



## Illinois Adult Use Cannabis Dispensary Licenses

### How do I apply?

License application forms for adult use cannabis dispensaries are available on the [Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation \(IDFPR\) website](#). Applications are due no later than noon on January 2, 2020.

### Does it help if I get my application in early?

No. IDFPR will begin accepting applications on December 10, 2019, and the review process will not begin until after the submission period ends on January 2, 2020.

### How much does it cost to apply?

Applicants must submit a \$5,000 nonrefundable fee, unless they are Social Equity Applicants (see below). Social Equity Applicants are required to submit a reduced nonrefundable fee of \$2,500.

### How many dispensary licenses will be awarded?

IDFPR will award up to 75 adult-use cannabis dispensary licenses no later than May 1, 2020. These licenses have been designated to specific regions throughout the state. To see how many licenses will be awarded in your region, [click here](#).

### What about other types of cannabis businesses, like craft growers or transporters?

License applications for craft growers, infusers, and transporters will be made available by the Illinois Department of Agriculture by January 7, 2020.

### Do I have to have a location for my dispensary to get a license?

No. IDFPR will initially award "Conditional Adult Use Dispensing Organization Licenses." If an applicant is awarded a Conditional Adult Use Dispensing Organization License, that applicant will have 180 days to find a location for its dispensary. IDFPR will award the applicant an Adult Use Dispensing Organization License after a location has been found and the applicant has obtained local zoning approval, passed an IDFPR inspection, and paid the registration fee.

### Will I be awarded extra points on my license application if I have a location for the dispensary?

No.

### How often will licenses need to be renewed?

Licenses will need to be renewed before March 31, 2022, and every two years after that.

### What is a "Social Equity Applicant"?

A Social Equity Applicant may be eligible for financial and technical assistance to obtain a license and start their cannabis business. A Social Equity Applicant is an applicant that is an Illinois resident that meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Has at least 51% ownership and control by one or more individuals who:
  - Have lived in a Disproportionately Impacted Area in 5 of the past 10 years. Disproportionately Impacted Areas are census tracts that have high rates of arrest and incarceration related to cannabis offenses, among other qualifications including high poverty and unemployment. [A map of these areas is available here.](#)

- Have been arrested for, convicted of, or adjudicated delinquent for cannabis-related offenses eligible for expungement, including cannabis possession up to 500 grams or intent to deliver up to 30 grams.
- Have a parent, child, or spouse that has been arrested for, convicted of, or adjudicated delinquent for cannabis-related offenses eligible for expungement, including possession up to 500 grams or intent to deliver up to 30 grams.
- Has more than 10 full-time employees, and more than half of those employees:
  - Currently reside in a [Disproportionately Impacted Area](#).
  - Have been arrested for, convicted of, or adjudicated delinquent for cannabis-related offenses eligible for expungement, including cannabis possession up to 500 grams or intent to deliver up to 30 grams.
  - Have a parent, child, or spouse that has been arrested for, convicted of, or adjudicated delinquent for cannabis-related offenses eligible for expungement, including possession up to 500 grams or intent to deliver up to 30 grams.

### What are the benefits of being a “Social Equity Applicant”?

- **Receive technical assistance and support** provided through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to Social Equity Applicants on everything from creating a business plan to applying for a license at a range of locations throughout the state. For more information regarding technical assistance visit, <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Pages/CannabisEquity.aspx>.
- **Receive 50 points** (out of a possible total of 250) from IDFPR on your license application score.
- **Pay reduced license and application fees**, as described above.
- **Access to low-interest loans** provided through DCEO for starting and operating a cannabis-related business. For more information on the social equity cannabis loan program, [click here](#).

### Where can I get more information?

If you have questions about the dispensary license application, IDFPR published two rounds of questions and answers, [Round 1 Q&A](#), [Round 2 Q&A](#). Please be sure to review these documents as you work through the application.

If you have questions about state programming for Social Equity Applicants or other questions about participating in the cannabis industry, send them to [CEO.AdultUseCannabis@Illinois.gov](mailto:CEO.AdultUseCannabis@Illinois.gov). You may also text **CANNABISILLINOIS** to **42828** to be added to our distribution list for further updates.