





## **The meeting will begin momentarily**

We will take public comments at this meeting. Written comments for the record may also be submitted to the Cannabis Regulatory Commission before, during, and after the meeting in writing at [nj.gov/cannabis](https://nj.gov/cannabis).



**March 24, 2022**



# Agenda

- Roll Call
- Executive Session (Anticipated 30 minutes)
- Approval of prior meeting's minutes
- Chair's Report
- Executive Director's Report
- **Consideration of delegated authority concerning:**
  - a. Orders to recall/destroy adult-use & medicinal cannabis items
  - b. Processing of submissions of qualifying patients & caregivers
  - c. Certain applications for facility modifications
- **Adult-Use Cannabis**
  - a. Consideration of applications for conditional licenses
- **Medicinal Cannabis**
  - a. Consideration of reissuance of 2019 RFA award for medicinal dispensary permit
  - b. Consideration of expanded ATC certifications
- **Public Comment**
  - a. Consideration of medicinal cannabis patient needs
- Adjournment



# Roll Call



# **Executive Session**

**Return: Approx. 30 mins**



# **Approval of Prior Minutes**



# Chair's Report



# CRC Social Equity Initiatives

- **Workforce Development**
  - Engagement with DOL and Community Colleges
- **Business Assistance**
  - Cannabis Business Navigator
- **Access to Capital**
  - Collaborative work with EDA



# **Executive Director's Report**



# Executive Director's Agenda

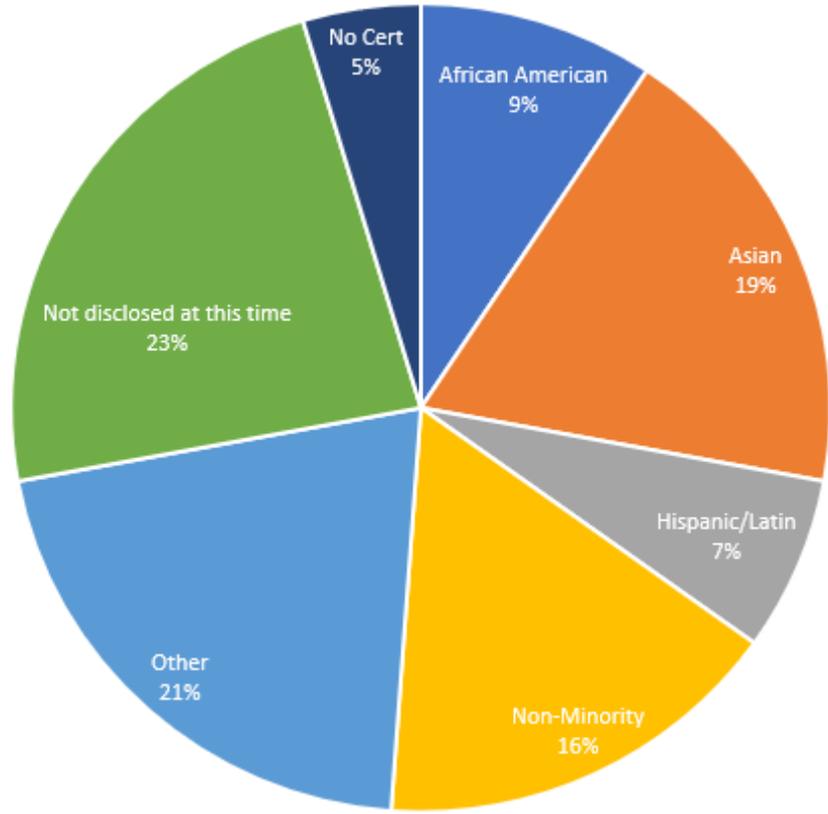
- 2019 RFA Update
- Recreational License Applications



# 2019 RFA Update

## Demographic Data of 2019 RFA Awardees

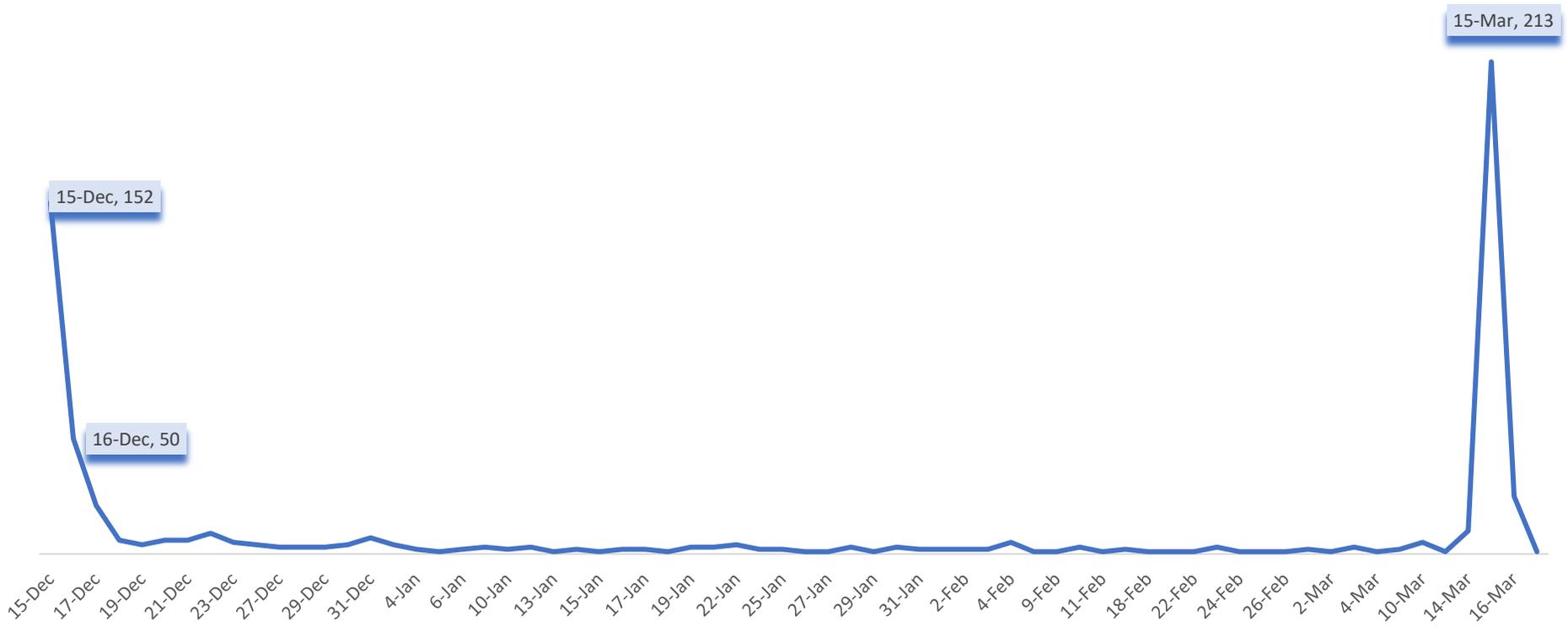
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Asian	8	19%
Black or African American	4	9%
Hispanic or Latino of All Races	3	7%
Non-Minority	7	16%
Other/Not Disclosed	19	44%
No Certification	2	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>100%</b>



\* Subject to verification. Additional information may be available when permitting is complete.



