



Department of
Cannabis Control
CALIFORNIA

Overview of Department of Cannabis Control

September 20, 2023

Integrity • Fairness • Innovation • Knowledge • Collaboration • Support

What is the Department of Cannabis Control? (DCC)

- *DCC is the California state agency that licenses and regulates cannabis businesses.*

DCC regulates:

- Growing of cannabis plants (cultivators)
- Manufacture of cannabis products (manufacturers)
- Transportation and tracking of cannabis goods throughout the state (distributors)
- Testing of cannabis goods (testing laboratories)
- Sale of cannabis goods (retailers)
- Events where cannabis is sold or used (temp. cannabis events)

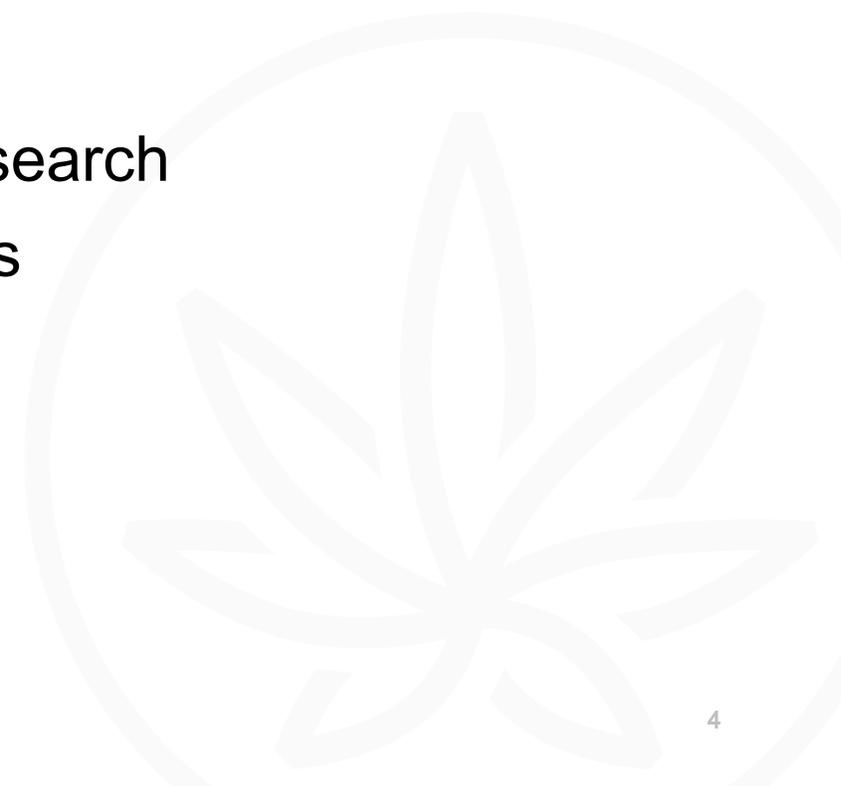
How Department of Cannabis Control (DCC) was formed

- DCC was formed by consolidating three former state cannabis authorities:



DCC Divisions

- Administration
- Compliance
- Enforcement
- Equity & Inclusion
- Government Affairs
- Information Technology Services
- Laboratory Services
- Legal Affairs
- Licensing
- Policy & Research
- Public Affairs



DCC – Mission, Vision, Values



Mission

Through innovative policies and effective implementation, the Department advances and facilitates a well-regulated, legal market that benefits all Californians.



Vision

California has a safe, sustainable and equitable cannabis market that serves as an example for the world.

