

## CT Social Equity Council Offers Cannabis Business Boot Camps and Workforce Training

**HARTFORD (May 21, 2024)** — Connecticut's Social Equity Council (SEC) today announced the launch of a new initiative to help people disproportionately impacted by the War on Drugs learn more about entrepreneurial opportunities to own and operate a Cannabis business in the State of Connecticut. Building upon the success of last year's Cannabis Business Accelerator, the SEC working with Oaksterdam University is offering free enrollment in Cannabis Boot Camps to residents of disproportionately impacted area's (DIA's). The free five-week Cannabis Boot Camps will provide DIA residents with an opportunity to understand what it takes to be a Cannabis licensee in the State of Connecticut. The boot camps will review business ownership, risk mitigation and overview of Connecticut and federal laws to prepare for Cannabis business ownership.

In addition, the SEC will expand services to provide entry level workforce training opportunities to DIA residents. The program is administered with support from Oaksterdam University and includes two tracks:

- **Entry-level track:** A foundational "cannabis 101" that covers Connecticut laws, regulations, and supply chain considerations. Completion results in Connecticut Responsible Vendor Training Certification.
- **Manager-level track:** Builds on the entry-level track to prepare workers for management positions. Completion results in Connecticut Cannabis Business Manager Training Certification and eligibility to enter the Pre-Accelerator Boot Camp.

Oaksterdam will deliver the hybrid live program through self-paced educational curricula and live interactive Zoom classes with in-person support. Oaksterdam supports the curriculum through wraparound student services, guidance counseling, and direct one-on-one coaching with local and national experts.

"We are excited to expand the educational offerings for both those interested in Cannabis business ownership and those interested in working in Connecticut's Cannabis business industry. These programs are designed to provide DIA residents with early information and education that will help them to make informed decisions on their participation. said **GINNE-RAE CLAY, SEC Executive Director**. "These trainings offer participants the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully participate in Connecticut's cannabis business market."

"We are thrilled to continue to help entrepreneurs launch start-ups in the great State of Connecticut, but not everyone has the goal of owning a business. Workforce training helps people get great jobs, provide for their families, and contribute to their community with dignity," says **OU Executive Chancellor Dale Sky Jones**. "Now we can provide more services for more people to succeed in their business and careers."

According to the latest figures released by the Connecticut State Department of Consumer Protection, cannabis sales reached \$274 million in the first year after adult use legalization. The 2024 Vangst Jobs Report ranks Connecticut eighth on its list of states with the highest cannabis jobs growth potential, with 12,000 jobs expected as the industry reaches full maturity.

**For more questions on the State of Connecticut's Social Equity Council Accelerator Program, email [SEC@CT.GOV](mailto:SEC@CT.GOV).** Click [here](#) to enroll for Cannabis Workforce Training and Business Boot Camp programs.

### **About the CT Social Equity Council (SEC)**

The Social Equity Council was created to make sure the adult-use cannabis program is grown equitably and ensures that funds from the adult-use cannabis program are brought back to the communities hit hardest by the "war on drugs." The SEC oversees the verification of equity applicants, creates new programs to support cannabis businesses and businesses in other industries, and manages the more general community investments derived from the cannabis tax revenue. To learn more about Social Equity Council announcements, upcoming meetings, and adult-use cannabis information, visit [Social Equity Council \(ct.gov\)](https://www.ct.gov/social-equity-council).

### **About Oaksterdam University**

Oaksterdam University is America's first cannabis college. They are a trusted leader in cannabis education and certification, and a strong voice in the continuing fight for legalization. Oaksterdam is often in the news, from cannabis trade publications to mainstream digital, print, radio, and television around the world. Their faculty are called upon as expert sources, and their Cannabis Terminology Style Guide sets the standard for talking and writing about cannabis from academia to the press.

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