OCM Update – Metro Cities

January 31, 2025

OCM Overview

- May 2022 – Hemp-derived cannabinoid products are legalized

- May 2023 – HF100 passed and signed into law (Chapter 342)

    - Establishes the Office of Cannabis Management; Outlines framework for licensing and regulatory schema for adult-use cannabis under the new OCM (following rulemaking); Appropriates funding across multiple agencies for grant programs related to new industry; Establishes expungement process; Establishes a definition for social equity

- August 2023 – Cannabis legalization goes into effect (first adult-use retail sales available in Minnesota at Red Lake Nation)

- Late 2023 – Chief Regulatory Officer named

- Spring 2024 – Additional hiring continues; OCM introduces first office legislation

- May 2024 – Chapter 121 is passed and signed into law (makes amendments to Chapter 342)

- Jan 2025 – Launch of Social Equity Verification

- Jan 2025 – Public comment period on proposed cannabis rules

- Jan 2025 – OCM Interim Director Taubel named

- Feb 2025 – Adult Use Cannabis Licensing window

About the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM)

OCM is charged with:

- Developing and implementing the operational and regulatory systems to oversee the adult-use cannabis industry, the medical cannabis program, and the consumer hemp-derived cannabinoid industry.

- Launching an effective, safe, equitable, and sustained cannabis industry.

The Office of Cannabis Management will release applications, issue licenses, and develop regulations outlining how and when businesses can participate in the new adult-use industry in Minnesota. Over the last year, the OCM has been developing the regulatory framework for legal adult cannabis and establishing processes and timelines to apply for licenses.

- The Division of Social Equity will implement and oversee two grant programs established in statute.

  - **Can Renew** will award grants to eligible organizations for investments in communities where long-term residents are eligible to be social equity applicants.

  - **Can Grow** will award grants, in consultation with the Commissioner of Agriculture, to eligible organizations to help farmers navigate the regulatory structure of the legal cannabis industry, and nonprofit corporations to fund loans to farmers for expansion into the legal cannabis industry.

- Division staff will promote economic development, improve social determinants of health, provide services to prevent violence, support early intervention programs for youth and families, and promote community stability and safety.

Division of Social Equity

The Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) is hosted virtual listening sessions to inform community members about the CanRenew and CanGrow grants.

Watch a recording of the event on the Office of Cannabis Management – Division of Social Equity website.

Sign up to learn more about the grants on the OCM website.

https://mn.gov/ocm/social-equity/

- General Licensing – 2025

  - Available for social equity applicants and non-social equity applicants

  - Social Equity Verification – January 15 – January 30

  - License Application Process – February 18 – March 4

  - Rolling Review – Uncapped Types

  - Lottery for Capped License Types – Anticipated for May and June

- Rulemaking process is ongoing, anticipating rules being complete in early 2025

  - Licensing and regulatory structure dependent on rules being adopted

  - Expedited complaint process for local partners will be established as part of this work.

  - Public comment period January 13 – February 12

- Division of Social Equity

  - Release of CanRenew and CanGrow grant programs

- Compacting process continues with tribal nations

- Implementation and additional staffing

- Community Engagement

- Local Government Engagement and technical assistance

- Office build out continues, including licensing and enforcement teams

- 2025 Legislative Session

2025 Upcoming Licensing Cycle

JAN 10
Deadline to request refund of license preapproval application fee

JAN 15
Social equity applicant verification window opens

JAN 30
Social equity applicant verification window closes

FEB 18
License application window opens (SEA and all applicants)

MAR 14
License application window closes

MAY-JUN TBA
Lottery (tentative)

MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF CANNABIS MANAGEMENT

- General Licensing Process

  - All 13 license types available, including both cannabis and hemp businesses

  - 4 license types are capped

    - Retailer

    - Manufacturer

    - Cultivator

    - Mezzobusiness

  - 9 license types are uncapped

License Availability – Social Equity and General Licensing

License Type	License Availability (Social Equity)	License Availability (All applicants)
Cannabis Microbusiness**	No limit	No limit
Cannabis Mezzobusiness**	50	50
Cannabis Cultivator	25	25
Cannabis Manufacturer	12	12
Cannabis Retailer**	75	75
Cannabis Wholesaler	No limit	No limit
Cannabis Transporter	No limit	No limit
Cannabis Testing Facility	No limit	No limit
Cannabis Delivery Service	No limit	No limit
Cannabis Event Organizer	No limit	No limit
Medical Cannabis Combination^	No limit	No limit
Lower-Potency Hemp Edible Manufacturer	Licenses available later in 2025	Licenses available later in 2025
Lower-Potency Hemp Edible Retailer^	Licenses available later in 2025	Licenses available later in 2025

** license types with retail registrations that may be limited by ordinance by the local government unit responsible for retail registrations

^ license types that also require retail registrations, but that may not be limited

- Local ordinances

  - Zoning, time, place, manner, etc.

- Local approval during application and licensing process

  - Certification of compliance with zoning ordinances

  - Retail registration (determine process)

  - Specific local approval required for event license type

- Compliance checks

  - Age verification and compliance with local ordinances

- Municipal cannabis stores

Contact and Delegation Form & Accela Registration

- To prepare for the successful implementation of zoning compliance certification and local retail registration processes, each local unit of government should:

  - Step 1: Complete the local unit of government cannabis licenses contact and delegation form

  - Step 2: Register for accela for zoning compliance certification.

    https://mn.gov/ocm/local-governments/

Local Government Resources

- OCM webpage includes a specific landing page for local governments:

  - https://mn.gov/ocm/local-governments/

  - Includes information about cannabis-related events prior to rulemaking process and event licenses

  - Includes information about hemp-derived cannabinoid product retailers and enforcement

- Accela Registration Guide – Available on website now (Local Government Accela Registration Guide)

- Model Ordinance and local Government Guidebook – Available on website now

- New: Local Government FAQs – available on website now

- New: Local Government Webinar – available on website now

- New: Contact and Delegation Form – available on website now

- For questions: cannabis.info@state.mn.us

For General Business support through the Department of Employment and Economic Development:
- [Grants / Office of Cannabis Management (mn.gov)](#)
- [Support for Cannabis Businesses / Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (mn.gov)](#)

For information about Cannabis Expungements:
- Cannabis Expungement Board: [Cannabis Expungement Board for the State of Minnesota / Cannabis Expungement Board for the State of Minnesota (mn.gov)](#)
- Bureau of Criminal Apprehension: [Expungements - Expungements (mn.gov)](#)

For information about Cannabis and your health:
- Minnesota Department of Health: [Cannabis - MN Dept. of Health (state.mn.us)](#)

For information about the Legal Cannabis Industry and the workforce:
- Apprenticeship and Dual training at the MN Department of Labor & Industry: [Legal cannabis industry | Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (mn.gov)](#)

- New website - mn.gov/ocm

- Sign up for the OCM Insider Newsletter

- Sign up for the OCM calendar updates for upcoming events

- Speaker Request Form and Engagement opportunities

- General inquiries: cannabis.info@state.mn.us

- Rulemaking inquiries: cannabis.rulemaking@state.mn.us

- Grant Programming in Division of Social Equity

Thank you!

cannabis.info@state.mn.us