



MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF
CANNABIS MANAGEMENT

Guide to Cannabis Events and Licensing

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Introduction

The cannabis event organizer license authorizes the holder to plan and host temporary cannabis-related events in Minnesota. These events require local approval, are strictly limited to ages 21 and older, and may not include the sale or consumption of alcohol. Cannabis events may feature the on-site sale and use of adult-use cannabis products, lower-potency hemp edibles, and hemp-derived consumer products. Event organizers may host multiday events, provided that the event does not exceed four consecutive days in duration.

Organizers may designate areas for on-site cannabis consumption and allow for the sale of cannabis plants, adult-use cannabis flower, cannabis products, lower-potency hemp edibles, and hemp-derived consumer products by licensed cannabis retailers, licensed microbusinesses/mezzobusinesses with a retail operations endorsement, licensed medical cannabis combination businesses operating a retail location, or a licensed lower-potency hemp edible (LPHE) retailer. The licensed cannabis business or LPHE retailer must also be listed as an authorized retailer on the cannabis event organizer's vendor list.

This license is temporary and must be obtained separately for each event. All cannabis event activities require local approval, including but not limited to, any permits or licenses required by the applicable local unit of government and specific approval of on-site consumption areas. Distinct from other cannabis business licensing, event organizers must obtain local approval before submitting an application for an event license to the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM).

Key License Details

Additional licenses that may be held concurrently with a cannabis event organizer license:

- Cannabis microbusiness
- Cannabis mezzobusiness
- Cannabis cultivator
- Cannabis manufacturer
- Cannabis retailer
- Cannabis wholesaler
- Cannabis transporter
- Cannabis delivery service

Fees:

- Application Fee: \$750
- Initial License Fee: \$750

Per state law, application and licensing fees are nonrefundable and applications may be denied if they do not meet the requirements of [Minnesota Statutes, section 342.14](#) and [section 342.39](#).

OCM will begin accepting applications for cannabis event organizer licenses on August 1, 2025. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and remain open year-round.

*Hemp-derived cannabinoid product retailers who are registered under [Minnesota Statutes, chapter 151.72](#) are not permitted to participate as vendors at licensed cannabis events. Only businesses holding a **lower-potency hemp edible retailer license** or a **cannabis business license** are authorized to serve as vendors at these events.*

Until the hemp licensing process is formally launched, all existing hemp registrants must continue to comply with current laws and regulations, including applicable local ordinances.

Permitted and Prohibited Activities at Cannabis Events

Permitted activities

The following activities are permitted at licensed cannabis events, provided they are conducted in accordance with applicable statutes and rules:

- Charging an admission or entrance fee to event attendees ([Minnesota Statutes, section 342.40, subd. 2\(a\)](#)).
- Charging vendors a flat fee for booth space, not based on sales revenue ([Minnesota Statutes, section 342.40, subd. 2\(b\)](#)).
- Allowing licensed cannabis retailers, licensed microbusinesses/mezzobusinesses with a retail operations endorsement, licensed medical cannabis combination businesses operating a retail location, or licensed LPHE retailers to sell cannabis and hemp products ([Minnesota Statutes, section 342.40, subd. 7\(a\)](#)).
- Allowing retailers to display a single, labeled and secured sample of each product type ([Minnesota Statutes, section 342.40, subd. 7\(e\)](#)).
- Allowing customers to smell cannabis flower or products prior to purchase ([Minnesota Statutes, section 342.40, subd. 7\(e\)](#)).
- Designating an area for on-site cannabis consumption, if explicitly approved by the local government ([Minnesota Statutes, section 342.40, subd. 8\(a\)](#)).
- Providing attendees with cannabis-related merchandise and paraphernalia, at no cost ([Minnesota Rules, part 9810.2700, subp. 4\(b\)](#)).
- Allowing retailers to give away samples of cannabis plants, cannabis flower, cannabis products, lower-potency hemp edibles, or hemp-derived consumer products during a cannabis event subject to limitations and guidelines established in law ([Minnesota Session Laws – 2025, chapter 31, section 68](#); [Minnesota Statutes, section 342.40, subd. 7\(a\)](#)).

Samples at events

License types permitted to give away samples at licensed events:

- Cannabis microbusinesses with a retail endorsement.
- Cannabis mezzobusinesses with a retail endorsement.
- Cannabis retailers.
- Medical cannabis combination businesses operating a retail location.
- Lower-potency hemp edible retailers.

The license types listed above may give away samples of cannabis plants, cannabis flower, cannabis products, lower-potency hemp edibles, or hemp-derived consumer products during a cannabis event. License holders providing such samples must display a label or notice containing the information required to be affixed to the packaging or container. It is also the responsibility of the retailer to track samples in Metrc, the state-wide tracking software.

License holders must not distribute samples to someone who is visibly intoxicated.

Depending on the product type, the sample must comply as follows:

- Up to 1 gram of cannabis flower.
- Up to 1 gram of cannabis concentrate.
- Cannabis edibles containing up to 10 mg of THC.
- Lower potency hemp edibles (LPHEs) containing up to 5 mg THC, 100 milligrams of cannabidiol, cannabigerol, cannabinol, or cannabichromene, or any combination of those cannabinoids.