# Recreational Business Applications - Applications received by date





# Recreational Business Applications

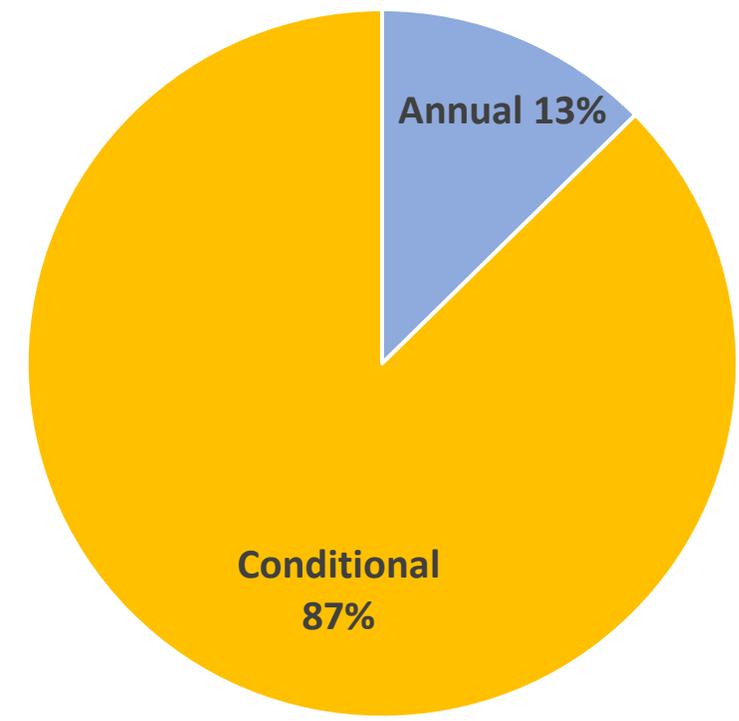
- **675** total applications received as of 3/22
- **264** since 3/15



# Recreational Business Applications

## Application Types (as of 3/17)

<u>Application Type</u>	<u>Number</u>
Annual	79
Conditional	547
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 626

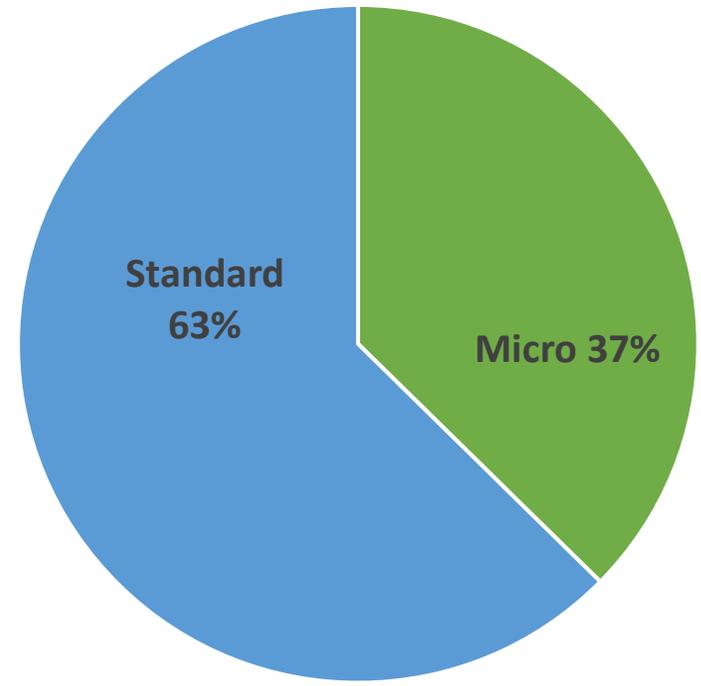




# Recreational Business Applications

## Business Categories (as of 3/17)

<u>Business Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Micro	234	37%
Standard	392	63%
Total	626	100%

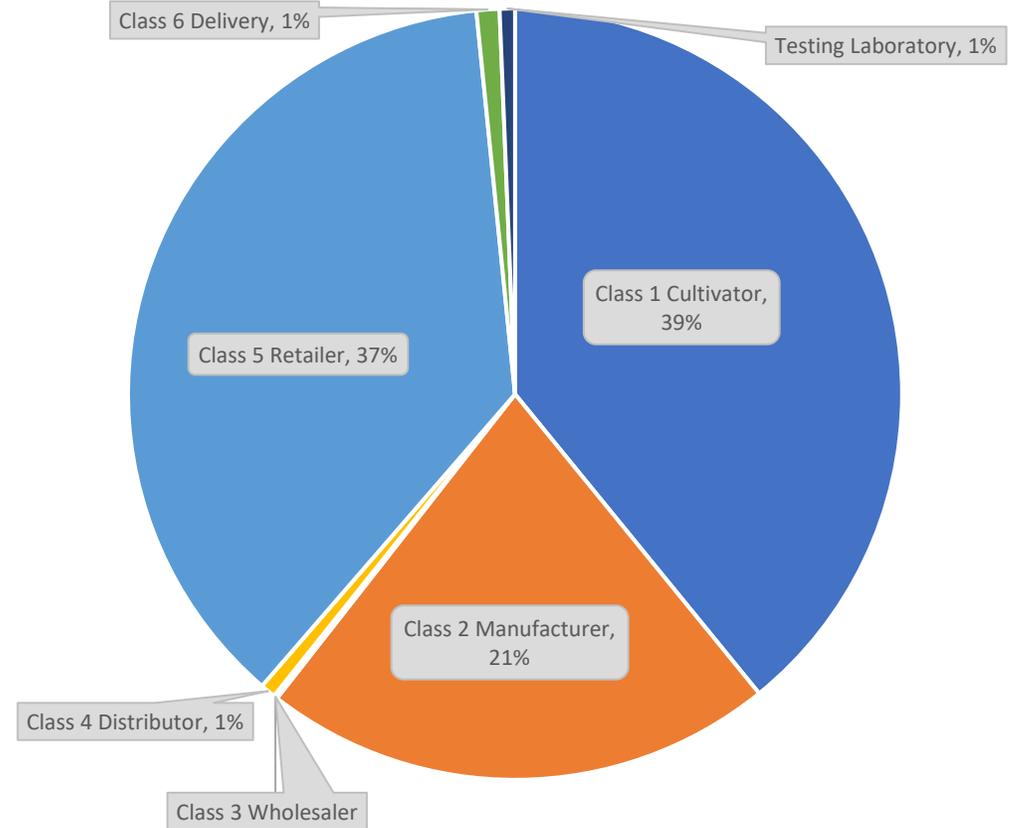




# Recreational Business Applications

## Business Types (as of 3/17)

<u>License Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Class 1 Cultivator	245	39%
Class 2 Manufacturer	134	21%
Class 3 Wholesaler	1	0%
Class 4 Distributor	4	1%
Class 5 Retailer	232	37%
Class 6 Delivery	6	1%
Testing Laboratory	4	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>100%</b>

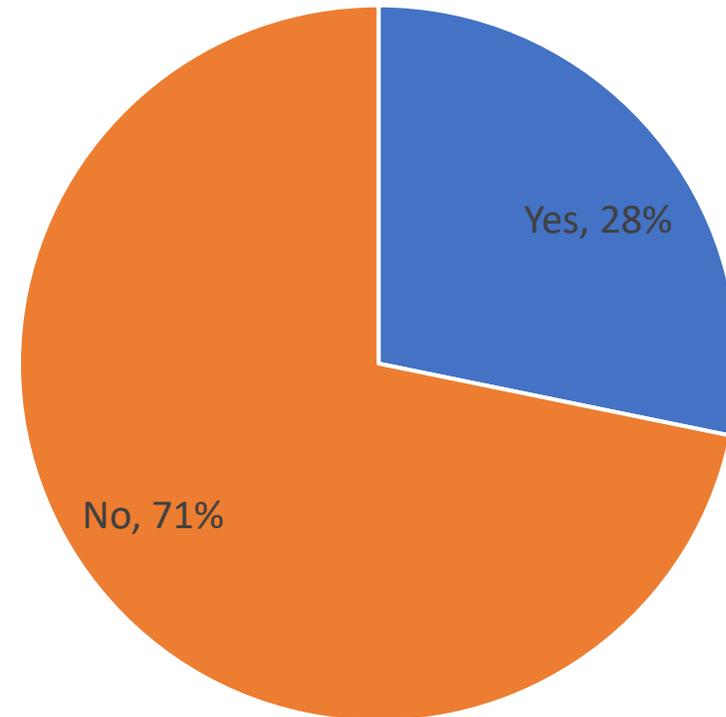




# Recreational Business Applications

## Social Equity Businesses (as of 3/17)

<u>License Type</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Total</u>
Class 1 Cultivator	158	85	243
Class 2 Manufacturer	99	33	132
Class 3 Wholesaler	1	0	1
Class 4 Distributor	3	1	4
Class 5 Retailer	179	51	230
Class 6 Delivery	1	5	6
Testing Laboratory	4	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>620</b>



