

Mikkicee Manning

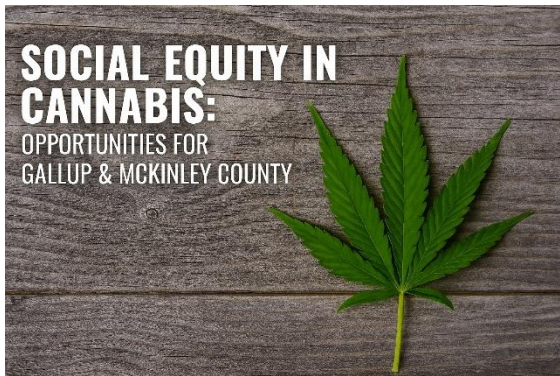
## Social Equity in Cannabis: Opportunities for Gallup & McKinley County

The latest updates

New Mexico’s cannabis industry isn’t just about sales — it’s about fair access. The state’s social equity program lowers barriers for communities historically harmed by prohibition, including Indigenous and rural families.

- **Microbusiness Licenses:** Discounted fees let small entrepreneurs cultivate, manufacture, and sell cannabis without the high costs of large operations.
- **Fee Reductions:** Eligible applicants can receive 50–80% cuts on licensing and application fees.
- **Priority Processing:** Social equity applicants move to the front of the line for license approvals.
- **Training & Mentorship:** Programs offer compliance guidance, business development support, and technical assistance.
- **Community Reinvestment:** In Albuquerque, cannabis tax revenue funds initiatives like a basic income pilot program, showing how legalization can uplift families.

For Gallup and McKinley County, these programs mean local entrepreneurs, Indigenous leaders, and small businesses can enter the cannabis market with real support



Rooted in resilience, rising in equity—Gallup and McKinley County stand united for cannabis justice.



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## Cannabis Crossroads: From Taboo to Tech, Innovation Meets Injustice.

Not long ago, cannabis was something you had to search far and wide for. It was illegal, stigmatized, and often hidden in the shadows of society. Access was limited, unreliable, and risky — people relied on word-of-mouth networks or traveled long distances just to find it. The taboo around cannabis meant that conversations were hushed, and patients who needed it for relief often had no safe or legal options.

Fast forward to today, and the landscape is completely different. Legalization in New Mexico has brought cannabis into the mainstream, and technology has made it more accessible than ever. Dispensaries now use digital kiosks, mobile apps, and blockchain tracking to provide transparency and convenience. Consumers can browse menus, verify lab results, and even get personalized product recommendations with a few taps on their phone. What was once hidden is now openly marketed, regulated, and celebrated as part of local culture and economy.

This transformation isn’t just about legalization — it’s about how technology has normalized cannabis. From AI-powered cultivation systems that ensure consistent quality to augmented reality menus that educate consumers, cannabis has moved from taboo to tech frontier. Patients and recreational users alike now have everything at their disposal: safe access, reliable information, and innovative experiences that were unimaginable just a generation ago.

Yet the progress comes with contradictions. Today, consumers can order cannabis for delivery with the ease of a smartphone app, while thousands of people across the U.S. remain incarcerated for nonviolent cannabis offenses. The same product that fuels a booming industry was once the basis for criminal records and prison sentences. As New Mexico embraces innovation, the crossroads is clear: true justice in cannabis means pairing technology and access with equity, expungement, and reinvestment in communities harmed by prohibition.

### Cannabis Kitchen Cannabis-Infused Hot Cocoa

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Warm up this holiday season with a cozy cup of infused cocoa

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### Historic Move The latest updates

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280E is dead! Cannabis companies finally get tax relief under Trump’s new order. #CannabisPolicy #DailyBud

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### Cannabis 101 A Beginner’s Guide

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If you’re new, here are the essentials to keep your experience safe and enjoyable.

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# Emergency Hemp Rule: Protecting Patients or Creating Shortages?

The latest updates to keep you high through the day.

New Mexico’s recent emergency hemp rule has sparked debate across the state, raising questions about whether regulators are protecting consumers or unintentionally restricting access to beneficial cannabinoids.

