



**Boston Cannabis
Board
&
Mayor's Office of
Economic
Opportunity &
Inclusion**

**Information Session
April 25, 2022**

Agenda

- Introductions
- The Role of the BCB
- The Process
- Buffer Zones
- Equity Certification
- Technical Assistance
- Equity Fund
- Equity Pre-Certification





Meet the Team

Boston Cannabis Board (BCB)

Office of Economic Opportunity & Inclusion (OEI)

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Cannabis Establishments



In 2020, the Mayor's Office and the Boston City Council passed an ordinance establishing the Boston Cannabis Board (the "BCB") which is the authority tasked with siting cannabis establishments in Boston. The BCB's duty is to ensure equity in the issuance of cannabis licenses both in terms of whom they are issued and where in the City they are issued.

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Boston must site a minimum of 52 retail recreational cannabis dispensaries. This number excludes other cannabis uses such as medical, cultivation, laboratory, manufacturing, and delivery.

Boston Cannabis Board Members



Kathleen M. Joyce, Esq.

Chair

Member with experience with the City's licensing and regulation of businesses



Lisa R. Holmes

Commissioner

Member with experience in public safety



Darlene Lombos

Commissioner

Member with experience in organized labor or workers' rights



John Smith

Commissioner

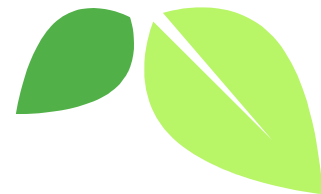
Member with experience in economic development



Alejandra St. Guillen

Commissioner

Member with experience in public health policy



Types of Marijuana Establishments

 <u>Retailer</u>	 <u>Medical Marijuana Treatment Center (MTC)</u>	<u>Cultivator</u>	 <u>Product Manufacturer</u>	<u>Microbusiness</u>
<u>Marijuana Courier</u>	<u>Marijuana Delivery Operator</u>	<u>Marijuana Research Facility</u>	 <u>Craft Marijuana Cooperative</u>	<u>*Social Consumption</u> <i>*Coming soon</i>
<u>Standards Laboratory</u>		<u>Transporter</u>		 <u>Independent Testing Laboratory</u>