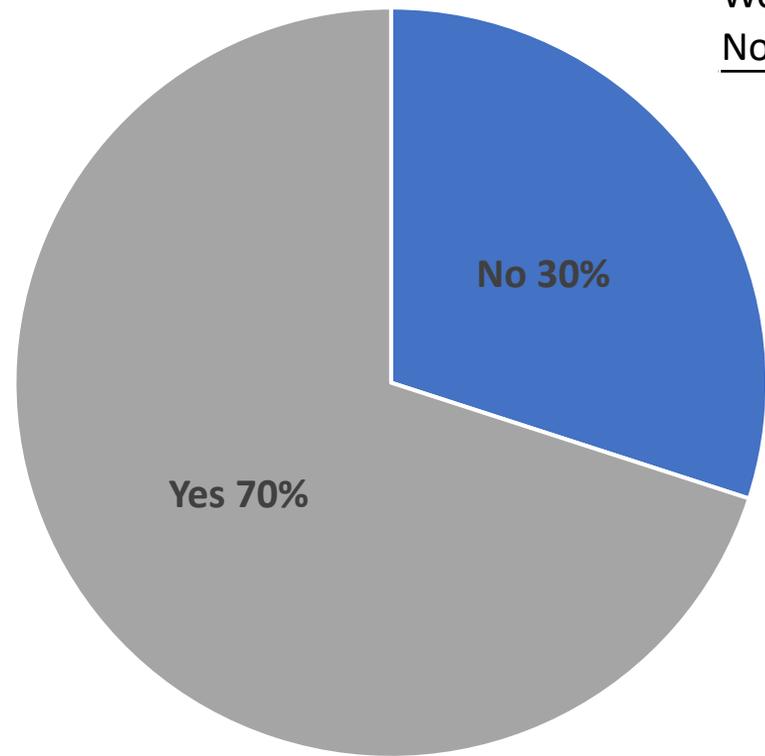


# Recreational Business Applications

## Diversely-Owned Businesses (as of 3/17)

<u>License Type</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Total</u>
Class 1 Cultivator	86	158	245
Class 2 Manufacturer	47	84	134
Class 3 Wholesaler	1	0	1
Class 4 Distributor	2	2	4
Class 5 Retailer	47	183	232
Class 6 Delivery	0	6	6
Testing Laboratory	3	1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>626</b>

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>
Disabled Veteran Owned	15
Minority Owned	191
Woman Owned	228
None	192
<b>Total</b>	<b>626</b>

