



OFFICE OF
CANNABIS MANAGEMENT

Guide to Licensed Cannabis Events

Table of contents

- Introduction 3**
- Key license details 3**
- Permitted and prohibited activities at cannabis events 4**
 - Permitted activities.....4
 - Prohibited activities.....6
- Additional event requirements 6**
- Application availability and requirements..... 7**
 - Local government approval requirement.....7
 - Restrictions on license ownership.....7
 - Application components8
 - Inspections and enforcements9
 - Cannabis event organizer license approval9
 - Important information about Metrc and cannabis events.....9

Introduction

Important note on timing: This guide reflects the statutory requirements for a cannabis event organizer license based on the law as of Aug. 1, 2026 ([Minnesota Statutes, section 342.39](#)). However, the Legislature passed significant changes to the cannabis event organizer license type in the 2026 legislative session, including transitioning from a temporary license to an annual, renewable license. Those changes will go into effect Jan. 1, 2027. The office will make information available ahead of the planned changes; please stay up to date via the website and newsletters. If you are planning a cannabis event in 2027, please review the changes to the law and plan to stay up to date on office communications as the effective date nears.

Under current law, 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 or tobacco. 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.

With local approval, licensed event 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 approved 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 applying** for an event license from the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM).

Key license details

Except for the testing facility and medical cannabis combination business license types, any cannabis or lower-potency hemp edible business license holder may also apply for a temporary event organizer license.

Fees:

- Application Fee: \$750
- 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, sections 342.14](#) and [342.39](#).

OCM began accepting applications for cannabis event organizer licenses on Aug. 1, 2025. Applications are accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis and remain open year-round.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit the application and the applicable fee at least 45 days in advance of the planned event date to allow enough time for the office to review the materials. Applications received within 30 days of the event risk not receiving a determination on their application and their license before the event date.



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 [\[M. S., § 342.40, subd. 2\(a\)\]](#).
- Charging vendors a flat fee for booth space, not based on sales revenue [\[M. S., § 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 adult-use cannabis flower, adult-use cannabinoid products, and lower-potency hemp edible products [\[M. S., § 342.40, subd. 7\(a\)\]](#). A business may only sell products that their license permits them to sell.
- Cannabis retailers who intend to conduct deli-style sales at the event must also hold a cannabis flower packaging endorsement and follow all requirements for deli-style dispensing.
- Allowing retailers to display a single secured sample of each product available for sale accompanied by required label information [\[M. S., § 342.40, subd. 7\(e\)\]](#).
- Allowing customers to smell cannabis flower or products before purchase [\[M. S., § 342.40, subd. 7\(e\)\]](#).
- Designating an area for on-site cannabis consumption, if explicitly approved by the local government [\[M. S., § 342.40, subd. 8\(a\)\]](#).
 - *There is no prohibition on designating the entirety of the licensed event space as the on-site consumption area if all requirements are met.*
- Providing attendees with cannabis-related merchandise and paraphernalia, at no cost [\[M. R. 9810.2700, subp. 4B\]](#).
- 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 [\[M. S., § 342.40, subds. 7\(a\), 7a\]](#).



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.

A business may only give samples of products that their license permits them to sell.

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 limits on samples are as follows:

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

No other product types are permitted to be given as a sample.

Prohibited activities

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

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

Additional event requirements

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

- On-site consumption areas must be enclosed with commercial-grade fencing and may not be visible from any public place [[M. R. 9810.2700, subp. 3B](#)].
- Event organizers must hire/contract with a licensed security company to provide security suitable for the number of expected attendees [[M. S., § 342.40, subd. 3](#)].
- Event organizers must ensure that attendees are at least 21 years old [[M. S., § 342.40, subd. 4](#)].
- Cannabis products must be stored in a secure storage area [[M. S., § 342.40, subd. 7\(h\)](#); [M. R. 9810.2700, subp. 2A](#)].
- Event organizers and vendors must ensure proper disposal of cannabis waste [[M. S., § 342.40, subd. 5](#)].
- All cannabis products must be tracked and transported to/from the event by a licensed cannabis transporter [[M. S., § 342.40, subd. 6](#)].
- All sales of cannabis plants, adult-cannabis flower, and adult-use cannabinoid products must happen in a designated retail area. [[M. S., § 342.40, subd. 7\(b\)](#)].
- Sales must be recorded in Metrc within 24 hours of the sale [[M. S., § 342.40, subd. 7\(j\)](#); [M. R. 9810.2700, subp. 6](#)].
- Event organizers must display proper signage [[M. S., § 342.40, subd. 4](#)].

