

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Notice of Open Application Period
for one (1) Dispensary in Ward 3 or Ward 5; two (2) Cultivation Centers in any Ward
except Ward 5, and two (2) Testing Laboratories in any Ward**

Pursuant to 22-C DCMR § 5401.1, applications for a new dispensary, cultivation center, or testing laboratory registration shall only be accepted by the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (Board) during the open application period as specified by the Board in its notice published in the D.C. Register. The period selected by the Board shall not be extended. Pursuant to 22-C DCMR § 5401.5, at the start of each open application period, the Board shall publish a Notice in the D.C. Register setting forth the process for submission of applications for a new dispensary, cultivation center, or testing laboratory registration.

The Board hereby gives notice of the open application period for one (1) new medical cannabis dispensary registration in either Ward 3 or Ward 5; two (2) new medical cannabis cultivation center registrations in any Ward, except for Ward 5; and two (2) new medical cannabis testing laboratory registrations, in any Ward, and sets forth the process for submission of applications as follows:

1. Applications shall only be accepted from individuals and entities that:
 - a. Timely submitted a Letter of Intent pursuant to the Public Notice for Submission of Letters of Intent published in the D.C. Register on March 12, 2021 and were able to be filed with the Board until noon on May 21, 2021;
 - b. Received a written notice from the Board of eligibility to submit an application for either a dispensary in Ward 3 and/or Ward 5; a cultivation center in any ward, except for Ward 5; or a testing laboratory in any Ward (“Letter of Acceptance”). All Letters of Acceptance were sent between July 30, 2021 and August 19, 2021; and
 - c. Submit a timely application for either a dispensary in Ward 3 and/or Ward 5; a cultivation center in any ward, except for Ward 5; or a testing laboratory in any Ward.
2. Applications shall be submitted beginning Monday, November 29, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. and ending Monday, March 28, 2022 at noon Eastern Time.
3. Applications shall be submitted in hard copy to the ABRA 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 are available on the ABRA website at <http://abra.dc.gov>. If you have trouble accessing the application, please contact mcfacilities@dc.gov.
5. Each applicant is strongly encouraged to read the regulations carefully before submitting an application. You will not be allowed to amend, add to, correct, revise or supplement your application after it has been submitted with one exception. Specifically, applicants claiming the medical cannabis certified business enterprise (CBE) fifty-point preference that submit in writing their equity impact enterprise application and supporting documentation to the Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD) to qualify as a medical cannabis CBE by the noon deadline on March 28, 2022 shall be permitted to provide the Board with certification documentation received from DSLBD until Thursday, May 12, 2022.
6. Applicants applying for a dispensary in both Ward 3 and Ward 5 must submit a separate application package and pay a separate initial application fee. If selected, no applicant will be granted more than one (1) dispensary registration. The initial application fee for a dispensary or cultivation center shall be five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) for each application. The initial application fee for a testing laboratory shall be three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00) for each application. **All application fees are nonrefundable.**
7. Only one (1) dispensary registration will be issued for either Ward 3 or Ward 5; only two (2) cultivation center registrations will be issued; and only two (2) testing laboratory registrations will be issued. Please note that no registration for a new cultivation center in Ward 5 will be accepted, approved, or issued because the statutory limit for Ward 5 has been reached.
8. **PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:** The selection process is set forth in the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations found at 22-C DCMR § Chapters 51-54. Please note that:
 - a. The medical cannabis registration application process is a competitive process.
 - b. No matter how many applications are submitted, only the individual or entity applying for a dispensary in Ward 3 or Ward 5 that receives the highest score among all of the eligible applicants applying for a dispensary in Ward 3 or Ward 5 will be selected to receive the one (1) available dispensary registration.
 - c. No matter how many applications are submitted, only the individuals or entities applying for a cultivation center in any Ward, except for Ward 5, that receive the two highest scores among all of the eligible applicants applying for a cultivation center in any Ward, except for Ward 5, will be selected to receive the two (2) available cultivation center registrations.

- d. No matter how many applications are submitted, only the individuals or entities applying for a testing laboratory in any Ward that receive the two highest scores among all of the eligible applicants applying for a testing laboratory in any Ward will be selected to receive the two (2) available testing laboratory registrations.
- e. **All application fees are nonrefundable.** No portion of the application fee will be returned or refunded to you if you are not selected to receive a registration.

Applicants must **e-mail** all written questions or requests for clarification regarding this announcement or the application process to mcfacilities@dc.gov with “**MC Application Question**” in the subject line. Questions and responses will be posted on ABRA’s website: www.abra.dc.gov. Questions will not be answered on an individual basis. Furthermore, ABRA may decide not to answer a question and the agency is not obligated to answer all questions. Applicants should also monitor ABRA’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 registrant to violate federal laws.