



## **Cannabis Business Permitting Ordinance Preferences for Priority Applicants**

Updated June, 2025

Anyone seeking to operate a Cannabis Business, as defined in the [Cannabis Business Permit Ordinance](#), in the City of Cambridge must obtain a Cannabis Business Permit. Section 5.50.040 of the Ordinance explains the permitting preference for priority applicants and section 5.50.020 defines the priority applicant groups (Priority A and Priority B). Only applicants meeting the criteria for Priority A or Priority B groups may apply for a Cannabis Business Permit.

This following explains which supporting documents are required at the time of application to prove applicant status. The City of Cambridge reserves the right to request additional back-up documentation it determines necessary to confirm Priority A or Priority B Applicant status.

### **Priority A Supporting Documentation**

1. Economic Empowerment Applicant
  - a. Official MA CCC letter informing applicant of confirmed Economic Empowerment status.
2. Social Equity Applicant who is also a Cambridge resident and has been for at least the previous three years
  - a. Official MA CCC letter information applicant of confirmed Social Equity status; AND
  - b. *One of the following:*
    - i. Personal tax forms filed for previous three years, OR
    - ii. Copy of signed residential lease for previous three years, OR
    - iii. Proof of enrollment in Cambridge residential tax exemption program for previous three years, OR
    - iv. Mortgage statements dated 6 months apart from each other for the previous three years, OR
    - v. Utility bills (gas or electric) dated 6 months apart from each other for the previous three years
3. Women or Minority Owned Businesses (as certified by the Commonwealth and/or the city)
  - a. City of Cambridge attestation form as to Women or Minority Owned Business status (on following page); AND
  - b. *One of the following:*
    - i. Confirmation that the Cannabis Control Commission has determined that the business is a Woman or Minority Owned Business for purposes of qualifying as an Expedited Applicant pursuant to 935 CMR 500.000. This confirmation can be provided after applying for and receiving a Cannabis Business Permit, but shall be provided before opening a Cannabis Business, or the Cannabis Business Permit is subject to revocation, OR
    - ii. Certification as a Woman or Minority Owned Business from the Commonwealth Supplier Diversity Office.
4. Cambridge resident for at least the previous three years prior to application earning less than 50 percent (50%) of Area Median Income (AMI) in the three previous tax years prior to application.
  - a. Personal tax forms filed for previous three years, showing gross income. Personal tax forms can be used to demonstrate Cambridge residency as well.

### **Priority B Supporting Documentation**

5. A Marijuana Treatment Center (MTC) within Cambridge that was licensed or registered by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health not later than July 1, 2017
  - a. Official Special Permit Decision Notice from the Cambridge Planning Board