Values: Integrity, Fairness, Innovation, Knowledge, Collaboration, Support



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Licensed Cannabis Businesses

Overview of our Licenses

Dual Licensing Model

- Dual regulatory structure: cannabis businesses are subject to regulation at both the state and local levels.
- Local jurisdictions may prohibit the establishment or operation of cannabis businesses
- **56%** – 302 cities and counties do not allow any type of cannabis business
- **61%** – 327 cities and counties do not allow any type of retail cannabis business
- Find permissible jurisdictions:
- <https://cannabis.ca.gov/cannabis-laws/where-cannabis-businesses-are-allowed/>



Licenses by the numbers

- During its first year of operation, the DCC issued more than 4,000 new licenses and transitioned almost 1,000 licensees from provisional to annual.
- Since launch, DCC has issued almost 8,500 cannabis licenses since 2021.
- Search for a license with our Cannabis Unified License Search by clicking Search for a license on our homepage

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Search this website

Applicants ▾ Licensees ▾ Consumers ▾ Cannabis laws ▾ Resources ▾ About us ▾

Data tool: where cannabis licenses are allowed

Californians can now search by city or county to see which jurisdictions allow cannabis businesses to be licensed and where consumers can access safe, legal, and tested cannabis products.

[Learn more](#)

Get started

[Apply for a license](#) > [Search for a license](#) > [File a complaint](#) >



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Overview of Cannabis Compliance

Compliance Division

Compliance Division

- **Roles**
 - Routine Compliance Inspections
 - Complaint Investigations
 - Recalls & Remediations
 - Track and Trace Surveillance
 - Disciplinary and Administrative Actions
 - Technical Assistance
- **Focus**
 - Education of industry to maintain compliance
 - Environmental and administrative compliance
 - Industry integrity





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Enforcement Division

Unified Cannabis Enforcement Task Force

Enforcement Division

- DCC's Law Enforcement Division is responsible for conducting and supporting criminal investigations of illegal commercial cannabis activity in California to protect consumers and support the legitimacy of the legal market and preservation of California resources.
- The DCC's Law Enforcement Division seized over \$1B worth of illegal cannabis in its first 13 months of existence.

United Cannabis Enforcement Task Force (UCETF)

On October 5, 2022, Governor Newsom announced the creation of the Unified Cannabis Enforcement Taskforce (UCETF).

UCETF is a new multi-agency, cross-jurisdictional taskforce of enforcement agencies designed to better coordinate agencies combatting illegal cannabis operations and transnational criminal organizations.

Members of UCETF include the Department of Tax & Fee Administration, The Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the California Employment Development Department.

During the first two quarters of 2023, UCETF has served 113 search warrants, seized over \$161M of cannabis products, and confiscated 23 firearms.



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Shaping the future

Cannabis Advisory Committee (CAC)

Cannabis Advisory Committee

The CAC advises the DCC leadership on the development of relevant standards and regulations for commercial cannabis businesses, including those necessary to protect public health and safety. The CAC meets quarterly.

CAC subcommittees include:

- Equity
- Cultivation
- Medicinal Use
- Laboratory
- Public Health & Community Impact





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Grants

Grant Funding

Cannabis Academic Research Grant

On April 25, 2023 the Department of Cannabis Control awarded \$20 million in research grants to 16 academic institutions in California.

Research topics awarded funding include:

- *A Translational Study on the Short- and Long-term Effects of High-dose THC.*
- *An Evaluation of Synthetic and Semi-Synthetic Cannabinoids.*
- *The State of Medical Cannabis in California.*
- *Assessing the Health of California's Cannabis Industry.*
- *The Adverse Effects of Inhaled Cannabis Concentrates (dabs) Compared to Smoked Cannabis: A controlled human-drug administration study of cannabis potency.*

Local Jurisdiction Retail Access Grant

Provides \$20 million in funding to local governments that do not currently license cannabis retail businesses to assist the jurisdictions in developing and implementing local cannabis retailer licensing programs.

