



# Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program

## Dispensary RFA II

### Frequently Asked Questions

- On April 19, 2021, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy approved increasing the number of dispensary licenses in Ohio by 73. A copy of the presentation can be accessed here: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/RFA2overview](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/RFA2overview)
- If all 73 licenses are awarded, this will bring the total number of Ohio dispensary licenses to 130 (57 current + 73 approved).

**Next Steps:** The licenses will be awarded using an application process (known as RFA II) that is expected to be announced in spring/summer 2021. The timing of this announcement will be based on when the Board's pending rule changes regarding the application process are made final.

#### **Frequently Asked Questions**

##### **1) What factors did the Board consider when making this decision?**

Ohio law (ORC [3796.05](#)) and program rule (OAC [3796:6-2-05](#)) require the Board to consider the following when determining the number of dispensaries in the state:

- 1) The population of this state;
- 2) The number of patients seeking to use medical marijuana; and
- 3) The geographic distribution of dispensary sites.

A presentation that includes the analysis of these three factors can be found by visiting: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/RFA2overview](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/RFA2overview)

##### **2) Will there be any changes to the application process compared to last time?**

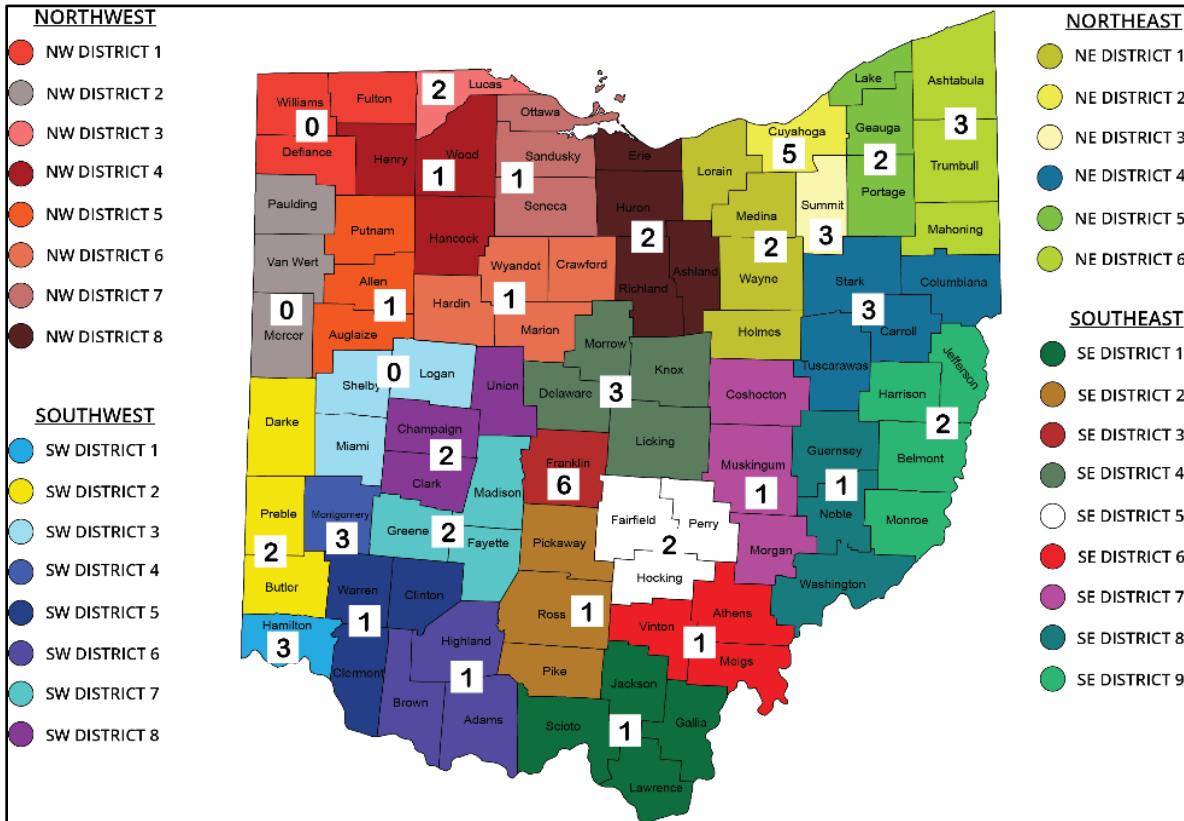
As previously done, RFA II will require applicants to specify the district(s) wherein they are applying, and provisional dispensary licenses will be awarded based on those districts. The districts will remain the same as in the previous RFA. Dispensary applications will then be evaluated to determine who is a qualified applicant.

As indicated in the presentation, all viable applications will then be entered into a lottery system, wherein individual lotteries will be held for each dispensary district with available licenses. A lottery system for qualified applicants requires the Board to consider objective, rather than subjective, criteria which can result in a fairer, more streamlined system for awarding dispensary licenses.

More information on RFA II will be posted to the Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program website ([www.medicalmarijuana.ohio.gov](http://www.medicalmarijuana.ohio.gov)) when the application process is announced in spring/summer 2021. Those who are interested are encouraged to sign up for updates on the Program's homepage.

### 3) Why does the Board award licenses using dispensary districts?

Ohio's 31 medical marijuana dispensary districts were established for the first round of applications to ensure the geographic distribution of dispensaries as required by law (ORC [3796.05](#)). Below is a map of the current districts and the number of dispensary licenses per district. These districts will not be changing for the RFA II process.



### 4) Why did you use patient data from January 2021?

The Board began conducting its required analysis in fall 2020 and, in January 2021, finalized the process it would use in determining dispensary expansion (both numbers and locations). Therefore, the Board decided to utilize this snapshot in time as the basis for making the decision regarding program expansion.

It should be noted that the Board used all "registered" patients with retrievable zip code information rather than only "active" patients to account for future program growth and to capture those patients who may have registered but have not been actively purchasing due to price or access issues.

### 5) What was the rationale for using 1,200 patients per dispensary per district to allocate additional dispensary licenses?

As indicated in the presentation to the [Board](#), one of the goals of RFA II is to promote equal access across the dispensary regions. Additionally, the Board has a responsibility to ensure the viability of the Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program (MMCP). Previous research from other states indicates that a dispensary needs between 300-600 active patients to maintain viability.

Because the Board used all "registered" patients rather than "active" patients in its analysis, the metric of 1,200 patients per dispensary per district is an attempt to strike a balance between expanding patient access and ensuring viable dispensary operations.

**6) Will there be changes to the number of dispensary licenses someone may own at one time?**

No. Per program rule [OAC [3796:6-2-06](#) (F)], no owner shall be issued more than five dispensary licenses at any time, unless authorized by the Board after its analysis supporting additional licensing. The Board did not authorize an increase to these license limits as part of RFA II and therefore the limit will remain at five licenses per owner.

**7) When will the new dispensaries be open and serving patients?**

RFA II is expected to be announced in spring/summer 2021, as the Board needs time to finalize updates to its rules regarding the application process and to update any application materials. Any announcement will be made via the Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program's website: [www.medicalmarijuana.ohio.gov](http://www.medicalmarijuana.ohio.gov). Those who are interested are encouraged to sign up for updates on the Program's homepage.