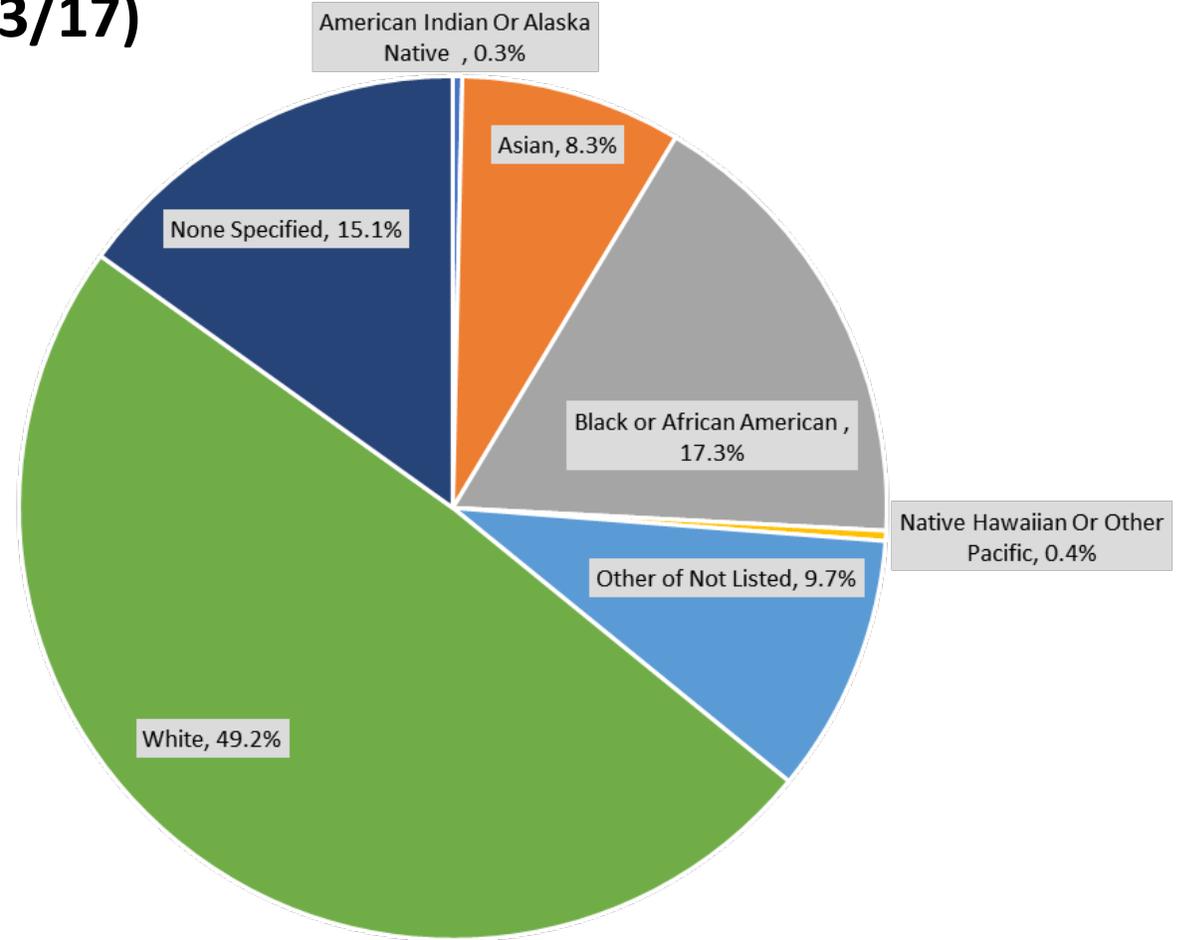




# Recreational Business Applications

## Demographic Data (as of 3/17)

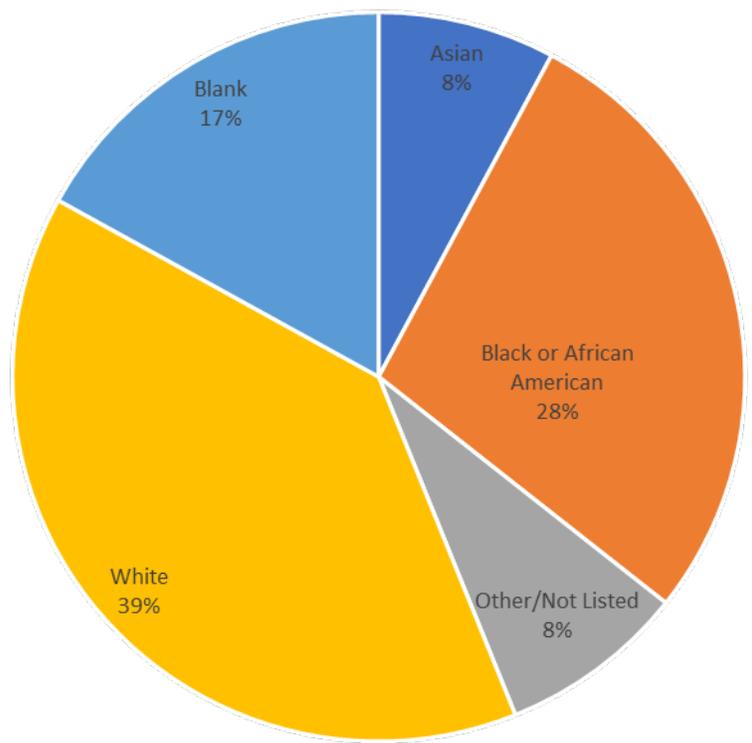
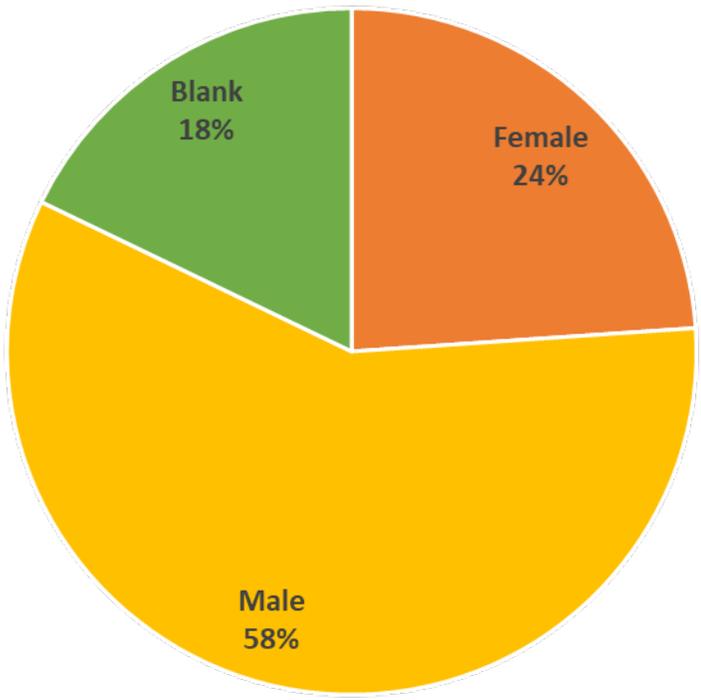
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
American Indian Or Alaska Native	9	0.3%
Asian	214	8.3%
Black or African American	441	17.3%
Native Hawaiian Or Other Pacific	10	0.4%
Other of Not Listed	249	9.7%
White	1267	49.2%
None Specified	390	15.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2579</b>	
<hr/>		
Hispanic or Latino of All Races	241	9.3%





# Consideration of Conditional Licenses

- **68** applications recommended for approval
- **230** Persons of Interest





# Recreational Business Applications

## COMMON REASONS FOR CURE LETTERS:

- Missing *Entity Disclosure Form*
- Expired *Government ID*
- *FSA and/or MSA Agreements* not submitted
- *Most recent tax return* not submitted



# Recreational Business Applications

## COMMON REASONS FOR CURE LETTERS:

- **Incomplete or missing forms**
  - Missing *signatures*
  - Not *notarized*
  - Incomplete or missing Personal History Disclosure Forms
  - Incomplete or missing Entity Disclosure Forms



# Recreational Business Applications

Additional tool for applicants  
from the NJ Office of Innovation

- Free
- Customized
- Easy-to-use
- Accessible thru [nj.gov/cannabiz](https://nj.gov/cannabiz)



## New Business Resources

Get a free, personalized checklist from the NJ Office of Innovation to help you get your cannabis businesses established, licensed, and operating.



# **Consideration of Delegated Authority**

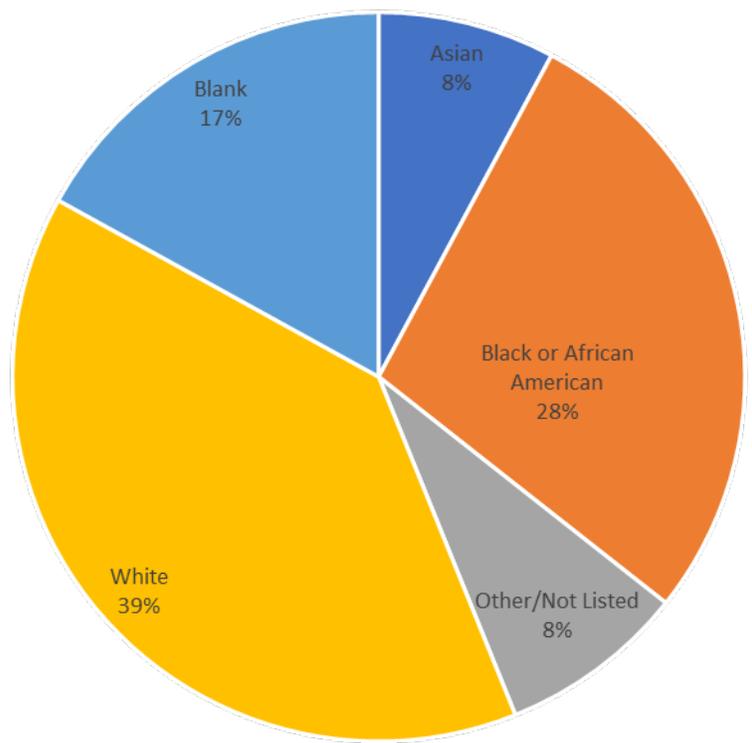
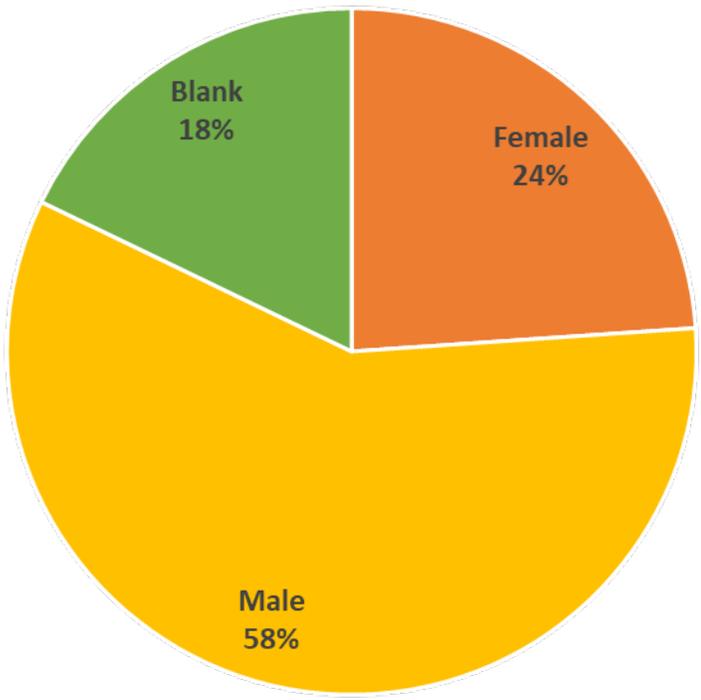


