

Rhode Island Launches Free Cannabis Industry Training Program

Rhode Island is introducing a cannabis training program to equip workers with skills for the burgeoning industry. Announced on May 29, the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) will offer a free, eight-week Cannabis Training Program starting July 9 at its Liston Campus in Providence. Funded by the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training's Real Jobs RI initiative, the program combines online and in-person classes, industry visits, and employment assistance.

Focus on Accessibility

CCRI Director Stacy Sullivan emphasized the program's accessibility for communities impacted by cannabis criminalization. The first cohort will enroll 15 students, with classes taught by experts including EZHire Cannabis CEO Jacob Carlson and Certified Commercial Cannabis Expert Melissa Rutherford.

Economic and Social Impact

Gov. Phil Murphy highlighted the industry's growth, noting a 45% increase in cannabis jobs since Rhode Island legalized adult-use cannabis in 2022. The program aims to address workforce needs and promote equity within the industry, aligning with Rhode Island's broader economic development goals.

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