

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE AND CANNABIS ADMINISTRATION
MEDICAL CANNABIS PROGRAM**

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Notice of Two Open Application Periods for Cultivation Center,
Manufacturer, and Courier Licenses**

The Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board (Board) hereby gives notice of two open application periods for cultivation center, manufacturer, and courier licenses, and sets forth the process for the submission of applications to the Board.

Specifically, Title 22-C of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations require the Board, at the start of each open application period, to publish a Notice in the *D.C. Register* setting forth the process for the submission of available applications. The notice shall provide the address for submission and the process of obtaining application materials from the Board. This information shall also be provided on the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration's (ABCA) website.

DC Law 24-0332, the Medical Cannabis Amendment Act of 2022 (Act), effective March 22, 2023, requires in relevant part that at least 50% of the new cultivation center, manufacturer, and courier licenses made available by the Board be set aside for social equity applicants, as defined in the Act. The notice addresses this statutory requirement by having two open application periods, the first for social equity applicants, and the second for standard applicants. The number of cultivation center, manufacturer, and courier licenses made available during the second open application period will take into account the number of social equity applicants that applied and were accepted for cultivation center, manufacturer, and courier licenses during the first open application period. Cultivation center, manufacturer, and courier licenses will be made available during the second open application period on a first-come basis based upon the order that the applications are received by the Board. The actual number of cultivation center, manufacturer, and courier licenses to be made available during the second open application period will be published in the *D.C. Register* no later than Friday, August 18, 2023.

Both social equity applicants and standard applicants that do not currently have a physical location to operate a cultivation center, manufacturer, or courier license are permitted to file a one-year conditional license application during the respective open application periods, subject to the requirements of the Act and Title 22-C.

The Board provides the following information regarding the application process for the two open application periods:

1. The first day for a social equity applicant to file a cultivation center, manufacturer, or courier license application with the Board shall be 9:00 a.m. EST on Monday, May 1, 2023. The last day for a social equity applicant to file a cultivation center, manufacturer, or courier license application with the Board is 4 p.m., on Friday, June 30, 2023.

2. The first day for a standard applicant to file a cultivation center, manufacturer, or courier license application with the Board shall be 9:00 a.m. EST on Tuesday, August 29, 2023. The last day for a standard applicant to file a cultivation center, manufacturer, or courier license application with the Board is 4 p.m., on Monday, October 30, 2023. As noted above, applications filed during the second open application period will be considered on a first come basis based upon the actual number of cultivation center, manufacturer, and courier licenses available, as published in the *D.C. Register* no later than August 18, 2023. The Board reserves the right to close the application period earlier than October 30, 2023 depending upon the volume of applications received by the Board during the second open application period.
3. Applications shall be submitted during the first and second open application periods in hard copy to the ABCA Medical Cannabis Program, 2000 14th Street, NW, Suite 400 South, Washington, DC 20009, or uploaded electronically as instructed on the application. It is your responsibility to submit in a manner to ensure confirmation of delivery with a date and time stamp.
4. Application forms and instructions will be available no later than Thursday, April 27, 2023 on the ABCA website at <http://abca.dc.gov>. If you have trouble accessing the application, please contact abca.cannabislicensing@dc.gov. A list of the applicable application fees to be submitted with the application is currently available on the ABCA website. **All application fees are nonrefundable.**
5. Each applicant is strongly encouraged to read the regulations adopted by the Board on April 12, 2023 carefully before submitting an application. You will not be allowed to change the location on your application, excluding conditional license applicants, after the applicable open application period has ended.
6. **PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:** Please note prior to filing your application the following:
 - a. A location for a cultivation center or manufacturer cannot be located within any residential district or within 300 feet of a preschool, primary or secondary school, or a recreation center.
 - b. An applicant for a courier license is not permitted to hold or have an ownership interest in a cultivation center, manufacturer, retailer, internet retailer or testing laboratory license.
 - c. An applicant for a cultivation center license may not already hold or have an ownership interest in more than one cultivation center license.
 - d. An application for a cultivation center or manufacturer license that is accepted by the Board will be required to undergo a 45-day public comment period.

Applicants must **e-mail** all written questions or requests for clarification regarding this announcement or the application process to abca.cannabislicensing@dc.gov with “MC Application Question” in the subject line. Questions and responses will be posted on ABCA’s website: www.abca.dc.gov. Questions will not be answered on an individual basis. Furthermore, ABCA may decide not to answer a question and the agency is not obligated to answer all questions. Applicants should also monitor ABCA’s website for questions or responses and other information about the program. **Phone inquiries will not be accepted.**

Finally, all applicants should be advised that federal law makes cannabis a controlled substance and has placed cannabis in Schedule I of the Controlled Substance Act. Growing, distributing, and possessing cannabis in any capacity, other than as a part of a federally authorized research program, is a violation of federal laws. The District of Columbia’s law authorizing the District’s medical cannabis program will not excuse any person from any violation of the federal laws governing cannabis or authorize any licensee to violate federal laws. Therefore, participation in the program is at your own risk.