# Adult-Use Cannabis



# Consideration of Conditional Licenses

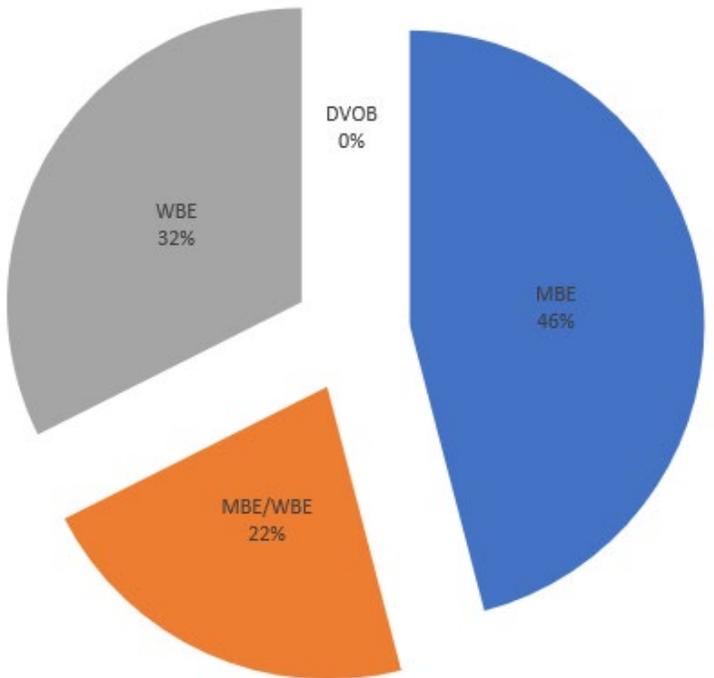
- **68** Applications recommended for approval
- **230** Persons of Interest





# Proposed Personal-Use Conditional Awardees

## Diversely-Owned Businesses

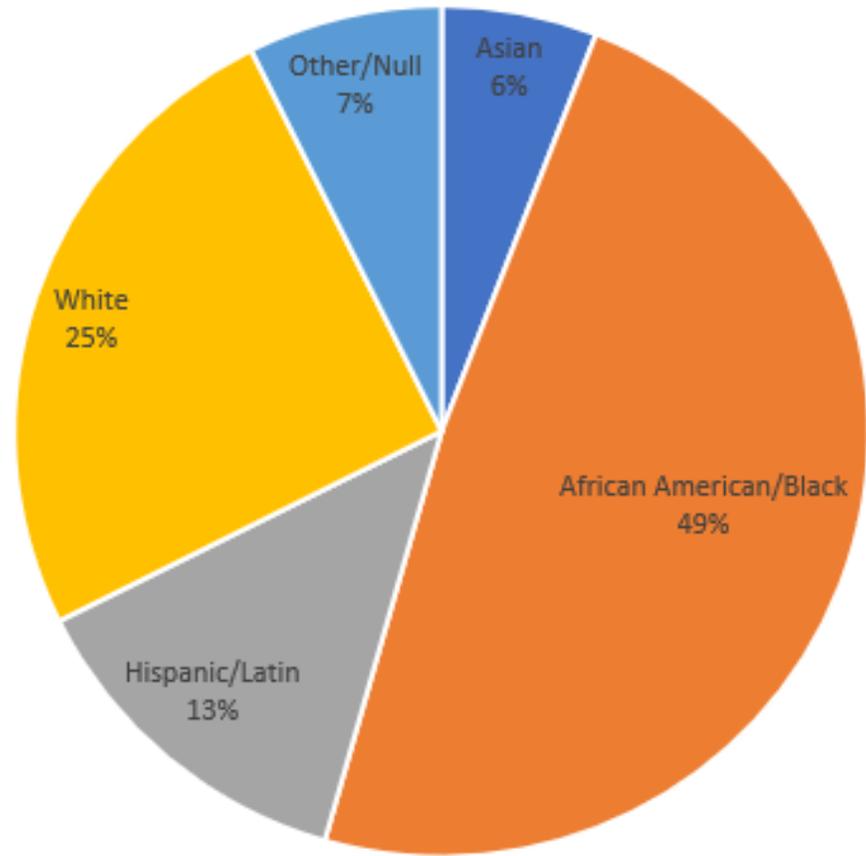


<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Minority Business Enterprise	17	46%
Minority/Women Business Enterprise	8	22%
Women Business Enterprise	12	32%
Disabled Veteran-Owned Business	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>100%</b>



# Demographic Data of Majority Ownership of Proposed Awardees

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Asian	4	6%
Black or African American	33	49%
Hispanic or Latino of All Races	9	13%
White	17	25%
<u>Other/Not Disclosed</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>19%</u>
Total	68	100%



\*Note: Demographics is based on majority ownership (51%+)



# Consideration of Conditional Licenses Proposed Awardees:

No.	Applicant ID	Applicant Business Name	License Type	Business Category
1	1002	GRC NJ LLC	Cultivator	Standard
2	1004	Megaleaf LLC	Cultivator	Micro
3	1015	Siembra, LLC	Cultivator	Micro
4	1016	Brighterside Canopy LLC	Cultivator	Micro
5	1032	Good Growth NB LLC	Cultivator	Standard
6	1035	Sweet Side LLC	Cultivator	Standard
7	1040	Blaze Products LLC	Cultivator	Micro
8	1042	Denver Cole Farms New Jersey LLC	Cultivator	Standard
9	1046	Trenton Equity Holdings LLC	Cultivator	Standard
10	1047	Veterans for Alternative Medicine South Jersey LLC	Cultivator	Standard
11	1048	Grotech Farms, LLC	Cultivator	Standard
12	1050	TGC New Jersey LLC	Cultivator	Standard
13	1051	Garden Greens LLC	Cultivator	Standard
14	1052	Cube Garden New Jersey LLC	Cultivator	Standard
15	1079	The Fireplace New Jersey LLC	Cultivator	Standard
16	1085	Mid-Atlantic Growth, LLC	Cultivator	Standard
17	1094	Piff Industries LLC	Cultivator	Standard
18	1100	Hamilton Farms LLC	Cultivator	Standard
19	1105	Blue Harvest LLC	Cultivator	Micro
20	1108	Agri-kind NJ LLC	Cultivator	Standard
21	1109	Herb-a-More LLC	Cultivator	Standard
22	1112	CIRCE MEDEA INC	Cultivator	Standard
23	1113	Good Lettuce Company	Cultivator	Standard
24	1114	HarvestWorks Farm Corporation	Cultivator	Standard



# Consideration of Conditional Licenses Proposed Awardees:

No.	Applicant ID	Applicant Business Name	License Type	Business Category
25	1118	Bupkis LLC	Cultivator	Micro
26	1119	One Faith Wellness, LLC	Cultivator	Standard
27	1134	Circle Garden New Jersey LLC	Cultivator	Micro
28	1140	Kana Grove New Jersey LLC	Cultivator	Standard
29	1143	August Tenth Capital Investments LLC	Cultivator	Standard
30	1150	Statewide Property Holdings NJ LLC	Cultivator	Standard
31	1156	Jersey Gem Farms LLC	Cultivator	Standard
32	1157	Garden Organics LLC	Cultivator	Standard
33	1162	Curchin Cannabis LLC	Cultivator	Micro
34	1165	Noble 1 LLC	Cultivator	Standard
35	1168	Garden State Recreational Grown LLC	Cultivator	Micro
36	1169	Peace of Mind Construction Group	Cultivator	Micro
37	1170	Green Recreational Holdings LLC	Cultivator	Standard
38	1185	E-Quality Cannabis	Cultivator	Micro
39	1195	Prolific GrowHouse	Cultivator	Micro
40	1206	Tiaplanta LLC	Cultivator	Micro
41	1247	Dr. Jae Farms INC	Cultivator	Micro
42	1248	Shnicks Shnacks	Cultivator	Micro
43	1258	Bella Bloom Ventures LLC	Cultivator	Micro
44	1308	M.E Cruz LLC	Cultivator	Micro
45	1317	Eastern Tiger LLC	Cultivator	Standard
46	1322	Bellegrow LLC	Cultivator	Micro
47	1337	Cone Garden New Jersey LLC	Cultivator	Micro
48	1364	BELEAF NJ	Cultivator	Micro
49	1374	Strain House, LLC	Cultivator	Standard