On August 1, 2025, the New Mexico Environment Department enacted an emergency amendment banning the production and use of semi-synthetic cannabinoids in hemp products. This includes compounds like Delta-8 THC, which are often derived from CBD. The Cannabis Control Division has also proposed requiring lab testing for all cannabis products, aiming to ensure safety and prevent unregulated hemp-derived items from slipping into dispensaries.

### Why the Rule Was Introduced

State officials argue that the rule is necessary to combat the unregulated sale of hemp-derived products at gas stations and convenience stores. These outlets often sell items without proper oversight, licenses, or lab testing, raising concerns about consumer safety.

### The Patient Perspective

For many patients, cannabinoids such as CBD and Delta-8 provide relief from pain, anxiety, and sleep disorders. A blanket ban could create a shortage of products that patients rely on daily. Advocates argue that instead of banning these compounds outright, regulators should:

- Require licenses for non-dispensary retailers.
- Mandate lab testing all hemp-derived products.
- Target enforcement at unregulated sellers, not dispensaries providing safe, tested medicine.

### The Gas Station Problem

Gas stations and corner stores have become a hub for unregulated hemp sales, often bypassing the state’s cannabis licensing system. Advocates suggest restricting sales in these establishments unless they apply for a cannabis license. Failure to comply would mean losing the right to sell these products.

### A Balanced Approach

Cannabis advocates stress that regulation should focus on safety and oversight, not prohibition. By enforcing stricter licensing and expanding lab-testing requirements, New Mexico can protect consumers while preserving access for patients and recreational users.

“Cannabis is safe, cannabis is the way,” said Garnelle Cly a medical cannabis advocate, emphasizing that the rule should not punish patients who depend on these products.



Rooted in the Red Earth: Exploring New Mexico’s High Desert Cannabis Trail

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# High Desert Adventures: Responsible Travel

Cannabis tourism in New Mexico is unique because it’s tied to the region’s natural and cultural heritage. Visitors can pair dispensary stops with hikes in Red Rock State Park, art tours in Santa Fe, or culinary adventures featuring infused dining. While cannabis is legal, public consumption remains prohibited, so tourists should seek cannabis-friendly accommodations or private spaces.

Driving under the influence is strictly illegal, and crossing state lines with cannabis is prohibited. Tourists are encouraged to start low with edibles and respect local laws to ensure a safe and enjoyable trip Cannabis tourism in New Mexico isn’t just about buying products — it’s about immersive experiences that combine cannabis with culture, wellness, and the outdoors

## Cannabis Job Listings — December 2025

### Budtenders & Retail Staff

- Locations: Grants, Las Cruces, Hobbs, Carlsbad, Albuquerque
- Pay: \$13–\$19/hr
- Duties: Customer service, product knowledge, sales

### Cultivation & post-harvest

- Locations: Española, Farmington, Sunland Park
- Roles: Trimmers, packagers, cultivation assistants
- Duties: Plant care, harvesting, packaging

Here’s a direct link to cannabis job listings in New Mexico:

- Cannabis Jobs in New Mexico - ZipRecruiter
- New Mexico Cannabis Jobs - Marijuana Jobs & Cannabis Careers
- Cannabis Jobs in New Mexico - Indeed



Cannabis Kitchen:  
December Recipe



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Cannabis-Infused Hot Cocoa

Warm up this holiday season with a cozy cup of infused cocoa — blending festive flavors with cannabis for a relaxing treat.

Ingredients:

- 2 cups milk (or oat/almond)
- 2 tbsp cocoa powder
- 2 tbsp sugar or honey
- 1/4 tsp cinnamon
- Pinch of nutmeg
- 1/4 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 tsp cannabis-infused butter or oil
- Whipped cream & crushed candy cane

Directions:

Heat milk until steaming, whisk in cocoa, sugar, and spices. Stir in cannabis butter until smooth. Pour into mugs, top with whipped cream, and sprinkle candy cane.

