



# ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

## Drug Alert - May 18, 2022



### **New craft cannabis licenses issued amid ongoing turmoil in the Illinois marijuana industry**

Illinois has begun issuing new craft grow cannabis licenses, and a judge has authorized the state to hold a corrective lottery for dispensary applicants that filed lawsuits challenging the licensing process.

Last August, the state Department of Agriculture announced the first 40 craft grower conditional license winners. It took until Wednesday for the first three of those applicants to get their plans approved to begin construction. Those businesses, Galaxy Labs in Richton Park, Mint Cannabis in Forest Park and Star Bus Illinois in Rockford, are all majority Latino- or Black-owned.

Of those first 40 winners, 80% identify as nonwhite, and 88% qualified as social equity applicants, generally meaning the majority owner or a family member had a minor cannabis conviction, or came from poor areas with high rates of cannabis arrests, according to the state. Until those licenses were awarded, marijuana businesses in the state were almost entirely white-owned [Read](#)

### **From Politico**

**Weed moves:** "Three top state cannabis officials are leaving their jobs; Gov. J.B. Pritzker's spokeswoman on cannabis, **Charity Greene**; the cannabis regulation oversight officer, **Danielle Perry**; and the state's top official for regulating dispensaries, **Bret Bender**. **Paul Isaac**, deputy secretary of the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, becomes the interim cannabis regulation oversight officer," McCoppin reports.

### **Ohio to more than double the number of medical marijuana dispensaries.**

Ohio will more than double its number of medical marijuana dispensaries after state officials approved a [slate of new licenses](#) on Monday aimed at improving patient access.

The Ohio Board of Pharmacy, which regulates dispensaries, announced the recipients of 70 new licenses that were awarded via lottery, with a certain number allocated for each dispensary district containing a county or group of counties. About 230 different entities submitted [nearly 1,500 applications](#) for the chance at getting a license. [Read](#)

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