



Illinois Adult Use Cannabis Craft Grower, Infuser, and Transporter Licenses

How do I apply?

License application forms for adult use cannabis craft growers, infusers, and transporters are available on the [Illinois Department of Agriculture \(IDOA\) website](#). **Applications are due in person no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 16, 2020.** The license applications can be submitted at the IDOA John R. Block Building, 801 E. Sangamon Ave. in Springfield or at the James R. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph St in Chicago.

Does it help if I get my application in early?

No. IDOA will begin accepting applications on February 14, 2020, and the review process will not begin until after the submission period ends which is 5:00 p.m. on March 16, 2020.

How much does it cost to apply?

Applicants must submit a \$5,000 nonrefundable fee for each license they are applying for unless they are Social Equity Applicants (see below). Social Equity Applicants are required to submit a reduced nonrefundable fee of \$2,500 for each license application.

How many craft grower, infuser, and transporter licenses will be awarded?

IDOA will award up to 40 adult-use cannabis craft grower and 40 adult-use cannabis infuser licenses no later than July 1, 2020. IDOA does not have a limit for transporter licenses. All applicants regardless of the license they are applying for must receive at least 75% of available points to be considered. Applicants for transport licenses that score 75% of the available points and meet all other requirements for a transporter license will be issued a license.

Do I have to have a location to get a license?

Applicants will be required to submit applicable documentation regarding their location for craft growers and infusers. Applicants will need to provide documentation regarding their ownership or if they have a lease. If the applicant doesn't own or have a lease, they will be required to submit documentation from the property owner and/or landlord certifying they can use the land for operating a craft grower and/or infuser facility. While a proposed location is a required component of each application, the building does not have to be constructed at the time of application. **All applicants for a craft grower, infuser, or transporter license will be required to have an exhibit completed by a Zoning Authority or Local Government.**

What is a "Social Equity Applicant"?

A Social Equity Applicant may be eligible for financial and technical assistance to obtain a license and start their cannabis business. A Social Equity Applicant is an applicant that is an **Illinois resident** that meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Has at least 51% ownership and control by one or more individuals who:
 - Have lived in a Disproportionately Impacted Area in 5 of the past 10 years. Disproportionately Impacted Areas are census tracts that have high rates of arrest and incarceration related to cannabis offenses, among other qualifications including high poverty and unemployment. [A map of these areas is available here.](#)

- Have been arrested for, convicted of, or adjudicated delinquent for cannabis-related offenses eligible for expungement, including cannabis possession up to 500 grams or intent to deliver up to 30 grams.
- Have a parent, child, or spouse that has been arrested for, convicted of, or adjudicated delinquent for cannabis-related offenses eligible for expungement, including possession up to 500 grams or intent to deliver up to 30 grams.
- Has more than 10 full-time employees, and more than half of those employees:
 - Currently reside in a [Disproportionately Impacted Area](#).
 - Have been arrested for, convicted of, or adjudicated delinquent for cannabis-related offenses eligible for expungement, including cannabis possession up to 500 grams or intent to deliver up to 30 grams.
 - Have a parent, child, or spouse that has been arrested for, convicted of, or adjudicated delinquent for cannabis-related offenses eligible for expungement, including possession up to 500 grams or intent to deliver up to 30 grams.

What are the benefits of being a “Social Equity Applicant”?

- **Receive technical assistance and support** provided through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to Social Equity Applicants on everything from creating a business plan to applying for a license at a range of locations throughout the state. For more information regarding technical assistance visit, <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Pages/CannabisEquity.aspx>.
- **Receive 200 points** (out of a possible total of 1000) from IDOA on your license application score.
- **Pay reduced license and application fees.** Application fee for social equity applicants is \$2,500 regardless of the license. The license fee for qualified social equity applicants is \$20,000 for craft growers, \$2,500 for infusers, and \$5,000 for transporters.
- **Access to low-interest loans** provided through DCEO for starting and operating a cannabis-related business. For more information on the social equity cannabis loan program, [click here](#).

Where can I get more information?

If you have questions about the license applications for craft grower, infusers, or transporters, IDOA will publish two rounds of questions and answers. [First Round of Applicant Questions and Answers](#) was published on January 21, 2020. The second round will be published on February 4, 2020. Please be sure to review these documents as you work through the application.

If you have questions about state programming for Social Equity Applicants or other questions about participating in the cannabis industry, send them to CEO.AdultUseCannabis@Illinois.gov. You may also text **CANNABISILLINOIS** to **42828** to be added to our distribution list for further updates.