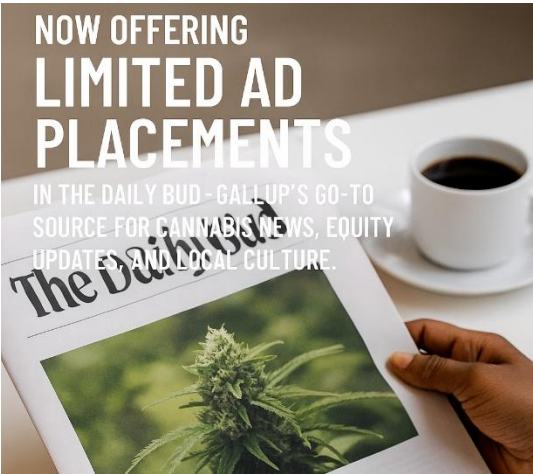
Note: Potency depends on infusion strength — start low, go slow. Perfect with gingerbread cookies or as a festive nightcap.

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Advertise in The Daily Bud

Reach Gallup & McKinley County’s cannabis community with impact.

We’re now offering limited ad placements in The Daily Bud — Gallup’s go-to source for cannabis news, equity updates, and local culture. Whether you’re launching a product, hosting an event, or building awareness, we’ve got a spot for you.



Starting at just \$25. Let’s build visibility and community together.



Rooted in clarity, growth, and calm—your journey begins here.

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Cannabis 101:  
A Beginner’s Guide

Cannabis is now legal in New Mexico, and many in Gallup & McKinley County are exploring it for the first time. If you’re new, here are the essentials to keep your experience safe and enjoyable.

Effects vary by person. Begin with small doses — especially edibles, which can take 30-90 minutes to kick in. Patience is key.

Choose a comfortable environment with trusted people. Stay hydrated, keep snacks handy, and avoid mixing cannabis with alcohol until you know your tolerance.

Cannabis is legal for adults 21+ in New Mexico. Never drive under the influence. Supporting local dispensaries strengthens community equity and ensures legalization benefits reach Gallup & McKinley County.

Quick Tips

- Effects differ for everyone — don’t compare your experience.
- Ask budtenders for guidance; they’re there to help.
- Cannabis is about balance, respect, and enjoyment.





Signed & Sealed: Trump’s Cannabis Order Reclassifies Marijuana – But Stops Short of Legalization

# Historic Move:

## Cannabis Reclassified, Relief for Businesses Ahead



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**Historical Federal Cannabis Policy Shift**  
On December 16, 2025, President Trump signed an executive order reclassifying cannabis from Schedule I to Schedule III under federal law—a major change for the industry, though not full legalization.

Key Changes:

- **Reclassification:** Cannabis is now Schedule III substance, grouped with drugs like ketamine and Tylenol with codeine.
- **Tax Relief:** Cannabis businesses are not longer subject to IRS Section 280E, allowing standard business expense deductions.
- **Medical Access:** Potential expansion of Medicare coverage for CBD products and fewer barriers for federally approved cannabis research.

Limitations:

- **No Federal Legalization:** Recreational cannabis remains illegal at the federal level; stated retain authority over their own regulations.
- **No Automatic Pardons:** Past cannabis convictions are not erased by this order.
- **No Interstate Sales:** Federal Law continues to prohibit nationwide retail cannabis commerce.

Industry & Market Reaction

Cannabis stocks surged in anticipation of the signing, with Tilray and Canopy Growth jumping more than 40% last week. Industry leaders hailed the move as a breakthrough, though some warn stricter oversight could follow.

“A lot of people want to see it, the reclassification, because it leads to tremendous amounts of research that can’t be done unless you reclassify. So, we are looking at that very strongly.”

- Donald Trump

Local Impact in New Mexico

For Gallup and the wider Southwest, the order could mean:

- Lower tax burdens for dispensaries and couriers.
- Easier compliance for cannabis transport businesses like CMC Transport.
- New investment opportunities for local entrepreneurs blending culture, activism, and cannabis retail.

The Bottom Line

Trump’s order is a historic step toward normalization, but it’s not legalization. For communities like Gallup, where cannabis is already legal under state law, the change brings financial relief, stronger business infrastructure, and new opportunities – while the fight for full federal legalization continues.