an event must be equal or less than the number of cultivators.

OCM encourages retail dispensary licensees interested in applying for a CSE permit to begin preparing by reading the [regulations](#). OCM will be sharing more information soon about Cannabis Showcase Events and the permit process once the regulations become effective.

Community Impact Plan Update

Updates were also shared on Community Impact Plan (CIP) requirements, which ensure cannabis businesses contribute to the communities where they operate. The Office continues to support licensees and municipalities through webinars, updated guidance, and coordination across teams.

Key challenges were identified, including confusion around what qualifies as community impact, how the renewal process works, and the role of municipalities. To address this, the Office is building new tools, including a licensee resource library, public-facing CIP submissions, and a standardized review checklist. Additional webinars and engagement opportunities are also planned.

Social and Economic Equity (SEE) PATH Resources

OCM continues to advance the [SEE Program](#), including the development of a centralized SEE Program, Assistance and Training Hub (SEE PATH) resource webpage for [applicants](#) and [licensees](#). This one-stop platform will provide tools, guidance, and training across all stages of business development, including business planning resources, compliance training through

CHIP Academy, license renewal and Community Impact Plan (CIP) guidance, and access to a Cannabis Banking Directory. The hub will also feature downloadable materials, webinar recordings, and other resources to improve access and support long-term success for SEE businesses.

Market and Social and Economic Equity Update

New York's legal cannabis market continues to build momentum in 2026, surpassing **\$3 billion in total reported retail sales** and marking a significant milestone five years after legalization. With continued dispensary expansion across regions and steady application approvals, the state's regulated market is entering a more mature and stable phase of growth.

At the April 2 Board meeting, the CCB considered 27 adult-use applications for licensure, 69 adult-use renewals, 29 license amendments, 2 CAURD applications for licensure, and 26 CAURD renewals.

To date, New York has issued **2,204 adult-use licenses including:**

- 246 cultivators
- 234 distributors
- 324 microbusinesses
- 540 processors
- 519 retail dispensaries
- 341 Conditional Adult-Use Retail Dispensaries

Of all adult-use licenses statewide, **56 percent have been awarded to SEE applicants**. In addition, the state has issued **341 CAURD licensees**.

“These figures reflect a market that is continuing to expand while maintaining its commitment to equity,” said **Simone Washington, Chief Equity Officer of the Office of Cannabis Management**. “As we move into this next phase, our focus is on ensuring that SEE participation remains strong across all license types and that these businesses are supported with the tools, resources and clarity needed to succeed long term.”

Among the 27 adult-use applications recommended for approval at today's meeting, **11 — representing approximately 40 percent — are SEE applicants**. This cohort includes Community Disproportionately Impacted (CDI), minority-owned, and women-owned businesses, with representation across cultivation, distribution, processing, and retail.

To date, there are now more than **623 legal dispensaries open for business across New York State**, reflecting continued growth in access for consumers and opportunities for licensed operators. 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, May 7, 2026**, on Long Island, New York. Agenda details and livestream information will be posted in advance at: <https://cannabis.ny.gov>

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[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.