

Los Angeles County Office of Cannabis Management

Building an Equitable Cannabis Program
in Unincorporated Los Angeles County

Information Session #1

Before We Begin...

- **License applications are currently not being accepted**
- Presentation is being recorded and will be posted on the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer & Business Affairs YouTube channel
- Slides will be emailed if you registered
- Hold your questions until the end for **Q&A**
- Type your question in the chat box located in lower right corner of your screen
- Not all questions will be answered today but answers will be emailed if you registered

ABOUT US

Since 2017, the Office of Cannabis Management has served LA County and its residents by leading an equitable transition of cannabis to a regulated market with policies that seek to promote the health, safety and wellbeing of our communities.



Coordinate



Engage



Dialogue



Assist



Advocate



A BRIEF HISTORY...

1996

Voters approve the
Compassionate Use Act
allowing medical
marijuana



2011

L.A. County Board of
Supervisors implements a
ban on all commercial
cannabis activity in the
unincorporated areas



2016

Voters approve The
Control, Regulate and Tax
Adult Use of Marijuana Act
(Prop 64) allowing adults to
possess and grow
marijuana for recreational
use



2017

The L.A. County Office of Cannabis Management is created to coordinate the development of cannabis policies



2018

The L.A. County Office of Cannabis Management develops a proposed regulatory framework for commercial cannabis and submits it to the Board



July 13, 2021

The Board directs OCM to revisit the 2018 regulatory framework and report back with a revised framework rooted in equity



December 20, 2021

OCM submits an updated
commercial cannabis
regulatory framework
centered around social
equity



February 15, 2022

The Board of Supervisors
unanimously approves a
motion to implement an
equitable cannabis
business license program

A close-up photograph of a cannabis plant with green serrated leaves and developing buds, serving as the background for the text.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Leading with Equity

- Establish resources to address the gap in educational, technical, and financial resources caused by systemic racism and exacerbated by the War on Drugs
- Promote pathways to jobs, ownership, and economic opportunities in the cannabis industry
- Streamline the administrative review and license approval process to reduce barriers that create inequitable outcomes
- **Prioritize Equity and Equity Building applicants from the start**
- **Equity-building applicants** are applicants that do not qualify as Equity Applicants but have equity promoting practices

Permit Types

Retail

Permits the sale of cannabis products to consumers at a retail store



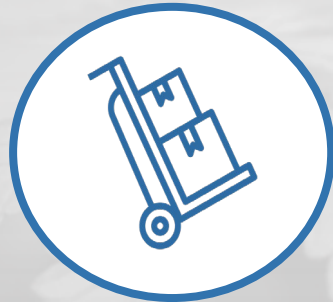
Delivery

Permits delivery of cannabis products from a physical location in conjunction with or independent from a retailer



Distribution

Permits Transporters to move unfinished products between permitted cannabis businesses and General Distributors to also provide storage, and arrange for testing of finished products



Testing Laboratories

Permits the testing of Cannabis products for quality and potency; sampling of products, and transportation of samples to a testing facility



Manufacturing

Permits Processors to pack & label products; and General Manufacturers to also do extractions using volatile, non-volatile solvents, or mechanical means, infusion.



Cultivation

Permits Indoor & Mixed Light cultivation in a fully enclosed facility



Number of Licenses

25

25

10

10

10

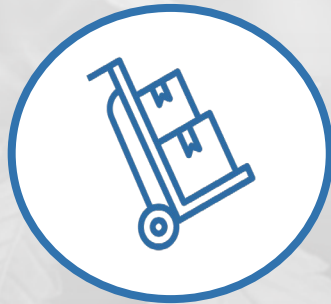
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Retail



