



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Maryland Office of Social Equity Bridges Cannabis and Traditional Business Sectors at Premier Vendor Fair

BALTIMORE, MD (May 23, 2025) — The Maryland Office of Social Equity (OSE) announced it will host a premier Cannabis Business Vendor Fair on **June 6, 2025**, designed to connect Maryland's 191 Social Equity Cannabis Licensees with local vendors and service providers. This event, titled "**From Seed to Success**," marks a vital step toward establishing cannabis businesses as legitimate, active contributors to Maryland's economic landscape, while reinforcing the state's equity-focused approach to industry development.

"The 191 social equity licensees awarded to date represent more than just new businesses—they symbolize Maryland's commitment to repairing historical inequities while driving economic growth," said **Audrey Johnson, executive director of the Office of Social Equity**. "Through initiatives like our vendor fair, we're building an ecosystem where cannabis businesses can succeed on time and on budget, while creating meaningful opportunities for Maryland businesses to participate in this emerging market. This is how we deliver on our promise of transformative economic impact."

The event, hosted in partnership with MDOT's Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE), will take place at the **Marriott BWI from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM**. It will bring together licensees navigating the 18-month journey from licensing to market entry with vendors providing essential business services.

The vendor fair will focus on essential services, including construction, legal and compliance support, accounting, security, technology, real estate, and waste management – all critical components for cannabis businesses to successfully enter the market.

"**From Seed to Success**" will also feature **Government Row** — a dedicated space where attendees can connect with representatives from key state agencies, including the Maryland

Cannabis Administration (MCA), State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT), Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission (ATCC), MDOT's Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE), the Department of Commerce (COMM), and the Office of the Comptroller (COMP).

"This vendor fair represents a strategic adaptation of MDOT's successful business connection model to support Maryland's newest industry," said **Paul J. Wiedefeld, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation**. "By creating direct pathways between social equity licensees and qualified service providers, we're fulfilling our shared commitment to building an inclusive economy. This collaborative approach ensures that as cannabis businesses grow, they create opportunities for Maryland's diverse business community across multiple sectors."

This event complements the Office of Social Equity's broader economic strategy, which includes the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund (CRRF). With over \$80 million allocated across Maryland communities historically harmed by cannabis prohibition, the CRRF reflects Maryland's deep commitment to comprehensive economic justice. The vendor fair extends this commitment by creating business opportunities throughout the cannabis ecosystem—from licensee operations to service provider partnerships.

This event comes at a pivotal time, as licensees prepare to meet operational deadlines. It underscores the Office of Social Equity's commitment to creating an environment where both cannabis businesses and Maryland vendors can grow and succeed together.

Businesses interested in participating should submit their interest by **May 30th** at: [OSE 2025 Vendor Fair Interest Form](#).

About the Office of Social Equity:

The Office of Social Equity ensures diverse participation in Maryland's cannabis market, provides resources and support for social equity applicants and licensees, and addresses the impact of past cannabis prohibition on communities through strategic programming, technical assistance, and community engagement.

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