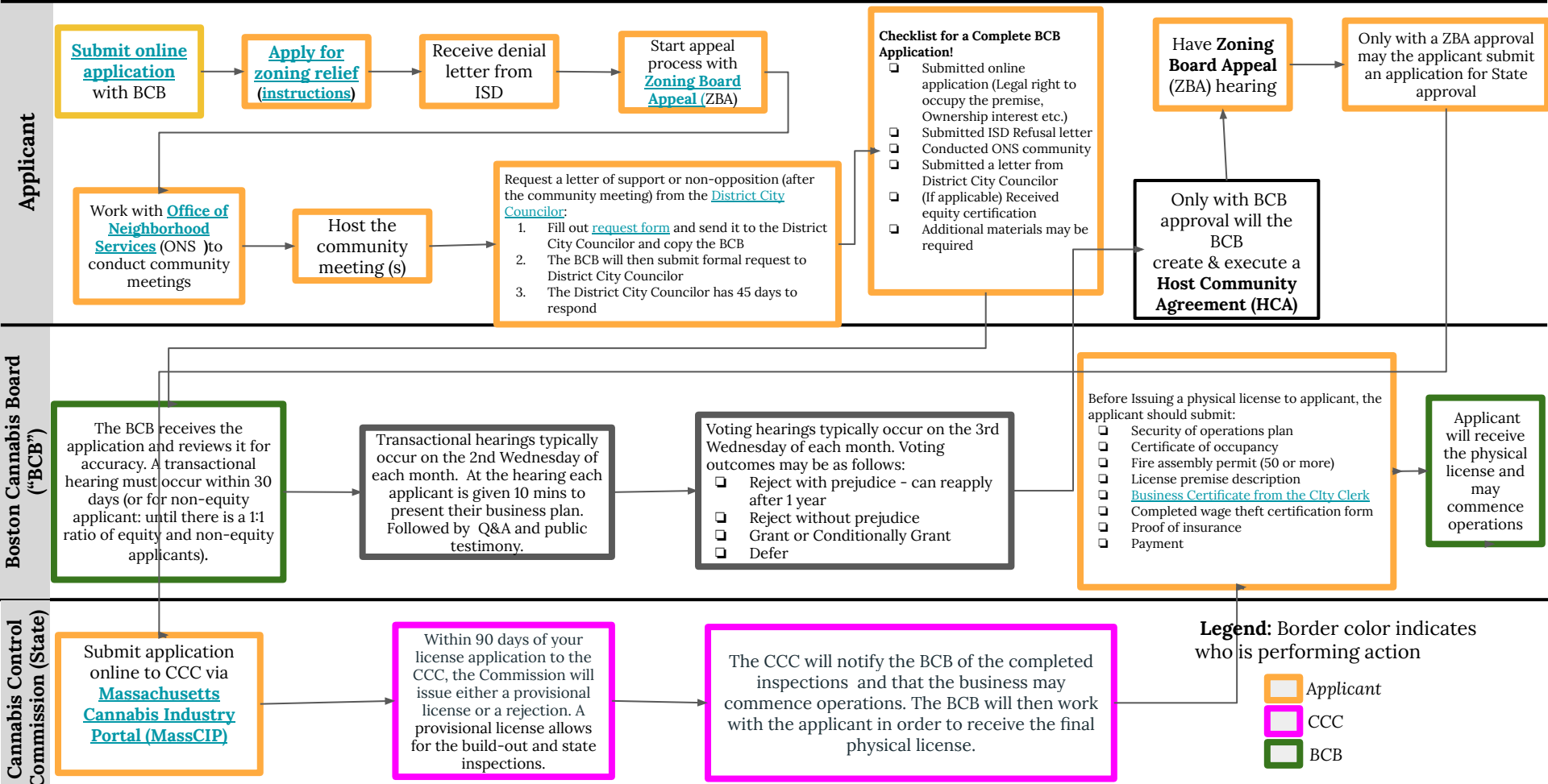


The Process

How do I get a license?



Process Flow to Cannabis Licensing





Buffer Zone Conflicts

Applies to **all** Marijuana Establishment Types



Half Mile Buffer Zone

Pursuant to the City of Boston's Zoning Code, in order to site a cannabis establishment within a half mile of an *existing cannabis establishment, the BCB applies a heightened level of scrutiny as defined in its Rules and Regulations. This also requires a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

*“existing cannabis establishment” is defined as a Licensee which has been granted a license by the BCB.

Half Mile Buffer Zone

Applicant's Statement

- Special circumstances or conditions that apply to the proposed location;
- Reasons of practical difficulty and substantial hardship explaining why the Buffer Zone conflict should not prevent the BCB from granting a conditional License;
- How the BCB's grant of a conditional License would be in harmony with the intent of the Boston Zoning Code provision establishing the Buffer Zone; and
- How the BCB's grant of a conditional License would not negatively impact the surrounding neighborhood.

Documentation of support

- Letters of support from community members, letters of support from community organizations, letters of support from direct or indirect abutters, and letters of support from elected officials or their respective representatives.
- The BCB must receive a minimum of three (3) letters of support. These *cannot* be form letters.

School Buffer Zone

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Law a cannabis establishment cannot be located within 500 feet of an existing public or private K-12 school providing education. There is no waiver to the School Buffer Zone. There are specific requirements on how this is measured. Links below to the statute.

[935 CMR 500.000: Adult Use of Marijuana](#)

[935 CMR 501.000: Medical Use of Marijuana](#)



Boston Cannabis Equity Program



Equity Certification

Businesses can apply for equity certification if they have an active application with the Boston Cannabis Board, they have secured a location by obtaining proof of legal right to occupy the premise, a notarized letter from the landlord or a letter of intent, and **at least 51 percent of the ownership** group meets at least **three of the following criteria** found on the Boston Cannabis Board's website.