Prioritizes local jurisdictions that propose to:

- Assist cannabis equity businesses
- Address gaps in consumer access
- Plan to permit cannabis retailers through existing business permitting processes



Local Jurisdiction Retail Access Grant – Two Phases

- This grant program is being distributed in two phases:
 - **Phase I:** awards funding to jurisdictions to develop and implement a local cannabis retailer licensing program (up to \$10 million total funding; awarded by June 20, 2023)

Over \$4M was awarded to 18 local jurisdictions during Phase I of the program.

- **Phase II:** awards funding to jurisdictions based on the number of cannabis retail permits issued (at least \$10 million total funding, maximum \$2 million per jurisdiction; awarded on or after June 30, 2023)

Other Cannabis Grant Opportunities

- Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) Prop 64 Funding
 - Eligibility: cities and counties that have **not** banned both indoor and outdoor commercial cannabis cultivation, or retail sale of cannabis.
 - Provides funds to local governments to assist with law enforcement, fire protection, and other local programs addressing public health and safety associated with Prop 64 implementation.
 - <https://www.bscc.ca.gov/proposition-64-public-health-safety-grant-program>
- Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) Equity Grants
 - Funding to aid local equity program efforts to support equity applicants and licensees.
 - Equity assessments, development of a local equity program, and assistance for equity applicants and licensees.
 - <https://business.ca.gov/cannabis-equity-grants-program-for-local-jurisdictions>

Other Cannabis Grant Opportunities

- CHP Cannabis Tax Fund Grant Program (CTFGP)
 - Funding for local governments and qualified nonprofit organizations.
 - DUI law enforcement & prevention, and programs that help enforce traffic laws, educate the public in traffic safety, and reduce traffic fatalities & injuries.
 - <https://www.chp.ca.gov/ResearchAndPlanningSectionSite/Pages/Cannabis-Tax-Fund-Grant-Program.aspx>



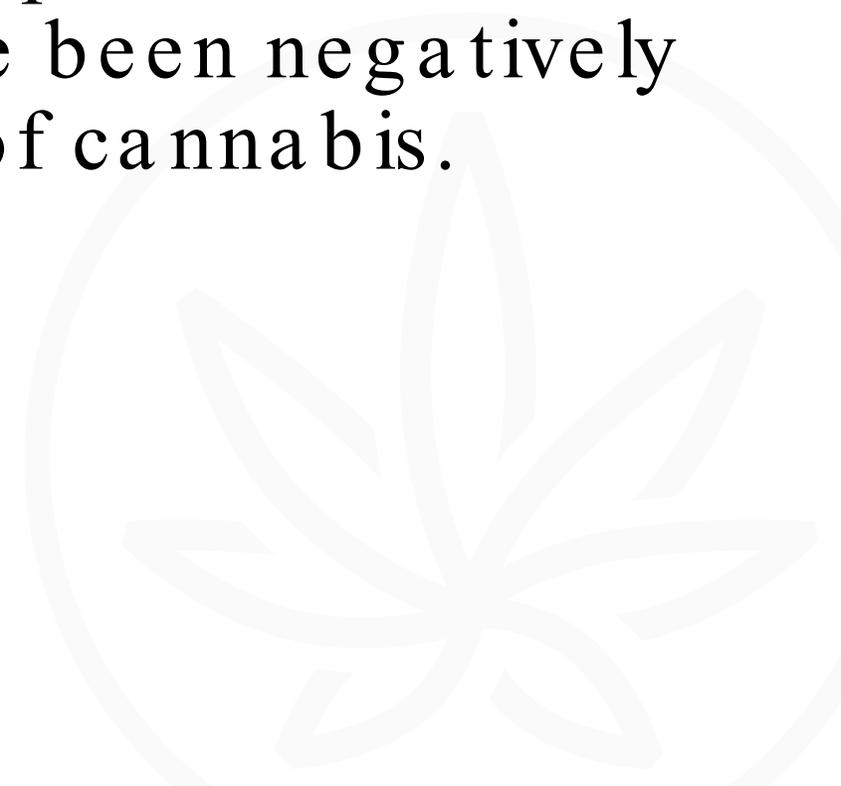
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Overview of Equity and inclusion

Division of Equity and Inclusion

Equity in the Cannabis Market

The Governor, State of California, and the DCC are committed to creating additional opportunities for individuals and communities that have been negatively impacted by the criminalization of cannabis.