Delivery



Distribution



Testing



Manufacturing



Cultivation

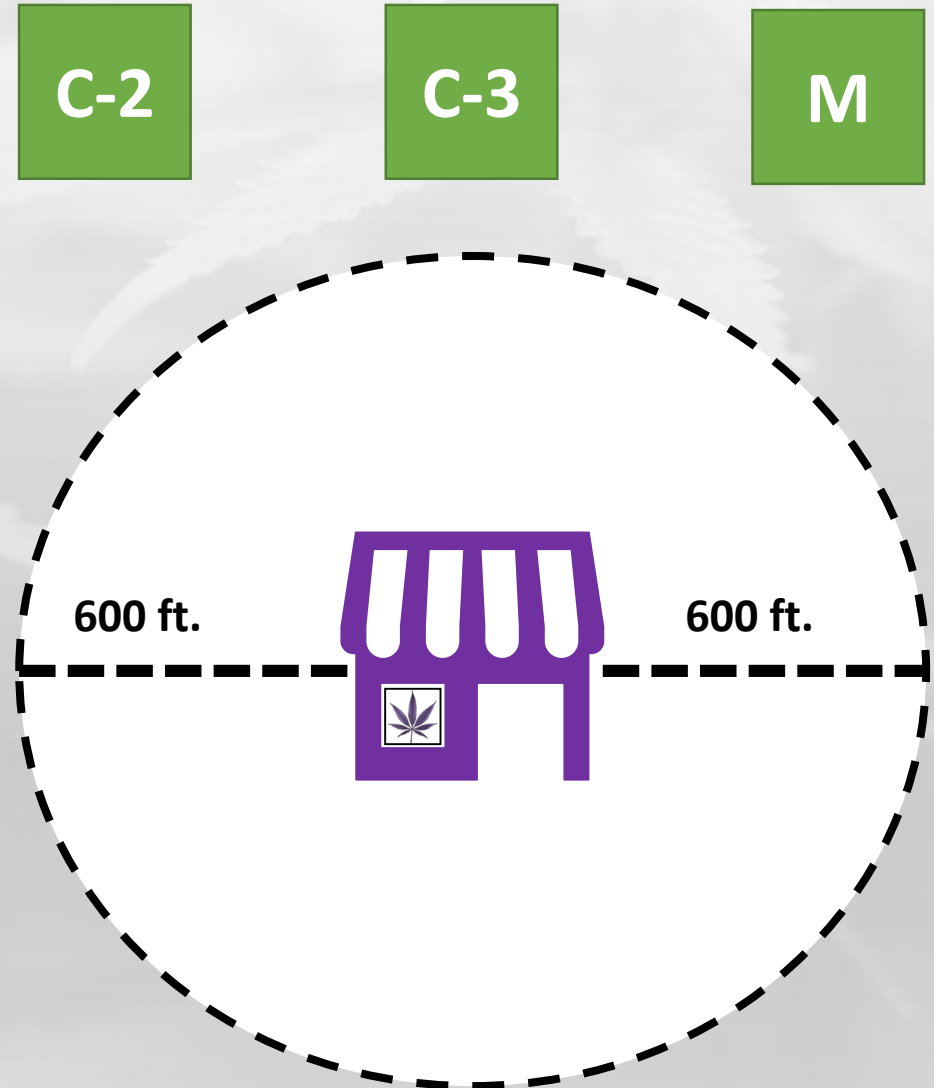
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First Two Years

Strategic Implementation

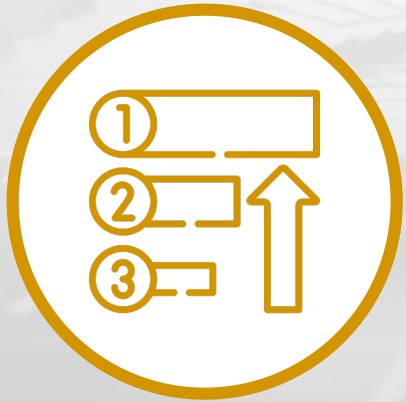
- Monitor the impact the impact of cannabis businesses on the community and environment
- Focus on building a strong licensing and compliance process and a robust equity program in the first two years
- Develop a robust Equity Program to prioritize and support the success of Equity and Equity-building applicants
- Evaluate and consider expanding number of licenses after Year 2

Zoning Requirements & Sensitive Use Buffers

- Allow retailers, delivery, and testing laboratories in certain commercial and manufacturing zones (C-2, C-3 and manufacturing)
- Require retailers and all other cannabis businesses to be located not less than 600 feet from schools (K-12), daycares, public parks, and public libraries
- Security requirements for all licensed businesses to promote safety and health



Robust Equity Program Resources



Priority
Licensing



Business
Development,
Technical &
Legal
Assistance



Job Training &
Workforce
Development



Financial
Assistance &
Access to
Capital



Incubation

“CLEAR” License Approval Process

- **Efficient Cannabis Licensing and Equity Approval Review** (CLEAR) Process that streamlines County licensing requirements
- **Select the most responsible cannabis business operators** by accounting for their community impact, as well as equity-building impact such as local or equitable hiring, workforce training, mentoring, equity ownership, and more
- **“Cannabis Business Concierge”** will provide applicants technical assistance throughout the license approval process
- **Supportive compliance infrastructure** that helps a healthy and responsible market grow in Los Angeles County

Transparent, Accountable, & Responsive

- **Cannabis Working Group** composed of key personnel from County departments, subject matter experts, and other relevant stakeholders
- Collect & analyze data to report on the effectiveness of the County's Cannabis Equity Program
- Show the impacts of the growth of cannabis businesses in LA County neighborhoods
- Monitor disparities in the civil and criminal enforcement of cannabis laws, environmental and sustainability impact of cannabis businesses
- Make recommendations on the expansion of cannabis permits and licenses for Year 2 and beyond

Unlicensed Business Closures

- Both public safety and the sustainability of a legal market requires **strategic enforcement** against unlicensed businesses
- More **consistent and targeted resources** are needed to effectively address the issue
- OCM will promote public information campaigns to **shift consumer demand** to the licensed market and its safer products i.e emblem program
- OCM will work with stakeholders to **develop consistent compliance & enforcement strategy**
- OCM will work to **increase administrative and civil enforcement options**

Report an Illegal Cannabis Business



Cannabis@lacounty.gov



[File a Complaint
with the State](#)

Next Steps

- Onboard staff to expand capacity and support program development
- Convene workgroups, stakeholders, and public meetings to develop & implement programs & processes and share information & gather input
- Conduct economic and fiscal analysis, including tax structure recommendations
- Conduct Equity Assessment and establish Equity Applicant eligibility requirements
- Expand emblem program
- Target launch in 2023

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Cannabis@lacounty.gov



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