Prohibited activities

The following activities are **strictly prohibited** at cannabis events:

- Charging vendors a participation fee that is calculated based on sales volume ([Minnesota Statutes, section 342.40, subd. 2\(b\)](#)).
- Allowing individuals under 21 years of age into the event ([Minnesota Statutes, section 342.40, subd. 4](#)).
- Giving cannabis plants, cannabis flower, cannabis products, lower-potency hemp edibles, or hemp-derived consumer products to visibly intoxicated individuals ([Minnesota Statutes, section 342.40, subd. 7\(a\)](#)).
- Selling cannabis or hemp products to visibly intoxicated individuals ([Minnesota Statutes, section 342.40, subd. 7\(g\)\(1\)](#)).
- Selling cannabis or hemp products in quantities exceeding lawful possession limits ([Minnesota Statutes, section 342.40, subd. 7\(g\)\(2\)](#)).
- Selling medical cannabis products ([Minnesota Statutes, section 342.40, subd. 7\(g\)\(3\)](#)).
- Using vending machines or other unattended devices to dispense cannabis or hemp products ([Minnesota Statutes, section 342.40, subd. 7\(g\)\(5\)](#)).
- Permitting the use or consumption of alcohol or tobacco at the event ([Minnesota Statutes, section 342.40, subd. 8\(d\)](#)).
- Allowing cannabis smoking in areas where it is prohibited by the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act ([Minnesota Statutes, sections 342.40, subd. 8\(e\); 144.413–144.417](#)).
- Hosting a cannabis event that exceeds four consecutive days in duration ([Minnesota Rules, part 9810.2700, subp. 1\(a\)](#)).

Additional Event Requirements

Cannabis events must be in compliance with all applicable Minnesota laws and rules ([Minnesota Statutes, section 342.40](#) and [Minnesota Rules, section 9810.2700](#)) including:

- On-site consumption areas must be enclosed with commercial-grade fencing and may not be visible from any public place.
- Event organizers must hire/contract with a licensed security company to provide security suitable to the number of expected attendees.
- Event organizers must ensure that attendees are at least 21 years old.
- Event organizers and vendors must provide a secure storage area for cannabis products.
- Event organizers and vendors must ensure proper disposal of cannabis waste.
- All cannabis products must be tracked and transported to/from the event by a licensed cannabis transporter.
- Event organizers must provide a designated retail area for the sale of cannabis products.
- Sales of tracked cannabis must be recorded in Metrc by the end of each day of the event.
- Event organizers must display proper signage.



Application Availability and Requirements

Beginning August 1, 2025, the cannabis event license application will be available on a rolling basis, allowing applicants to apply at any time throughout the year.

Local government approval requirement

Pursuant to state law, **applicants must obtain documented approval from the local jurisdiction in which the event will occur *prior to applying for licensure***. OCM will provide a standardized form to facilitate this process, which will include the following details:

- Event name
- Date and time of the event
- Anticipated attendance
- Primary point of contact

No cannabis event license will be issued without documented local approval. If any event details change after the local jurisdiction has approved the event (outside of updates to the submitted vendor list), the applicant may be required to submit a new application, including an updated local approval form. Any application fees previously paid will not be refunded, and the applicant will be required to restart the full application process.

Applicants **must finalize all event details and obtain local approval** before beginning the application process with OCM.

Cannabis event license applications must be submitted and paid via the Accela licensing portal at least 30 days in advance of the event; applications received within 30 days of the event will not be accepted. Applicants are encouraged to submit all documents earlier than 30 days.

The amount of time it takes to process an event organizer license depends on the quality of the application. Applications that require revisions and corrections, and applications where the applicant delays responding to requests from the office, may result in the application not being approved in time for the event. Application quality is the responsibility of the applicant.

Restrictions on license ownership

State law prohibits any individual or entity from holding more than one active cannabis event license at a time if it would violate [Minnesota Statutes, section 342.185](#). Applicants planning multiple events must time their applications accordingly.

Application components

Applicants must submit the following materials:

1. **Local government approval form**
2. **Site, security, and operations plan**
3. **Event diagram**
4. **Standard operating procedures (SOPs)** addressing:
 - Security and ID checks
 - Inventory control and diversion prevention
 - Accounting and tax compliance
 - Employee training
5. **Vendor list**
 - Applicants must identify all cannabis and/or hemp businesses participating in the event.
 - OCM will verify that all listed vendors are properly licensed by OCM as a cannabis business or a LPHE retailer.
 - The vendor list may be updated by submitting a revised form to OCM. Any updates must be submitted at least 72 hours prior to the event.

Note: Local jurisdictions may implement their own procedures to receive vendor updates. Applicants should consult with their local governments to determine if such requirements are in place.

Inspections and enforcements

To ensure compliance with [Minnesota Statutes, chapter 342](#), and all applicable rules and regulations, OCM will conduct a pre-licensure phone inspection with each applicant prior to license issuance. Additionally, OCM may conduct onsite inspections of licensed events to verify regulatory compliance.

Upon license issuance, OCM will notify the local jurisdiction and provide contact information for its enforcement team if any compliance or enforcement concerns arise on the day of the event.

Cannabis event licensing process

The cannabis event licensing process includes the following steps:

1. **Local approval secured:** Applicant obtains completed local government approval form.
2. **Application submission:** Applicant submits application, including local government approval form and all required documentation and applicable fees, no fewer than 30-days before the event.
3. **Application review:** OCM conducts an initial review to ensure minimum application requirements are met. If minimum requirements are not met, OCM will send out a request for information, providing the applicant 14 days to provide the information. If there is insufficient information, the application can be denied. Denied applicants have 10 days to request reconsideration of their application.
4. **Background check and labor peace attestation:** Qualified applicants complete a background check and submit an attestation of a labor peace agreement
5. **Pre-licensure phone inspection:** OCM contacts the applicant to verify event details and ensure preparedness for compliance.
6. **License issuance:** Upon successful completion of all steps, OCM issues the cannabis event license.
7. **Vendor list updates (if applicable):** If there are any changes to the vendor list prior to the event, the licensee must submit an updated list to OCM at least 72 hours before the event.
8. **Event inspection (if applicable):** OCM may inspect the event to confirm compliance with all licensing requirements.