



July 6, 2018

Updated: January 22, 2019

## Marijuana Establishment Request for Interest

### Background

On November 8, 2016, Massachusetts voters approved an initiative legalizing the cultivation and sale of recreational marijuana in the Commonwealth. In accordance with [M.G.L. c. 94G](#) and its implementing regulations 935 CMR 500, Worcester is required to facilitate the establishment of up to 15 regulated Marijuana Retailers.

In response, the City has adopted the following:

1. The City has adopted a local sales tax of 3% on the sale of recreational marijuana.
2. The City will negotiate community host agreements to provide resources for the oversight of marijuana establishments.
3. The City is required to limit the number of marijuana retailers to no less than 20% of the number of "off-premises" alcohol licenses allotted to the City which, under the current allotment of 74, would limit the number of marijuana retailers to 15.
4. The City has adopted a city ordinance imposing appropriate "time, place and manner" restrictions on the operation of local marijuana establishments by requiring such establishments to obtain a license from the license commission before commencing operations in Worcester.
5. The City has adopted an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to regulate adult use marijuana establishments.
6. The City is issuing a Request for Interest from prospective marijuana establishment operators

Additional information on the state licensure process can be found at [www.mass-cannabis-control.com](http://www.mass-cannabis-control.com)

### Request for Interest

The City of Worcester ("City") invites interested parties to submit an application in response to this Request for Interest ("RFI"). The City is accepting applications from qualified cannabis operators to be considered for the location of a marijuana establishment in the city. Selected applicants will be invited to negotiate a community host agreement with the City and move forward in the local licensing process.

This is not a binding Request for Proposals ("RFP"), but an invitation for interested parties to submit a marijuana establishment plan to the City. The City will use the RFI submittals to gauge interest in the operation of marijuana establishments. Following analysis of the RFI submittals, the City reserves the right to engage in negotiations with one or more respondents to this RFI.

The RFI is available at [www.worcesterma.gov/marijuana](http://www.worcesterma.gov/marijuana)

The proposal may be for any available licenses issued by the Cannabis Control Commission. The deadline for submission of the RFI is as follows:



License Type	RFI Deadline	Number
1. Marijuana Cultivator	Rolling	No cap
2. Craft Marijuana Cooperative	Rolling	No cap
3. Marijuana Product Manufacturer	Rolling	No cap
4. Marijuana Retailer	*Closed	15
5. Marijuana Transporter	Rolling	No cap
6. Marijuana Research Facility	Rolling	No cap
7. Laboratories	Rolling	No cap
8. Microbusiness	Rolling	No cap

\*The City is not currently accepting any additional Marijuana Retailer License applications unless otherwise notified.

#### Submittal Requirements

Please submit to the City completed PDF copies of the Application of Intent, Management and Operations Profile and any other documents required by the Cannabis Control Commission with the exception of the Background Check. In addition, please submit a cover letter summarizing your proposal and a signed copy of the last page of this document titled “Acknowledgement.”

1. **Cover Letter** – Please submit a 1-2 page cover letter summarizing your proposal and indicating why your establishment should be given preference to operate in the City of Worcester.
2. **Application of Intent** - All documentation and information requested by the Cannabis Control Commission in the Application of Intent including any attachments must be submitted to the City with the following exception:
  - Host Community Information - Single-page certification of host community agreement (Not available at time of RFI submission and may be left blank)
3. **Management and Operations Profile** - All documentation and information requested by the Cannabis Control Commission in the Management and Operations Profile including any attachments must be submitted to the City.
4. **Background Check** – Please Do Not submit to the City the Background Check as requested by the Cannabis Control Commission.
5. **Acknowledgement** – Please sign and date the last page of this document titled “Acknowledgement” and submit as an attachment.

