FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 7, 2026

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OCM LAUNCHES RECRUITMENT FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EQUITY CULTIVATION WORKING GROUP

Interest Form Announced October 1 for Licensees and Stakeholders Seeking to Participate

New Working Group Will Bring Cultivators, Microbusinesses and Industry Stakeholders Together to Identify Barriers and Opportunities Across New York's Cannabis Supply Chain

ALBANY, NY —On October 1 The New York State Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) announced the recruitment process for its Social and Economic Equity (SEE) Cultivation Working Group, creating a structured channel for SEE cultivators, microbusiness licensees, and cultivation-focused stakeholders to engage directly with the Office. OCM is seeking participation from stakeholders who can bring a range of perspectives and experiences to the conversation and help shape future programs, policies, and initiatives.

Interested stakeholders can now submit the **Cultivation Working Group Interest Form** to be considered for participation. The working group will bring help identify barriers, emerging needs, and opportunities across the cultivation side of New York's cannabis supply chain.

"New York's cannabis market is strongest when the people working within it have a meaningful opportunity to help shape its future," said **John Kagia, Executive Director of the New York State Office of Cannabis Management**. "The Cultivation Working Group will give SEE cultivators and microbusinesses a direct channel to share what they are experiencing on the ground, identify where challenges remain, and help us better understand what these businesses need to grow and compete. That feedback will be critical as we continue building a more sustainable, equitable, and responsive cannabis market."

"Cultivators are the foundation of New York's cannabis supply chain, and ensuring Social and Economic Equity (SEE) licensees have a voice in shaping its future is essential," said **Simone Washington, Chief Equity Officer at the New York State Office of Cannabis Management.**

“The SEE Cultivation Working Group creates a direct line of communication between cultivators, microbusinesses, and the Office to better understand the challenges they face and identify opportunities for meaningful support. This is about turning feedback into action and ensuring equity remains central to the growth and long-term success of New York’s cannabis market.”

The working group is designed to strengthen OCM’s engagement with businesses operating at the cultivation level of the market and ensure that the experiences of SEE licensees are reflected as the Office evaluates future policies and support. Feedback gathered through the group will help OCM identify challenges facing cultivators, understand emerging market needs, and explore opportunities to strengthen the cultivation sector. To date SEE Licensees account for 46% of cultivation licenses issued statewide, demonstrating New York’s continued commitment to building an equitable and inclusive cannabis market.

Interested stakeholders can access the **Cultivation Working Group Interest Form here.**

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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 of public health and safety, social and economic equity, community reinvestment, environmental sustainability, and consumer education, OCM works to advance a regulated cannabis marketplace rooted in transparency and accountability.

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