

# How Recreational Cannabis Sales Can Benefit Local Communities

## Ohio Sees Successful Launch of Recreational Cannabis Sales

Ohio's recreational cannabis market has seen a strong start since sales began on August 6, 2024. Amplify Dispensaries reported a significant increase in customer traffic, with about double the daily visitors compared to before the launch.

### Economic Benefits and Tax Revenue

The introduction of recreational cannabis sales has brought several benefits to local communities. Dispensaries are contributing to the local economy through both state and local sales taxes, including a 10% excise tax. This revenue is allocated to various programs, including social equity, mental health and addiction services, and local government support. Importantly, 36% of the excise tax revenue goes directly to host communities, with no restrictions on how it can be spent, allowing for targeted investment in areas of greatest need.

### Community Impact and Local Support

In Cleveland Heights, where Amplify Dispensaries is located, there have been no safety issues reported since the start of recreational cannabis sales. Mayor Kahlil Seren noted that the new revenue stream will significantly enhance the city's ability to address community needs. Additionally, the increased foot traffic generated by dispensaries is benefiting nearby businesses, such as restaurants, by drawing more customers to the area.

Amplify Dispensaries has also committed to social responsibility, with a portion of their initial sales supporting the Last Prisoner Project, which assists with the expungement of cannabis-related records.

Overall, the successful launch of recreational cannabis in Ohio is demonstrating positive economic and social impacts, enhancing both local communities and broader state programs.

Email: [info@cannabisriskmanager.com](mailto:info@cannabisriskmanager.com) | Phone: +415-226-4060

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