



TO: DIA Cultivator Applicants, Provisional Cultivator License Holders

FROM: Department of Consumer Protection, Cannabis Control Division

DATE: July 8, 2025

RE: 2025 Legislative Updates Related to Cannabis Cultivation

This notice is to inform you that various sections of [Public Act 25-166](#) provide licensing opportunities for applicants that are approved to apply for a provisional cultivator license and for existing provisional cultivator license holders. This notice is for informational purposes only and is not an exhaustive list of legislation. Applicants and licensees who have questions regarding the interpretation of the law or their eligibility are encouraged to seek legal counsel.

Section 8 of Public Act 25-166

From July 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026, a social equity applicant who has submitted an application to the department for a cultivator license, or has received a provisional cultivator license, pursuant to section 21a-420o of the general statutes, may withdraw their cultivator application or provisional license and apply for a micro-cultivator license.

To be eligible to apply as a micro-cultivator, the applicant or licensee must:

- Have been verified by the Social Equity Council to meet the criteria as a social equity applicant;
- Be eligible to receive a provisional cultivator licensure pursuant to section 21a-420o of the general statutes; and,
- Withdraw the social equity applicant's application submitted, or provisional cultivator license issued, pursuant to section 21a-420o of the general statutes.

Any license fees paid in connection with the withdrawn application are non-refundable.

During the period beginning July 1, 2025, and ending March 31, 2027, the department shall issue a provisional micro-cultivator license to a social equity applicant who meets the eligibility criteria above who:

- Submits an application for a micro-cultivator license to the Department between July 1, 2025 and December 31, 2026;
- Submits documentation required to determine the applicant's eligibility as a social equity applicant set forth in subsections (e) through (l) of [section 21a-420g](#) of the general statutes; and,
- A written statement by the social equity applicant disclosing any changes in the ownership or control of the social equity applicant after the Social Equity Council verified that the applicant

met the criteria for a social equity applicant. In the event of a change in ownership or control, the Social Equity Council must determine whether the social equity applicant continues to meet the criteria for a social equity applicant and notify the Department of such determination.

Applicants approved to apply for a provisional cultivator license pursuant to section 21a-420o of the general statutes who have not been awarded a provisional cultivator license must pay an application fee of \$500,000. For applicants who have paid the \$3,000,000 fee to receive a provisional cultivator license, such fee will be considered the application fee for the micro-cultivator license application.

Micro-cultivator licenses issued under this provision of the law will be processed by the Department as a micro-cultivator application submitted through the lottery. The application is in development and will be available on eLicense in the coming weeks.

Section 9 of Public Act 25-166

From January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027, the department may issue a cultivator license or micro-cultivator license to a social equity applicant who partners with a hemp producer with a facility outside of a disproportionately impacted area (DIA). The hemp producer license must be held uninterrupted since January 1, 2024.

To be eligible, the social equity applicant must:

- Submit a complete application for a provisional cultivator or micro-cultivator license pursuant to section 21a-420o of the general statutes, as amended;
- On or before June 30, 2027, be verified by the Social Equity Council that such applicant meets the criteria for a social equity applicant;
- On or before July 1, 2027, the provisional licensee submits to the department a complete application for a final cultivator or micro-cultivator license including:
 - A copy of a fully executed lease agreement between the provisional licensee and a hemp producer, which hemp producer has been continually licensed since January 1, 2024. The agreement must provide:
 - For the use of the hemp producer's lot that is on record with the Department of Agriculture on January 1, 2024, and may be located outside of a disproportionately impacted area;
 - That the hemp producer does not currently hold a position of ownership, control or management of the provisional licensee, and if a final cultivator or micro-cultivator license is issued to the provisional licensee pursuant to this section, the hemp producer shall not hold a position of ownership, control or management of the licensee for a period of seven years from the date final license is issued; and,
 - An express acknowledgment by the parties that if the department issues a final cultivator or micro-cultivator license to the provisional licensee pursuant to this section, the hemp producer shall immediately be deemed to have automatically surrendered such hemp producer's license.

- Evidence that the hemp producer has been continually licensed since January 1, 2024 (i.e. copy of the hemp producer license);
- An acknowledgment by the provisional licensee that, if the department issues a final cultivator or micro-cultivator license to such provisional licensee pursuant to this section, such licensee shall (i) in the case of a final cultivator license, be eligible to create only one equity joint venture after such licensee receives such license and commences cultivation activities under such license, or (ii) in the case of a final micro-cultivator license, be ineligible to create an equity joint venture after such licensee receives such license. This acknowledgment will be included as part of the license application in eLicense; and,
- An attestation by the provisional licensee that (i) the hemp producer from which such provisional licensee is leasing land shall have no ownership interest in, or managerial control over, such licensee, other than any ownership interest or control previously disclosed to the Social Equity Council for the purpose of determining that the social equity applicant meets the criteria for a social equity applicant pursuant to section 21a-420o of the general statutes, and (ii) all hemp has been harvested from the lot subject to the lease between the provisional licensee and the hemp producer. This attestation will be included as part of the license application in eLicense.

The application is in development and will be available in the coming weeks on eLicense.

Section 16 of Public Act 25-166

A cultivator licensed under section 21a-420o of the general statutes cannot increase its ownership in an equity joint venture by more than 50% during the seven-year period from when the final license is issued.

Section 19 of Public Act 25-166

Beginning October 1, 2025, a social equity applicant issued a final cultivator license pursuant to section 21a-420o of the general statutes may conduct any authorized activities, with the exception of the manufacturing or extraction of cannabis, outside of a DIA located within the state. A cultivator performing such activities outside of a DIA is subject to the requirements outlined in section 19(b)(2) of [Public Act 25-166](#).

Section 20 of Public Act 25-166

Beginning July 1, 2025, a micro-cultivator with an exclusively indoor grow may apply for a retailer or hybrid retailer endorsement within one year of the issuance of the final micro-cultivator license or by June 30, 2026, whichever is later.

Information will continue to be added to <http://ct.gov/cannabis> to reflect these changes. To view these updates and more information, please visit <http://ct.gov/cannabis> or email DCP.Cannabis@ct.gov with specific questions you may have.