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NEW YORK CANNABIS CONTROL BOARD EXPANDS MARKET WITH 14 LICENSES,

NEW NURSERY APPLICATION WINDOW ANNOUNCED AND RESEARCH LICENSE APPROVED

Statewide Cannabis License Total Reaches 2,351 as Board Extends Provisional License Period

OCM Opens Recruitment for Next Phase of Social and Economic Equity Cultivation Working Group

Board Imposes $35,000 Civil Penalty and Requires Compliant Operating Agreement Within 90 Days

ROCHESTER, NY — Today, the New York State Cannabis Control Board advanced **14 cannabis licenses**, including 11 adult-use licenses and three Conditional Adult-Use Retail Dispensary (CAURD) licenses, bringing the statewide total to **2,351 licenses**. The Board also advanced a new cannabis nursery license application window, further building out the state's regulated supply chain, and extended the provisional license period for CAURD and adult-use provisional licensees. OCM also announced the next phase of its Social and Economic Equity (SEE) Cultivation Working Group, opening recruitment to licensees and other stakeholders to help identify challenges and opportunities across the cultivation sector.

The meeting also featured a declaratory ruling, compliance updates and a cannabis research license application involving a clinical study of an investigational cannabis-derived product for chronic low back pain. Together, these actions reflect the Board and Office's continued focus on strengthening New York's regulated cannabis market by expanding the supply chain, supporting licensees as they move toward operation, increasing opportunities for SEE participation, and advancing cannabis research.

"Today's actions are about opening doors, helping businesses move forward, and protecting the integrity of New York's cannabis market," said **Jessica García, Chair of the Cannabis Control Board.** "From creating a new pathway for cannabis nurseries and giving provisional licensees more time to reach final licensure, to bringing Social and Economic Equity cultivators directly into the conversation, we're continuing to build a market with more ways to participate and succeed. That work also requires accountability, including ensuring licensees meet municipal

notice requirements as we encourage more communities to participate in the legal market. When potential regulatory violations arise, we must address them expeditiously, so they do not undermine our work to build a healthy, equitable, and sustainable cannabis market."

Adult-Use License Approval

The Board approved **14 cannabis licenses**, bringing the total number of licenses issued statewide to **2,351**.

New approvals include:

- Adult-Use Cultivator Licenses: **2**
- Adult-Use Processor Licenses: **5**
- Adult-Use Retail Dispensary Licenses: **4**
- Conditional Adult-Use Retail Dispensary (CAURD) Licenses: **3**

New Cannabis Nursery License Application Window

The Board advanced a new application window for certain cannabis nursery licenses, expanding another component of New York's regulated cannabis supply chain.

Under the action, the application window is scheduled to **open on November 5, 2026, and will close when the Office receives 50 application submissions.** OCM has developed application forms for eligible nursery license types pursuant to Article 4 of the Cannabis Law.

"Opening the nursery application window is another step in building out a complete and resilient New York supply chain," said **John Kagia, Executive Director of the Office of Cannabis Management.** "This nursery license will ensure that New York Cultivators have access to the best available genetics and enable the market to better understand how genetic selection at the farm translates into product choices at the store. We look forward to growing the nursery eco-system to support New York's extraordinary cannabis cultivators."

SEE Cultivation Working Group

OCM announced the recruitment process for its Social and Economic Equity (SEE) Cultivation Working Group, designed to strengthen support for SEE cultivators and microbusiness licensees and provide a structured channel for cultivation-focused stakeholders to engage directly with the Office.

The working group will bring together SEE licensees, state agencies, community-based organizations and advocacy groups to identify barriers, emerging needs and opportunities across the cultivation side of New York's cannabis supply chain. Feedback from the group will help inform future OCM programs, policies and initiatives.

Beginning **October 1**, interested stakeholders can access the **CWG Interest Form** to be considered for participation. For more information visit: https://cannabis.ny.gov/cwg.

Gotham Buds Declaratory Ruling

The Board affirmed its August 6 declaratory ruling regarding the Conditional Adult-Use Retail Dispensary (CAURD) license held by Gotham Buds, finding that the licensee's operating agreement violates sole-control and proportionality requirements designed to ensure justice-involved licensees maintain primary decision-making authority over the operations and benefits of the licensed business.

Following its review of arguments and additional submissions challenging the ruling, the Board passed a resolution that imposed a **$35,000 civil penalty** and directed Gotham Buds to submit a fully executed, compliant operating agreement within **90 days**. Failure to meet the deadline will result in additional financial penalties, with escalating penalties for continued noncompliance. If substantial compliance is not achieved within 180 days, the Board may consider additional actions authorized under Cannabis Law, including license suspension.