# Consideration of Conditional Licenses Proposed Awardees:

No.	Applicant ID	Applicant Business Name	License Type	Business Category
50	1375	Loud Wellness INC	Cultivator	Standard
51	1009	Sweet Side LLC	Manufacturer	Standard
52	1012	Piff Industries LLC	Manufacturer	Standard
53	1033	Megaleaf LLC	Manufacturer	Micro
54	1080	Sphere Garden New Jersey LLC	Manufacturer	Standard
55	1082	Agri-Kind NJ LLC	Manufacturer	Standard
56	1086	GDBS DISTRIBUTORS LLC	Manufacturer	Standard
57	1093	Blaze Products LLC	Manufacturer	Micro
58	1098	Hudson Bloom LLC	Manufacturer	Micro
59	1115	HarvestWest Farm Corporation	Manufacturer	Standard
60	1137	Draisy LLC	Manufacturer	Micro
61	1149	August Tenth Capital Investments LLC	Manufacturer	Standard
62	1153	Good Lettuce Company	Manufacturer	Standard
63	1159	Garden Organics LLC	Manufacturer	Standard
64	1163	BFF MJ	Manufacturer	Standard
65	1171	Green Recreational Holdings LLC	Manufacturer	Standard
66	1186	Peace of Mind Construction Group	Manufacturer	Micro
67	1259	Bella Bloom Ventures LLC	Manufacturer	Micro
68	1378	Loud Wellness INC	Manufacturer	Standard



# Medicinal Cannabis



# Consideration of Reissuance of 2019 RFA Award for Medicinal Dispensary Permit – Recommended Selection

REGION	Control #	Applicant Name	Score
South	19-0052	PEMAA, LLC	200.33



# **Consideration of ATC Expansion - to also sell personal-use cannabis**

- **8 certifications received**
- Required conditions include:
  - Municipal approval
  - Proof of sufficient supply to continue to meet patient need after expansion.
  - Plans to ensure patient access.
  - Plans to address social equity and safety.



# **Consideration of ATC Expansion - to also sell personal-use cannabis**

- CRC's consideration:
  - Focused on patients
  - Number of patients enrolled statewide
  - Patient enrollment at the specific ATC
  - Inventory – statewide and at ATC
  - Sales – statewide and at ATC
  - Current medicinal cannabis canopy
  - Canopy needed to serve enrolled patients
  - ATC's production capacity



# Consideration of ATC Expansion - to also sell personal-use cannabis

- Current market conditions:
  - Over last 6 months
    - Canopy increased by 80,000 square feet
    - Supply is increasing every month
    - Prices are decreasing
  - With 2019 RFA awards
    - 30 additional dispensaries licensed
    - 300,000+ square feet of canopy in the pipeline



# **Consideration of ATC Expansion - to also sell personal-use cannabis**

- Applicants:
  - Acreage CCF New Jersey
  - Ascend New Jersey
  - Columbia Care
  - Curaleaf
  - GSD NJ
  - GTI New Jersey
  - Terrascend
  - Verano



# Consideration of ATC Expansion - to also sell personal-use cannabis

- **Application Deficiencies:**
  - **Specific plans for patient access**
    - Recommended solutions: patient-only hours, express lines, product holds, online order with curbside pick-up and home delivery
  - **Specific plans to ensure adequate inventory**
    - Recommended solutions: maintaining a minimum adequate supply and having a reasonable reserve
  - **Specific plans for social equity**
    - Recommended solutions: compliance with regulation regarding hiring; regularly reporting on meeting submitted equity plans



# **Consideration of ATC Expansion - to also sell personal-use cannabis**

## **Next Steps**

- Onsite assessments
- Assessment of expansion plans
- Permitting new facilities
- Compliance inspections



# Public Comment



Ernest Mario School  
of Pharmacy

# **Protecting and Expanding Access for Medicinal Cannabis Patients: Clinician Education, Research and Addressing Disparities**

**Mary Bridgeman, PharmD, BCPS, BCGP**

Clinical Professor

Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy

Internal Medicine Clinical Pharmacist

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital

**March 24, 2022**

# Clinicians Have *Limited Formal Training* on Medical Cannabis Use

- First **systematic review** of health professionals' beliefs, knowledge and concerns surrounding medical cannabis use (Gardiner *et al.* 2019)
  - Healthcare providers generally **supported** medical cannabis use
  - Nearly **unanimous lack of self-perceived knowledge** regarding clinical effects
  - Concerns about cannabis' **direct harm** to patients and **indirect societal harms**

## Provide *Guardrails* and *Guidance* in Navigating Therapeutic Use of Cannabis

Incorporate cannabis into **clinical practice** given a lack of scientific evidence for efficacy, safety & best practice