The requested information above should be included as attachments in one (1) email sent to cannabis@worcesterma.gov

In the body of the email please include the following information:

1. Name
2. Business Name



3. Proposed marijuana establishment address
4. Type of license
5. Phone and email contact information

### Application Review

Applications will be reviewed by the City’s Cannabis Review Committee (“the Committee”). The Committee will review applications based on the following criteria:

- Location
- Capacity to meet both city and state licensure and regulatory requirements
- Diversity of applicants including status as an Economic Empowerment Applicant
- Feedback from the community outreach meeting
- Proposal feasibility - both market and financial
- Experience of operators
- Professional qualifications and expertise
- How the proposal integrates with the overall goals of the City of Worcester
- Soundness of proposal and the ability to bring the project to a timely commencement

The Committee seeks to expedite notification regarding the submitted applications and next steps however factors including the volume of applicants and scheduling will determine when the Committee is able to complete its process.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all applications if deemed to be in the City’s best interest.

The City does not discriminate regardless of race, sex, age, color, national origin, religion, genetic identity, disability, gender identity or expression, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, transgender status, veteran status, or any other protected status.

### Inquiries

Any inquiries related to technical matters should be submitted in writing to [cannabis@worcesterma.gov](mailto:cannabis@worcesterma.gov)

Additional information including any changes to this RFI as well as Frequently Asked Questions will be found at [www.worcesterma.gov/marijuana](http://www.worcesterma.gov/marijuana)

### Other Municipal Requirements

#### **To obtain a Community Host Agreement:**

RFI submission → RFI acceptance → Community Host Agreement negotiation → Signed community host agreement



**To obtain a Special Permit from the Planning Board:**

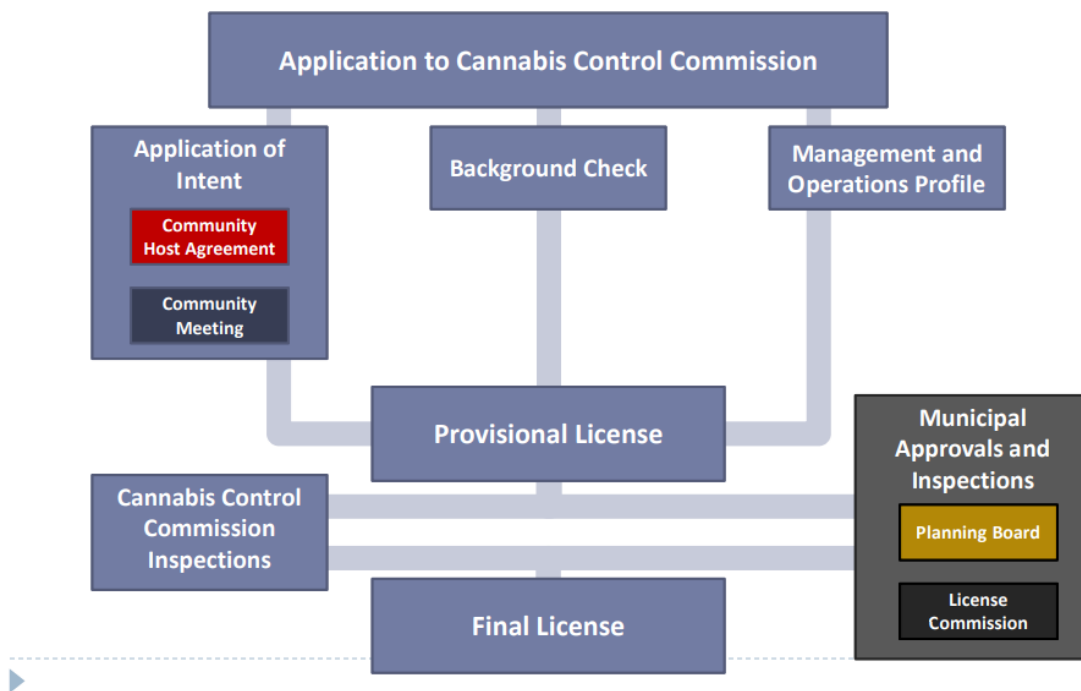
Signed community host agreement + properly zoned marijuana establishment location → Present to the Planning Board → Planning Board approval of special permit

**To obtain a local license from the License Commission:**

Special permit + provisional license from the Cannabis Control Commission → Present to the License Commission → License Commission approval of local license

Local/State Approval Process

**Multiple Steps in the Approval Process**





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have received a copy of the City of Worcester Marijuana Establishment Request for Interest document (“RFI”). I have read the RFI and I understand and agree to the requirements, provisions, terms, and conditions contained therein.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date