

From Start to License: Your Path to Cannabis Licensing in Minnesota

Before you begin:

1. Were you verified as a social equity applicant? If so, decide if you will apply for a social equity-classified license.
2. What license type will you apply for? What endorsement(s) will you need to obtain?
3. Talk to your local government about zoning requirements and local retail registration availability (if applicable).

Start here!

Step 1.
Complete your application

Create your account in Accela, OCM's business licensing system.

Review the *Cannabis Business License Application Review and Qualifications Guidance*.

Prepare your required application documents.

Begin your application. Fill in all required information and attach required documentation when prompted.

Pay your application fee.

Step 3.
Final submissions, site registration, local government approval

Applicants have 18 months to complete Steps 3-5.

You are now a **preliminarily approved applicant**.

Complete required background check(s) and submit your *labor peace agreement** to OCM.

Your application passes! You are now a **qualified applicant**.

Step 2a.
Uncapped license approval

OCM reviews your application for minimum qualifications.

OCM sends your application to your local government for zoning compliance approval.**

Submit final application documents to OCM including site information.

Secure your business location.
Be sure to communicate with your local government during this process!

Your application is chosen in the lottery! You are now a **qualified applicant**.

Your application passes! You are now entered into a randomized lottery selection.

Step 2b.
Capped license approval

Your local government confirms that your business location meets all zoning regulations and other local rules and ordinances.

Step 4.
Pre-licensure inspection

Your business undergoes a full pre-licensure inspection by OCM and partner agencies.

You pass the inspection! You are now a **pending licensee**.

Step 5.
License issuance

Pay the initial license fee.

OCM issues your cannabis business license.

You are now a **licensee** and may begin operations.***



* Microbusinesses with fewer than 10 employees do not need to provide a labor peace agreement.

** Your application cannot proceed and your business cannot open until your local government certifies that your business meets zoning compliance!

*** For those seeking to conduct retail activities, you must get retail registration from your local government directly (in addition to your license) before beginning cannabis sales.

Learn more about the licensing process at

mn.gov/ocm/businesses/licensing