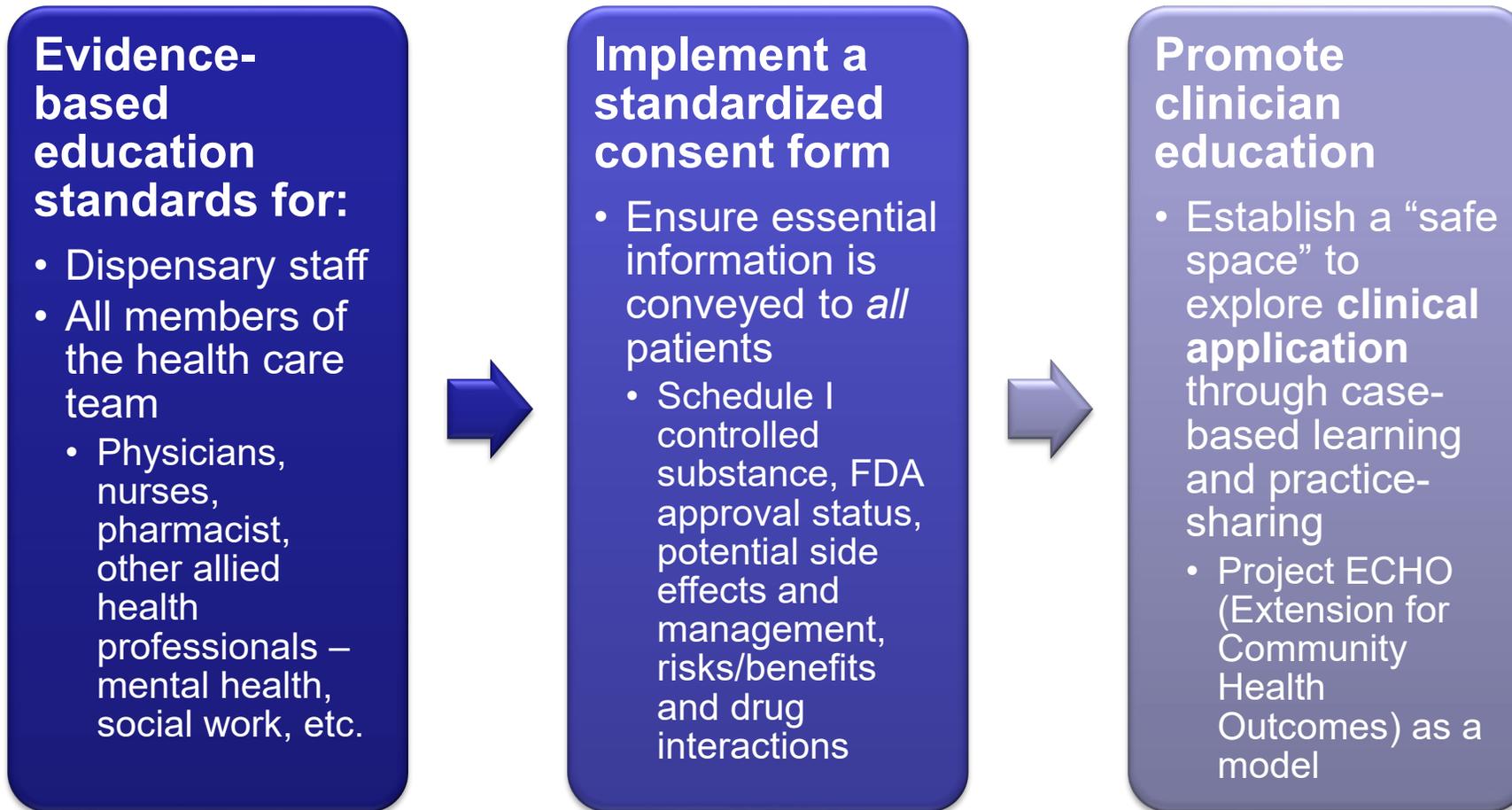


Provide tools and education to encourage patients to disclose medical cannabis use by avoiding **stigmatization**



Adopt product and consumer safety protocols to **avoid inadvertent harm**

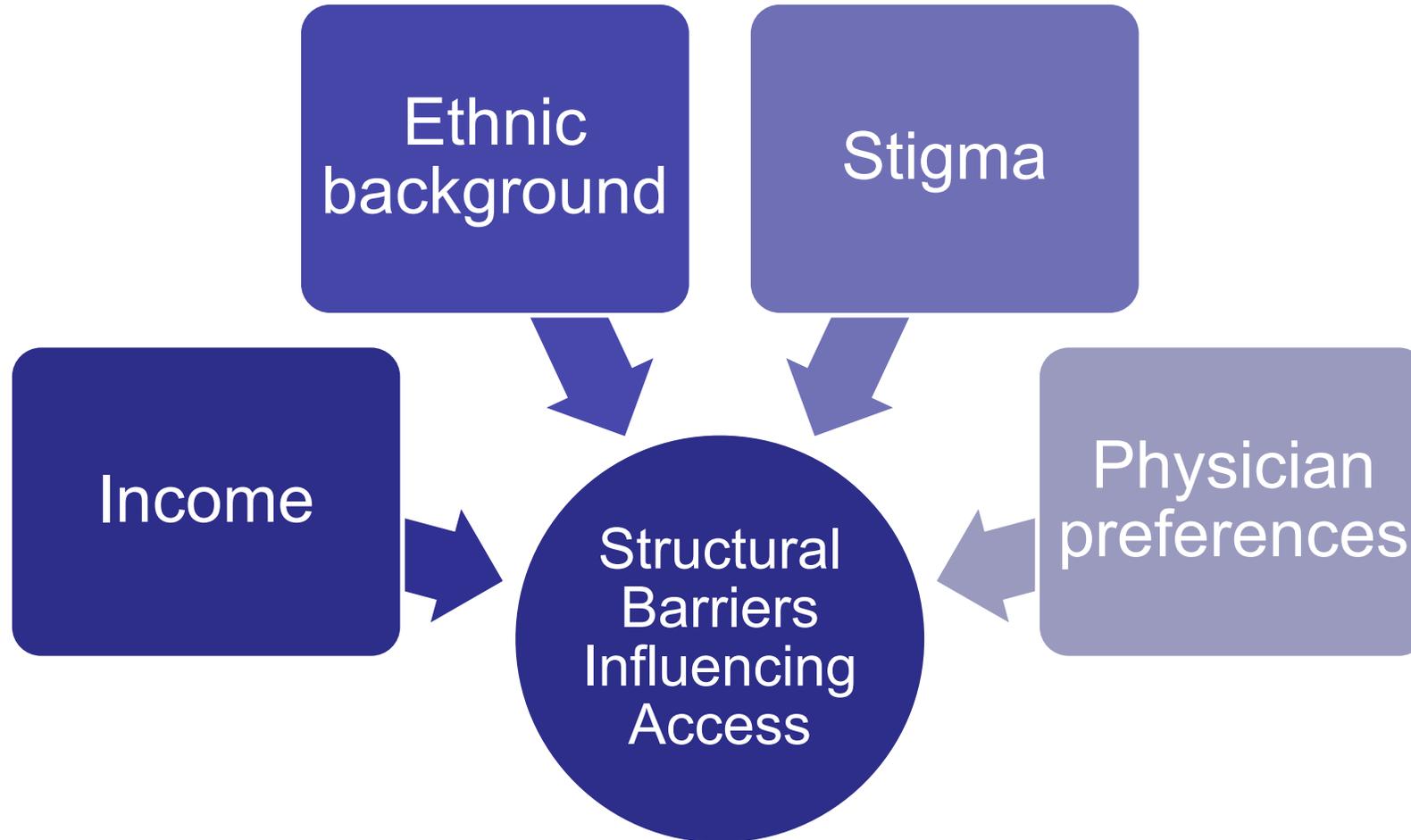
# Support Clinician & Dispensary Staff *Education*



## Support *Research* in a Restrictive Space



## Continue Addressing *Disparities* in Access





Ernest Mario School  
of Pharmacy

# Advancements in Medical Cannabis Research

Alex Bekker, MD, PhD

Professor and Chair, Department of Anesthesiology

Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

# Current State - Conditions

Pain

Anxiety

Nausea and vomiting related  
to cancer chemotherapy

HIV/AIDS associated cachexia

ALS/MS associated spasticity

Migraine

PTSD

Insomnia

Opioid dependency

*Pain Medicine*, 0(0), 2018, 1–8

doi: 10.1093/pm/pny176

Original Research Article

OXFORD

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## **Restored Self: A Phenomenological Study of Pain Relief by Cannabis**

Maya Lavie-Ajayi, PhD\* and Pesach Shvartzman, MD<sup>†</sup>

Investigators in 70s, 80s, and 90s primarily accessed cannabis ability to temporarily alleviate various disease symptoms

New research is focusing on mitigating diseases per se, like slowing growth of cancer cell and progression of neurodegenerative diseases.

# The Shifting Focus of Cannabis Research

0031-6997/06/5803-389-462\$20.00  
PHARMACOLOGICAL REVIEWS  
U.S. Government work not protected by U.S. copyright  
*Pharmacol Rev* 58:389-462, 2006

Vol. 58, No. 3  
60303/3133397  
*Printed in U.S.A*

## **The Endocannabinoid System as an Emerging Target of Pharmacotherapy**

PÁL PACHER, SÁNDOR BÁTKEI, AND GEORGE KUNOS

*Laboratory of Physiologic Studies, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland*