State Support for Equity Businesses

California allows for the expungement of records, supports for business ownership, and provides support to non-profits in communities that have been negatively impacted by the criminalization of cannabis through community reinvestment grants.

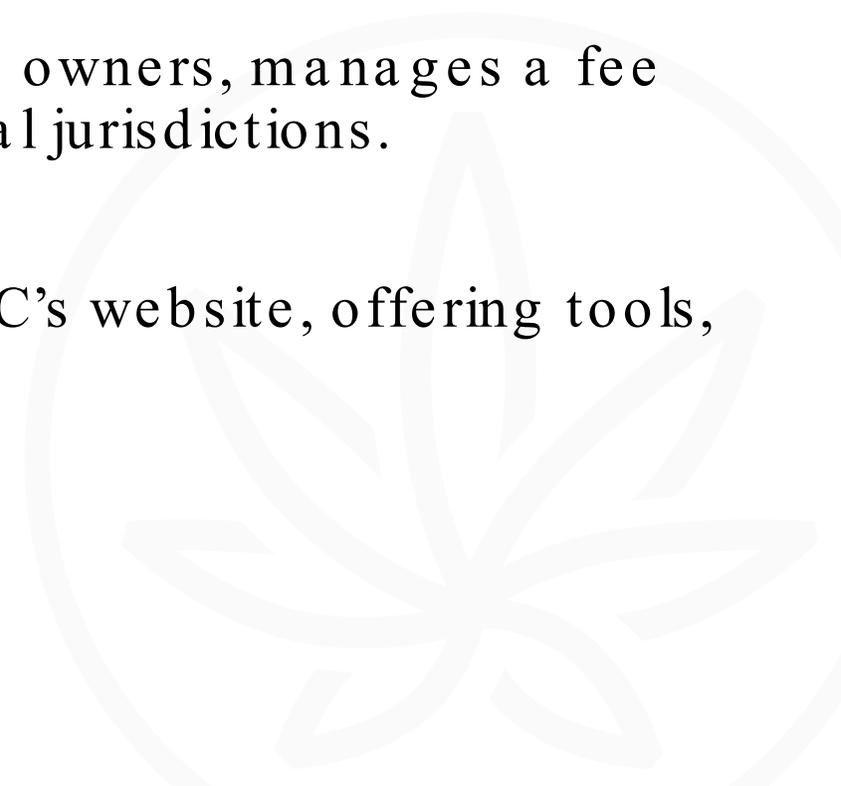
Over the last four years, the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) has committed over \$105 million dollars to support local jurisdictions as they develop and implement equity programs.

DCC Support for Equity Businesses

The department supports local jurisdictions in improving outcomes for equity applicants.

The DCC provides technical assistance to equity business owners, manages a fee relief program and highlights promising practices for local jurisdictions.

Currently working to enhance our equity presence on DCC's website, offering tools, resources, and guidance.



Local Support for Equity Businesses

Local jurisdictions across the state are primarily responsible for implementing equity programs. Local jurisdictions use funds provided by GO-Biz as well as local funding.

Local jurisdictions can help by ensuring that people most harmed and economically disadvantaged by cannabis criminalization can access services, resources, and assistance to help them enter the cannabis industry as entrepreneurs





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Contact Us

Connecting with the DCC

How to Reach Us

- For general information:
info@cannabis.ca.gov
- To file a complaint:
complaints@cannabis.ca.gov
- For licensing questions:
licensing@cannabis.ca.gov
- For local jurisdictions:
licensingoutreach@cannabis.ca.gov
- For equity questions:
equity@cannabis.ca.gov





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Thank You

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