1. **Know the law and regulations**
   - [Cannabis Businesses (nj.gov)](nj.gov)
   - CREAMM Act: [www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/PL21/16_.HTM](www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/PL21/16_.HTM)

2. **Develop a business plan**
   - Do market research; develop a budget and a pricing model; develop a financing plan.
   - A formal business plan is required as part of conditional license application.

3. **Choose a legal business structure**
   - A Partnership, Limited Liability Company (LLC), Corporation, or a S Corporation

4. **Get Federal and State Tax ID Numbers**
   - [NJ Division of Taxation - Starting a Business in NJ (state.nj.us)](state.nj.us): to pay state taxes.

5. **Choose and register your business and business name**
   - [State of NJ - Department of the Treasury - Division of Revenue Getting Registered](nj.gov)
   - No DBAs are permitted under personal-use rules.

6. **Open a Business Bank Account**
   - There are banks in NJ that accept cannabis business clients

7. **Develop a plan for obtaining business Insurance**
   - Plan to obtain liability insurance for conditional and annual license applicants, vehicle insurance for transports and deliveries

8. **Research potential sites for business**
   - Site control and local approval are required for annual license applications
   - Site must be identified for conditional license applications but can be changed.

9. **If applicable, prepare documents to prove qualification as diversely-owned business, social equity business, impact zone business, conditional license applicant or microbusiness**
   - Proof of residency for social equity business, impact zone business, conditional and microbusiness; income for conditional application; past cannabis convictions.
   - Get certified as a minority-owned, woman-owned or disabled-veteran owned business: [Small Business Enterprise Registration (njportal.com)](njportal.com)

10. **Gather and prepare documents required by application regulations**
    - Conditional applicants (N.J.A.C. 17:30-7.3), annual license applicants (N.J.A.C. 17:30-7.10), and owners and principals (N.J.A.C. 17:30-7.13 all have different document requirements.