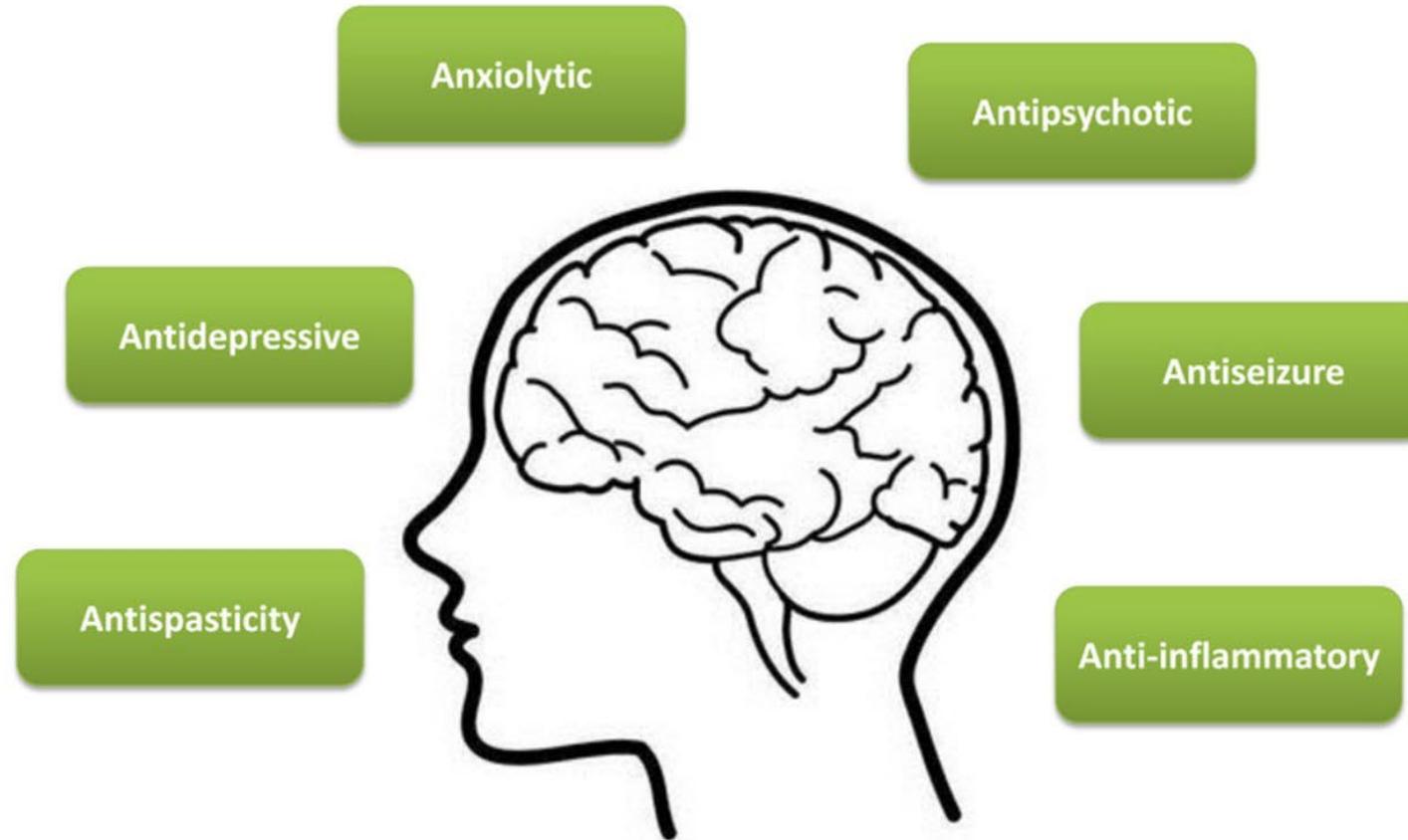
Scientists today are exploring the potential role of cannabinoids to **modulate** disease

Autoimmune disorders such as MS, RA, IBD, etc.

Neurological disorders such as ALS, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, etc.

Some forms of cancer, particularly gliomas.

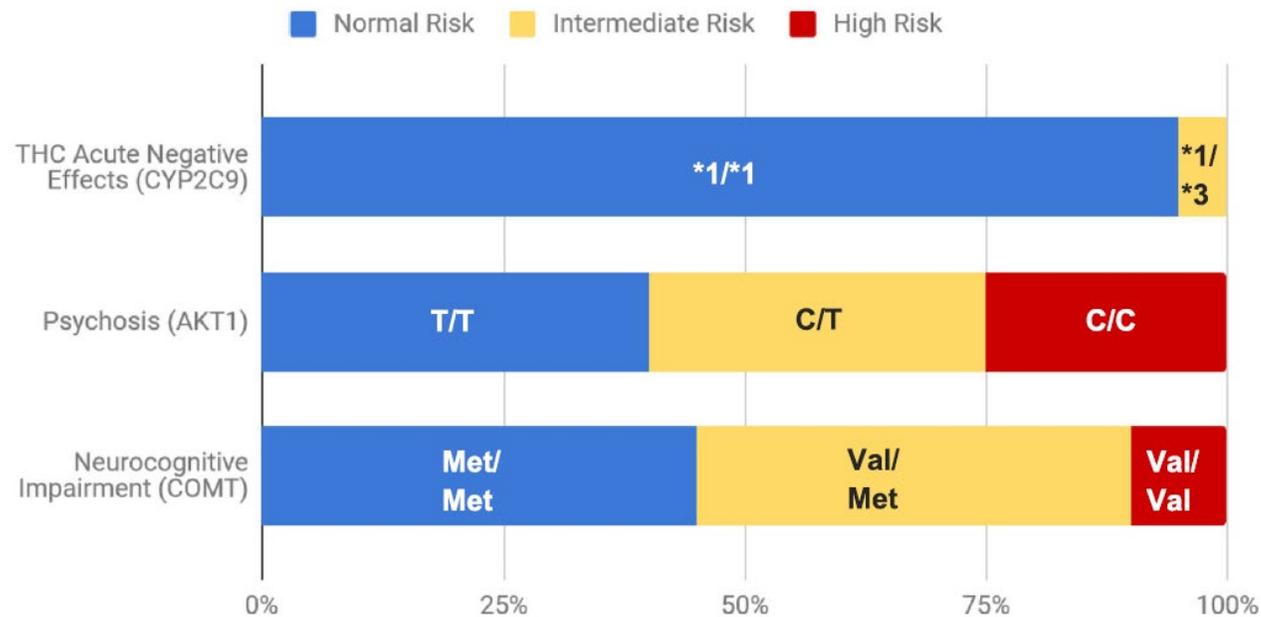
# Cannabis' Effects on Brain



# Pharmacogenetic-guided cannabis usage in the community pharmacy: evaluation of a pilot program

John Papastergiou<sup>1,2,3\*</sup> , Wilson Li<sup>3</sup>, Carly Sterling<sup>1</sup> and Bart van den Bemt<sup>4,5</sup>

% Patients at Potential Risk of Cannabis Adverse Reactions based on Identified Genetic Variants



# Medical Cannabis: Why many doctors still not recommending it?

FDA Adverse Event Reporting System Report

Stigma

Safety

Insurance

The sparsity of high-quality studies

Year	Total	Death	Serious	Non-Serious
2019 (3 <sup>rd</sup> Q)	1,656,064	130,756	868,533	656,775
2018	2,155,067	196,807	1,108,132	850,128
2017	1,815,346	164,043	906,040	745,263
2016	1,691,709	142,114	832,078	717,517
2015	1,727,431	148,750	805,118	773,563

**Cannabis is still a schedule 1 drug**

Since 1968:

Total Reports: 18,650,676

Death: 1,818,968

Serious Reports: 10,410,005



A black digital timer with a white circular dial and a vertical line indicating the time. The text '3:00' is displayed in large white digits in the center of the dial.

# Public Comment

1. Speakers signed up in advance.
2. 3 minutes per speaker.
3. Please be respectful, concise and on-topic to issues the Commission has the power to address and/or should be aware of.
4. Do not use this time to market or advertise private businesses.
5. Must be listed by name or phone number submitted on request to speak.
6. Host will ask you to unmute when it is your turn.
7. On phone - \*6 to mute or unmute when it is your turn
8. May also submit comments in writing at [NJ.gov/cannabis/meetings](https://NJ.gov/cannabis/meetings)



# Adjournment

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 24 at 1 p.m.

Details will be posted on [nj.gov/cannabis/meetings](https://nj.gov/cannabis/meetings)