Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY

Office of Social Equity (OSE)
Maryland Department of Social and Economic Mobility

RESOURCES FOR SOCIAL EQUITY LICENSEES

Free technical assistance from the Office of Social Equity

Work, Wages and Wealth!

Maryland law requires the **Office of Social Equity (OSE)** to work with the Maryland Cannabis Administration to provide free technical assistance to social equity applicants. OSE adapts that help as licensees move from launch to operation, growth, and long-term sustainability in Maryland's regulated cannabis industry.

Technical assistance, available now at no cost

Coaching and Technical Assistance
Individualized support and coaching, site visits, and direct engagement at each stage of opening and running your business.

Business Education and Training
Business education and structured training, plus partner-provided training, conferences, and professional development.

Peer Learning
Licensees learn from one another about common challenges, resources, and emerging needs.

Referrals and Connections
Help navigating business development resources, funding opportunities, and State partners.

Work with Social Equity Licensees
Interested in providing services to Maryland cannabis businesses? Visit EconomicMobility.Maryland.gov to stay informed about partnership and service provider opportunities.

Get One-on-One Help from OSE
Email **info.ose@maryland.gov** to ask for individualized technical assistance for your business.

What to Expect
OSE staff work with you on your business needs through coaching, site visits, training, and referrals to State partners and funding, all at no cost.

DoSEM website home page

Funding status, eligibility, how to protect your license, and how to stay informed are on the other side.

EconomicMobility.Maryland.gov

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FUNDING, ELIGIBILITY AND STAYING INFORMED

Office of Social Equity, Maryland Department of Social and Economic Mobility

Funding and program status

AVAILABLE NOW

OSE Technical Assistance

Free coaching, training, site visits, and referrals for social equity licensees. Contact OSE to get started.

EARLIER ROUNDS

Cannabis Business Assistance Fund (CBAF)

Earlier rounds of grants and loans from the Maryland Department of Commerce provided more than $45 million to social equity and eligible medical cannabis businesses. Check commerce.maryland.gov for current opportunities.

NOT YET LAUNCHED

Social Equity Partnership Grant Program

Not open for applications. Supported by a $5 million yearly State appropriation beginning in Fiscal Year 2025, the program will fund partnerships between operational cannabis licensees and social equity licensees. Grants will go to the operational licensees, not to social equity licensees. OSE expects to issue guidance in late 2026.

Who is a social equity applicant?

At least 55% ownership and control must be held by one or more individuals who meet at least one of these criteria.

- **Lived** in a disproportionately impacted area for at least 5 of the 10 years before applying.
- **Attended a public school** in a disproportionately impacted area for at least 5 years.
- **Attended a Maryland four-year college** for at least two years, where at least 40% of students are eligible for a Pell Grant.

The first social equity licensing round opened in 2023 and is now closed. For license applications and licensing rounds, contact the Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA).

Who should stay informed

Social Equity Licensees

Read The Bud Bulletin, OSE's monthly email, for program announcements, funding news, and events.

Prospective Applicants and the Public

MCA handles cannabis licensing. Visit cannabis.maryland.gov and subscribe to The Bud Bulletin for information about future licensing opportunities.

Protect Your License

Some companies target social equity licensees with misleading mailers and partnership offers that would hand control of the business to someone else. Before you sign a partnership, financing, management, or ownership agreement, get independent legal advice and contact OSE about any offer you are unsure of.

Connect with OSE

Sign up for The Bud Bulletin

Maryland Cannabis Administration website

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