



# STARTING A CANNABIS-RELATED BUSINESS

***The State of Illinois controls the licensure process for cannabis businesses.***

*The City of Chicago is not directly involved in the State's licensure process for cannabis businesses ranging from cultivation centers to dispensing organizations. However, the sale of general non-cannabis merchandise will require a City of Chicago business license. Visit [www.chicago.gov/bacp](http://www.chicago.gov/bacp) or call 312-74-GOBIZ to learn more.*

## ★ DISPENSARIES

- Function: Dispensing organizations acquire cannabis from licensed entities for the purpose of selling or dispensing cannabis products to adults over the age of 21.
- Licensure: The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation regulates dispensary licenses.
- Zoning: Dispensaries must be classified as a "special use" by the City's Zoning Board of Appeals, which has a lottery process for dispensary approval. The City's cannabis zoning ordinance also provides that dispensaries cannot be located within: (1) 500 feet of an elementary or secondary school, (2) 1,500 feet of another dispensary, or (3) parts of the central business district.

## ★ CRAFT GROWERS

- Function: Craft growers are authorized to cultivate, dry, cure, and package cannabis as well as perform other necessary activities to make cannabis available. Currently, Craft growers may only contain up to 5,000 square feet of cannabis canopy space.
- Licensure: The Illinois Department of Agriculture administers craft grower licenses. The application period will be available January 7, 2020, through March 15, 2020.
- Zoning: Craft growers must be classified as a "special use" by the City's Zoning Board of Appeals.

## ★ INFUSERS

- Function: Infusers incorporate cannabis or cannabis concentrates to produce cannabis-infused products.
- Licensure: The Illinois Department of Agriculture administers infuser licenses. The license application period will be available January 7, 2020, through March 15, 2020.
- Zoning: Infusers must be classified as a "special use" by the City's Zoning Board of Appeals.

## ★ TRANSPORTERS

- Function: Businesses that transport cannabis on behalf of cannabis business establishments or a licensed community college vocational program.
- Licensure: The Illinois Department of Agriculture administers transporter licenses. The license application period will be available January 7, 2020, through March 15, 2020.

## ★ CULTIVATION CENTERS

- Function: Cultivation centers are authorized to cultivate, process, transport (unless limited by law), and perform other necessary activities to provide cannabis products to cannabis business establishments.
- Licensure: The Illinois Department of Agriculture has processed Early Approval Adult Use Cultivation Center licenses, which apply to existing medical cultivation centers seeking authority to cultivate for recreational purposes. For more information on subsequent cultivation licenses please call the Department at 217-782-2172.
- Zoning: Cultivation centers must be classified as a "special use" by the City's Zoning Board of Appeals.

***The sale, growth, infusion, transportation or cultivation of cannabis is not allowed without a State-issued license. Furthermore, business are not permitted to give away cannabis or cannabis-infused products, or to promote or allow on-site consumption of cannabis or cannabis-infused products within their business or as part of other business activities, such as bus tours or concerts. The use of private residences, short-term rentals or event spaces to host commercial events for cannabis consumption is not permitted.***

***For more information, please visit [www.chicago.gov/cannabis](http://www.chicago.gov/cannabis)***



**City of Chicago**  
**Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection**

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