

HOW TO GET A DISPENSARY LICENSE IN MASSACHUSETTS – 2025 GUIDE

This guide outlines the licensing types, eligibility, step-by-step application process, and compliance requirements for launching a cannabis dispensary in Massachusetts.



To open a dispensary in 2025, applicants must:

- Choose a license type (medical, recreational, or microbusiness)
- Undergo prequalification (background & financial checks)
- Secure a Host Community Agreement (HCA)
- Hold a community outreach meeting
- Submit a full application via the Massachusetts Cannabis Industry Portal (MassCIP)

Types of Dispensary Licenses in Massachusetts

1. Medical Marijuana Treatment Center (MTC) License

- Vertical integration required (cultivation to sales)
- Home delivery allowed for registered patients
- Must comply with strict medical marijuana regulations

2. Marijuana Retailer License

- For adult-use sales (21+)
- Storefront required; on-site consumption is prohibited
- Can purchase and repackage products for resale

Marijuana Microbusiness License

- Combines cultivation (up to 5,000 sq ft) and manufacturing
- Limited to 2,000 lbs of cannabis per year
- Must have majority MA residency (12+ months)
- May apply for delivery endorsement

Step-by-Step Application Process

1. Prequalification

- Background Checks for all persons with ownership/control
- Financial Disclosures to prove capital and operational funding
- Proof of Assets and financial sustainability

2. Submit Your Dispensary Application

- Register on MassCIP
- Business & operations plan
- Proof of MA residency
- Financial documents
- HCA with municipality
- Community outreach meeting record
- Pay \$1,500 application fee
- CCC reviews and may issue a Provisional License

3. Provisional License & Build-Out

- Begin facility construction and operational setup
- Install security systems, POS software, and inventory control
- CCC conducts final inspections

4. Final License

- Upon passing inspection, receive a Final License to operate

Key Compliance Requirements

- Use Metrc for seed-to-sale tracking
- Maintain 24/7 video surveillance and secure storage
- Follow advertising restrictions (no marketing to minors)
- Conduct ID verification for all sales
- Stay at least 500 feet from schools, unless waived locally

Issue	Solution
Incomplete municipal approva	Confirm your town has opted in to adult-use licensing
Missed compliance deadlines	Use reminders and automation tools
Metrc discrepancies	Perform regular audits and use RFID syncing
Inadequate security or layout	Follow OCP facility design requirements

Key Takeaways

- Maine offers both medical and adult-use dispensary licenses
- Applications involve conditional licensure, local approval, and final OCP review
- You must comply with Metrc inventory tracking and use an integrated POS
- Local and state compliance are required at every stage of operations
- Tools like IndicaOnline streamline setup, compliance, and growth

Estimated Startup Costs

1. Category

- Application: \$1,500
- Annual License Fee: \$50,000
- Property Lease + Buildout: \$200,000–\$450,000
- Initial Inventory: \$50,000–\$150,000
- Security Systems: \$25,000–\$75,000
- POS & Software (e.g., IndicaOnline): \$5,000–\$15,000

Point of Sale (POS) and Inventory Management

- Integrate with Metrc for state tracking
- Automate inventory management and compliance reporting
- Verify age, enforce purchase limits, and store customer data securely

IndicaOnline provides:

- Full Metrc integration
- Custom POS for MA dispensaries
- RFID-based inventory tracking
- Real-time compliance alerts and audit prep tools

Social Equity Program (SEP)

- Living in a disproportionately impacted area
- Past convictions under cannabis laws
- Family member of someone convicted under cannabis laws
- Economic Empowerment Priority Applicants

SEP Benefits:

- 50% off annual license fees
- Waived application and Metrc monthly fees
- Exclusive access to delivery and social consumption licenses
- Free technical assistance and training

Annual License Renewal

- Updated business/operations plan
- Security certifications
- Financial documentation
- Evidence of tax compliance

Key Takeaways

- A Massachusetts dispensary license in 2025 is competitive but achievable with proper planning
- Choose the right license type and follow CCC protocol
- Secure an HCA, hold a community outreach meeting, and prepare for inspections
- Integrate with Metrc and use a compliant POS system like IndicaOnline
- Consider applying under the Social Equity Program for reduced costs and expanded access

Want to Learn More? Click here to [book a call](#).

Disclaimer: This is not legal advice; it serves solely as a general guideline. Please consult legal professionals for advice. This document was created in 2025 and reflects the information, policies, and details available at that time. We recommend verifying the accuracy and relevance of the content before referencing it in the future.