

# Curaleaf Secures First Massachusetts Cannabis Research License

## Massachusetts Grants First Cannabis Research License to Curaleaf Facility

Massachusetts cannabis regulators have issued the state's inaugural Marijuana Research Facility license to Curaleaf Processing, a subsidiary of the multistate cannabis operator Curaleaf Holdings. The milestone marks a significant step forward in advancing cannabis research within the state's regulated industry.

The Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) awarded the license last week, setting the stage for Curaleaf's facility to engage in studies aimed at improving safety, efficacy, and scientific understanding of cannabis products.

### A Long-Awaited Initiative

The research facility license program was first introduced in 2018, with the goal of encouraging scientific innovation within the state's cannabis sector. To date, seven entities have applied for research licenses, which are open to academic institutions, nonprofits, and businesses licensed to operate in Massachusetts.

Curaleaf's successful application reflects the culmination of a multi-year effort to meet the stringent requirements set by the CCC. The license allows the company to establish a dedicated research facility, although further approval will be required before studies can commence.

### Next Steps for Research

Under the terms of the license, Curaleaf and other approved applicants must apply for a Research Permit from the CCC's Research Department. These permits will authorize specific studies, methodologies, and experimental protocols, ensuring compliance with state regulations.

The CCC aims to create a framework that supports rigorous, high-quality research, even as marijuana remains classified as a Schedule I substance under federal law. The commission has emphasized the importance of state-level innovation in overcoming the barriers posed by federal restrictions on cannabis research.

### Impact on the Cannabis Industry

The introduction of research facility licenses is expected to enhance the safety and reliability of Massachusetts's regulated cannabis market. By fostering scientific inquiry, the program seeks to provide valuable insights into product safety, medical applications, and consumer health.

Industry stakeholders view the research initiative as a critical step in bridging knowledge gaps about cannabis and its effects. The findings generated by licensed facilities like Curaleaf's are anticipated to contribute to

broader industry standards and inform regulatory decisions.

## **A Model for Future Research**

Massachusetts's commitment to advancing cannabis research sets a precedent for other states navigating the challenges of integrating scientific study into regulated markets. By issuing dedicated research licenses and ensuring strict oversight, the state positions itself as a leader in fostering a science-driven approach to cannabis policy.

As Curaleaf begins its work under this groundbreaking license, the company's efforts are likely to influence both state and national conversations about the role of research in shaping the future of cannabis regulation.

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