- Technical Assistance
- Equity Fund Grants
- 1:1 Equity - Non-Equity on the next BCB Agenda



Eligibility Criteria

Your business can apply for the program if at least 51 percent of your ownership group meets at least **three of the following criteria:**

- A person who has resided in an area of disproportionate impact (ADI), as defined by the CCC for at least 5 of the last 10 years
- A person who:
 - has a past arrest or conviction for the possession, sale, manufacturing, or cultivation of Marijuana between 1971 and 2016, who has been a resident of Boston for the past five years, OR
 - is the child of a person with a past arrest or conviction for the possession, sale, manufacturing, or cultivation of Marijuana between 1971 and 2016, who has been a resident of Boston for the past 5 years
- A person who has resided in the City of Boston for at least the past 7 years
- A person who is of Black, African American, Hispanic, Latino, Asian, or **Indigenous descent**
- A person whose annual household income is at or below 100% of the area median income
- A person who has been certified by the Cannabis Control Commission as an Economic Empowerment Applicant, or **is a participant in the Cannabis Control Commission's Social Equity Program** and is a resident of Boston for at least one of the last three years
- **A person who is a former member of the Armed Forces of the United States (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Space Force) who served on active duty and was discharged under conditions which were other than dishonorable**



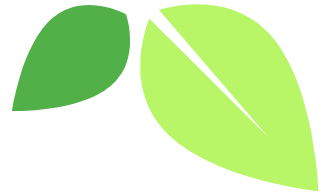
Technical Assistance Program

As part of the ordinance, the **Mayor's Office of Economic Opportunity & Inclusion** (OEIOI) has set up a Cannabis Technical Assistance Program:

Goals:

- Assist eligible cannabis equity applicants
- Expand economic and entrepreneurial opportunity and capacity throughout Boston

This investment over three years (until 3/31/24) is designed to expand economic and entrepreneurial opportunity and capacity (approx. \$225,000 per fiscal year).

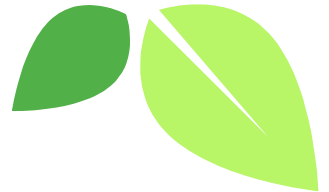




Technical Assistance Program

Similar to the Small Business Technical Assistance Program, there is a rolling RFP with a deadline of the 1st of each month for TA Providers to submit proposals. This program has funding until March 31, 2024. **Examples of TA Projects:**

- Navigating investment deals to secure capital, improving business plans, presentations, and pitch decks
- Creating or improving security plans and traffic studies
- Crafting marketing plans, designing websites, supporting with brand development
- **Currently:** 10 TA Providers ranging from graphic designers, traffic engineers, security plan experts, cannabis business/licensing support



Boston Equity Fund

The BOSTON EQUITY FUND offers financing up to **\$15,000 grants** to certified equity applicants and licensees for a wide range of purposes, including but not limited to:

- Working capital startup costs
- Build out equipment purchases
- Rent.
- No purchases of product or paraphernalia may be made with grant funds.



\$400,000

Full Fund Amount

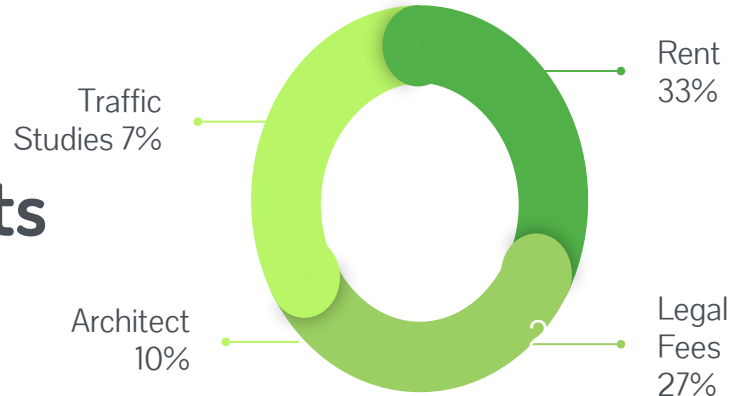
22 applicants

of awardees

\$15,000

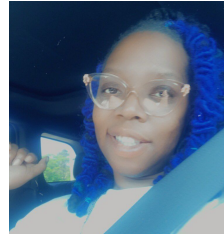
Individual grant amount

MOST COMMON GRANT EXPENDITURES



Pre-Certification for the Boston Equity Program

- As of March 1st, The Mayor's Office of Economic Opportunity & Inclusion has begun providing Pre-Certification Letters for the Boston Equity Program for individuals demonstrating a propensity to qualify under the criteria defined as a Boston Equity Applicant.
- This notice may be useful to share by the applicant for negotiations with third parties, landlords, and investors.
- The applicant *will still need* to obtain a proof of legal right to occupy the premise, a notarized letter from a landlord, or a letter of intent in order to submit an application to the Boston Cannabis Board and be fully eligible for the benefits provided by the Boston Equity Program.





Questions?