CAURD and Adult-Use Provisional License Extension

The Board advanced an extension of the provisional license period for CAURD and adult-use provisional licensees, providing additional time for applicants to complete outstanding requirements for final license approval.

Under the action, CAURD and adult-use provisional licensees, including provisional licenses issued through December 31, 2027, would have until December 31, 2028, to submit outstanding information required for final approval.

Cannabis Research License

The Board considered a cannabis research license application for a clinical study evaluating VER-01, an investigational cannabis-derived product, as a potential non-opioid treatment for chronic low back pain.

If approved, the applicant would become the first research licensee in New York State seeking to evaluate the safety and efficacy of an investigational cannabis product against placebo in a human clinical research trial. OCM reviewed the application for project quality, study design, value and impact, as well as the applicant's expertise and infrastructure.

C.O.D. Reporting Transition to Metrc

OCM reminded licensed suppliers of upcoming deadlines associated with the transition of delinquent payment reporting to Metrc.

Licensed suppliers have until October 22, 2026, to report delinquent payments for credit transfers occurring before September 15 through OCM's C.O.D. Reporting platform. Effective October 23, the platform's delinquent payment reporting functionality will be permanently disabled, though suppliers may continue reporting payments in full for those earlier transactions.

Delinquencies and payments in full associated with credit transfers or deliveries occurring on or after September 15 should be reported through Metrc.

Resource Reporting Update

OCM launched a new internal Resource Tracking Platform for all licensees authorized to cultivate. Licensees who missed the August 31, 2026, reporting deadline or previously submitted an attestation must complete their reporting by October 31, 2026. All licensees authorized to cultivate must report, even if they are not yet operational. The next annual reporting deadline is August 31, 2027. Questions can be directed to ResourceTracking@ocm.ny.gov

Licensee Compliance Discussion

The CCB received an OCM update on ongoing investigations that may impact pending applications or result in significant disciplinary action. Those matters involve alleged cultivation or processing at unapproved locations, a dispensary's alleged operation in violation of Board-mandated requirements and possible transfer of cannabis products to an unlicensed entity. The investigations are ongoing, and the allegations have not been presented as final findings. The Board directed the Office to provide reports on all four investigations at the next Board meeting, including any recommendations for disciplinary action available at that time.

Market and Social and Economic Equity Update

At the October 1 Board meeting, the Board approved 14 new adult-use licenses, 70 adult-use license renewals, 6 CAURD renewals, 26 license amendments and three CAURD licenses, alongside additional licensing and regulatory actions. New York has now licensed 1,039 adult-use retailers, including retail dispensaries and microbusinesses authorized for retail activity. Of those, 712 retailers have reported opening statewide, while 327 licensed retailers have not yet opened.

Reported retail cannabis sales have now surpassed $4.1 billion program-to-date. In the third quarter of 2026, total retail sales reached $512.6 million, bringing year-to-date sales to $1.41 billion. Social and Economic Equity businesses continue to represent a significant share of New York's adult-use market. Of the 14 adult-use licenses approved during today's meeting, 7, or 64 percent, were awarded to SEE-owned businesses, including minority-owned, women-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses. SEE businesses in the October cohort include one of three cultivators, four of six processors and two of five adult-use retail dispensaries.

To date, New York has **1,981** adult-use licenses, including:

- 280 cultivators
- 241 distributors
- 329 microbusinesses
- 582 processors
- 548 retail dispensaries

- 370 Conditional Adult-Use Retail Dispensaries

Of all adult-use licenses statewide, 56 percent have been awarded to SEE applicants.

“SEE businesses aren’t just entering New York’s cannabis market — they’re helping shape it, **said L. Simone Washington, Chief Equity Officer at the Office of Cannabis Management.** “That representation across the supply chain is meaningful progress, and our work is to make sure these businesses have the support to grow and thrive.”

A full list of licensed dispensaries is available at https://cannabis.ny.gov/dispensary-location-verification.

Public Comment

Members of the public may continue to submit online comments following the Board meeting. Online comments submitted by 5 p.m. on October 6, 2026, will be included in the official Board meeting minutes. The public comment link is available on the Cannabis Control Board page at cannabis.ny.gov. Questions, comments or concerns may also be directed to Regulations@ocm.ny.gov

Next Cannabis Control Board Meeting

The location and livestream information for the next Cannabis Control Board meeting will be posted at 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.

Follow @nys_cannabis on social media for updates.