

July, 2018

## CLIENT ALERT: New Jersey now accepting applications for up to six, new, vertically integrated, medical marijuana facilities.

Interested parties have until Friday, August 31, 2018 to submit an application to apply to operate one of up to six, new, vertically integrated medical marijuana facilities according to an announcement made by New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy's Administration. The Governor seeks to locate two medicinal marijuana facilities each in northern, central and southern regions of New Jersey.

### More dispensaries to meet increased demand

"We look forward to the opening of six new dispensaries so we can ensure that all qualifying patients who want access to medicinal marijuana can have it," said Governor Phil Murphy. "Due to the steps that Commissioner Elnahal and I have taken since January, we have seen the addition of 10,000 new patients. Accordingly, we have to expand the number of businesses who are growing product and serving patients."

Currently, more than 26,000 patients, 1,000 caregivers, and 700 physicians are participating in the program. "As we strive to make the program more responsive to the needs of patients, caregivers and Alternative Treatment Centers (ATCs)," said Health Commissioner Dr. Shereef Elnahal, "we recognize the need to grow the industry and create more options for patients."

### [Click here to view the Request for Application](#)

A Request for Applications (RFA), was noticed in the July 16th issue of the New Jersey Register and published on the Department's website. It notes that applicants would have to operate a dispensary and facilities cultivate and manufacture, provide evidence of site control, and verify the governing body's approval in the municipality where they intend to locate. The business can be a nonprofit or a for-profit enterprise. The applicant must submit a business plan that includes a budget detailing revenues and expenses over a five-year period. The RFA is available on the Ansell Grimm & Aaron website by [clicking here](#).

Applicants may submit applications for more than one region of the state but must submit a separate application for each region. The fee to apply is \$20,000. Of that \$20,000, \$2,000 is a nonrefundable filing fee. The remaining \$18,000 will be returned to unsuccessful applicants.

### To participate, you must attend the pre-application conference

All applicants must attend a mandatory pre-application conference scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 9 at the Department of Health headquarters in Trenton. The purpose is to give potential applicants an opportunity to ask any questions about the process. The Department will accept questions submitted electronically until 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 7 from all potential applicants via email at [mmpquestions@doh.nj.gov](mailto:mmpquestions@doh.nj.gov). Applications are due Friday, Aug. 31, 2018. Applicants chosen to proceed in the permitting process will be announced Nov. 1, 2018.



### Current operating ATCs are excluded

The six currently operating ATCs are not eligible to apply for these new dispensaries. Existing ATCs already have the opportunity to add additional sites for cultivating, manufacturing and dispensing. Additional opportunities to apply to build cultivating, manufacturing and dispensing sites will be available in the future.

The Commissioner also is working to expand physician participation in the program. Last week, Commissioner Elnahal conducted two grand rounds lectures with 300 physicians at teaching hospitals to dispel myths and reduce stigma in the medical community. Although more than 100 new doctors have signed up since the expansion began, only 700 of the 28,000 licensed physicians in New Jersey are currently registered to participate in the Department of Health's Medicinal Marijuana program.

Applicants are prohibited from directly contacting the Department or Division of Medicinal Marijuana concerning this RFA.

For more information about the application process or for assistance with your application, please click [here](#) to email Joshua Bauchner, a Partner in Ansell Grimm & Aaron's Cannabis Practice Group, or call him at 973-247-9000, ext 418.

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### About Ansell Grimm & Aaron, PC

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[Ansell Grimm & Aaron PC's Cannabis Law Practice Group](#) is at the forefront of this rapidly evolving industry, counseling clients on legal issues related to cannabis production, its sale, use, regulation, and legalization.

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