Application availability and requirements

Currently, cannabis event license applications are open and reviewed on a rolling basis, allowing applicants to apply at any time throughout the year. Please note there will be significant changes to the cannabis event organizer license type on Jan. 1, 2027. The office will make information available in advance of these changes taking effect.

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 an event organizer license.** [[Minnesota Statutes, section 342.39, subd. 2\(a\)](#)] 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 ([Minnesota Statutes, section 342.40, subd. 1](#)). 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 application process [[Minnesota Statutes, section 342.11\(a\)](#)].

Applicants **must finalize key event details and obtain local approval** before submitting an application with OCM [[Minnesota Statutes, section 342.39, subd. 2\(a\)](#)].

Applications for a cannabis event organizer license must be submitted and paid (via the Accela licensing portal) in advance of the event.

The time it takes to review and process an event organizer license is influenced by the quality of the application. Applications that require more information, 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 [[Minnesota Statutes, section 342.14, subds. 1\(a\)](#) and [3\(b\)\(7\)](#)]. 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 organizer license at a time if it would violate [Minnesota Statutes, section 342.185](#). Applicants planning multiple events should time their applications accordingly ([Minnesota Statutes, section 342.39, subd. 3](#)).



Application components

Applicants must submit the following materials [[Minnesota Statutes, section 342.39, subd. 2\(a\)](#)]:

1. **Local government approval form**
2. **Site, security, and operations plan**
3. **Event diagram**
4. **Attestation of labor peace agreement (LPA)**
5. **Background check:** Results from a third-party background check submitted to the office that meets the requirements outline on OCM's [Background Check Resources webpage](#) ([mn.gov/ocm/businesses/licensing/background.jsp](#)).
 - The applicant must request a background check not more than 60 days before submitting the application.
6. **Standard operating procedures (SOPs) addressing:**
 - Security and ID checks
 - Inventory control and diversion prevention
 - Accounting and tax compliance
 - Employee training
7. **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 approving a temporary cannabis event license. Additionally, OCM may conduct onsite inspections of licensed events to verify regulatory compliance.

Upon license approval, 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 organizer license approval

The cannabis event organizer licensing process includes the following steps:

1. **Local approval secured:** Applicant obtains completed local government approval form [\[M. S., § 342.39, subd. 2\(a\)\(7\)\]](#).
2. **Application submission:** Applicant submits application, including local government approval form, attestation of LPA, background check and all required documentation and applicable fees, no fewer than 30-days before the event [\[M. S., § 342.39, subd. 2\(a\)\]](#).
3. **Application review:** OCM conducts an initial review to ensure minimum application requirements are met. If minimum requirements are not met, OCM will send a request for more information (RFMI), 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. **Pre-licensure phone inspection:** OCM contacts the applicant to verify event details and ensure preparedness for compliance.
5. **License issuance:** Upon successful completion of all requirements, OCM issues the license.
6. **Vendor list updates (if applicable):** If there are any changes to the vendor list prior to the event, the license holder must submit an updated list to OCM at least 72 hours before the event.
7. **Event inspection (if applicable):** OCM may inspect the event to confirm compliance with all licensing requirements [\[M. S., § 342.39, subd. 2\(a\)\(5\)\]](#).

Important information about Metrc and cannabis events

- Any product inventory being transferred to an event will need to be recorded in Metrc. Please note that the event organizer license holder does not need to record sales in Metrc, and the event organizer does not need a Metrc account. Vendors are responsible for and must follow Metrc protocol for stocking, sales, and transportation activities [\[M. S., § 342.40, subd. 7\(j\); M. R. 9810.2700, subp. 6\]](#). Learn more about the process for transferring product for temporary event sales, and please review the Metrc bulletin for [Temporary Event Sales \(MB IB 58\)](#).
- Vendors must use either a Minnesota-licensed transporter or a Tribal transporter (operating under a compact or cooperative agreement) to move product, including lower-potency hemp edibles, to and from the event [\[M. S., § 342.40, subd. 6\]](#).
- Reach out to metrc.ocm@state.mn.us with any concerns or questions about how to use Metrc successfully.
- Review [Metrc Bulletin 58](#) for a detailed process for recording event sales in Metrc.

For support on the day of your event, contact Metrc Support at support@metrc.com or 1-877-566-6506.