

**VOLUME I: GENERAL GOVERNMENT
AND QUASI-PUBLIC AGENCIES**

**RHODE ISLAND CANNABIS CONTROL
COMMISSION**

Agency Summary

Rhode Island Cannabis Control Commission

Agency Mission

To govern Rhode Island's adult-use and medical cannabis industries and hemp industry by licensing businesses, providing education and guidance, ensuring compliance, promoting equitable access, and fostering sustainable economic opportunity while maintaining balance and protecting public health and safety.

Agency Description

The Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) is the independent state agency responsible for regulating and overseeing Rhode Island's adult-use and medical cannabis industries and hemp industry. Created by the Rhode Island Cannabis Act of 2022, the Commission was established to ensure that the state's cannabis market operates safely, transparently, and equitably. Its responsibilities include licensing cannabis cultivators, compassion centers/hybrid cannabis retailers, and future retail establishments; enforcing compliance with health, safety, and labeling standards; and promoting social equity through dedicated licensing and support programs for communities disproportionately impacted by past enforcement of cannabis laws. Most recently, through the Governor's 2026 budget, the Commission has expanded its scope to include regulating hemp, including hemp growers, handlers, distributors, and retailers of hemp-derived products, ensuring alignment with state and federal standards. While cannabis and hemp oversight was initially handled by the Office of Cannabis Regulation (OCR) within the Department of Business Regulation, on May 1, 2025, the Commission officially assumed full regulatory authority and absorbed the OCR, establishing the Cannabis Office, following the finalization of the Commission's regulations. The Commission is governed by a three-member body appointed by the Governor and supported by the Cannabis Office, which manages day-to-day operations of regulating the cannabis industry. The Commission also collaborates with other key state agencies, including the Department of Health, Department of Behavioral Healthcare Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals and the Division of Taxation to ensure product safety, support public health initiatives, coordinate enforcement, and manage tax compliance. The Commission's powers and responsibilities are codified in R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 21-28.11 and 2-26-1 with detailed administrative and licensing procedures outlined in Title 560 of the Rhode Island Code of Regulations, establishing a comprehensive framework for regulating all aspects of cannabis and hemp in the state.

Statutory History

On May 25, 2022, Governor Dan McKee signed into law the Rhode Island Cannabis Act, which legalized adult-use cannabis in Rhode Island. This Act mandated the creation of the Rhode Island Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) as an independent regulatory body to oversee both adult-use and medical cannabis programs. The Commission comprises three commissioners appointed by the Governor with Senate advice and consent, with one of them designated as Chair. A moratorium was put in place on new cultivation licenses for two years post-final regulation issuance.

Until the Commission's final regulations were approved, the former Office of Cannabis Regulation (under DBR) managed regulatory and enforcement functions during a transitional period. As stipulated in R.I. Gen. Laws § 21-28.11-10.1, the CCC was granted authority to assume full regulatory control upon final promulgation of its rules. The Cannabis Act codified the Commission's independence and powers under R.I. Gen. Laws § 21-28.11-4, detailing its purpose, structure, and appointment process. It articulated that the CCC would assume overarching responsibility for the regulation, licensing, and control both adult-use and medical cannabis upon full transition.

On April 11, 2025, the Commission voted to approve its final regulations governing both adult-use and medical cannabis. These regulations were submitted to the Secretary of State and became effective on May 1, 2025, marking the Commission's official assumption of full regulatory authority, including oversight previously held by DBR's OCR. The regulations established the Rhode Island Cannabis Office (previously OCR) as its operational arm to streamline administration under its purview.

In May 2025, the Commission implemented administrative procedures, including procedures related to inspections, hearings and access to public records, via 560-RICR-10 05-1, effective May 1, 2025, grounded in R.I. Gen. Laws § 21-28.11-5. Additionally, the Commission rolled out comprehensive establishment licensing and renewal rules—covering retail, social equity, worker's cooperative licenses, cultivators, manufacturers, testing labs, and related fees—via 560-RICR-10-10-1, effective also on May 1, 2025.

Following the passage of House Bill 5076 Article 3 on July 1, 2025, the Commission expanded its scope to include hemp, bringing hemp growers, handlers, distributors, and retailers of hemp-derived products under its regulatory framework.

Budget

Rhode Island Cannabis Control Commission

	2024 Actuals	2025 Actuals	2026 Enacted Budget	2026 Revised Budget	2027 Recommended
Expenditures by Program					
Central Management	0	0	7,303,563	7,286,530	7,964,425
Total Expenditures	0	0	7,303,563	7,286,530	7,964,425
Expenditures by Object					
Salary and Benefits	0	0	4,421,391	4,298,347	4,921,720
Contract Professional Services	0	0	325,750	495,000	110,000
Operating Supplies and Expenses	0	0	1,758,922	2,148,183	2,487,705
Assistance and Grants	0	0	250,000	0	0
Subtotal: Operating	0	0	6,756,063	6,941,530	7,519,425
Capital Purchases and Equipment	0	0	547,500	345,000	445,000
Subtotal: Other	0	0	547,500	345,000	445,000
Total Expenditures	0	0	7,303,563	7,286,530	7,964,425
Expenditures by Source of Funds					
Restricted Receipts	0	0	7,303,563	7,286,530	7,964,425
Total Expenditures	0	0	7,303,563	7,286,530	7,964,425
FTE Authorization	0.0	0.0	26.0	26.0	28.0

Personnel Agency Summary

Rhode Island Cannabis Control Commission

	FY 2026		FY 2027	
	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Classified	24.0	2,336,154	26.0	2,660,776
Unclassified	2.0	390,836	2.0	402,816
Subtotal	26.0	2,726,990	28.0	3,063,592
Transfer In		2,914		3,002
Turnover		(59,931)		0
Total Salaries		2,750,584		3,148,142
Benefits				
FICA		199,561		230,323
Health Benefits		328,077		417,393
Payroll Accrual		15,385		17,500
Retiree Health		85,796		93,452
Retirement		842,387		923,888
Subtotal		1,471,206		1,682,556
Total Salaries and Benefits	26.0	4,221,790	28.0	4,830,698
Cost Per FTE Position		162,377		172,525
Statewide Benefit Assessment		76,557		91,022
Payroll Costs	26.0	4,298,347	28.0	4,921,720
Purchased Services				
Clerical and Temporary Services		50,000		85,000
Management & Consultant Services		420,000		0
Other Contracts		2,000		2,000
Training and Educational Services		23,000		23,000
Subtotal		495,000		110,000
Total Personnel	26.0	4,793,347	28.0	5,031,720
Distribution by Source of Funds				
Restricted Receipts	26.0	4,793,347	28.0	5,031,720
Total All Funds	26.0	4,793,347	28.0	5,031,720

Program Summary

Rhode Island Cannabis Control Commission

Central Management

Mission

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Description

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Budget

Rhode Island Cannabis Control Commission

Central Management

Expenditures by Sub Program	2024 Actuals	2025 Actuals	2026 Enacted Budget	2026 Revised Budget	2027 Recommended
Adult Use Marijuana Program	0	0	5,551,256	5,427,462	6,071,791
Medical Marijuana Program	0	0	1,752,307	1,859,068	1,892,634
Total Expenditures	0	0	7,303,563	7,286,530	7,964,425
Expenditures by Object					
Salary and Benefits	0	0	4,421,391	4,298,347	4,921,720
Contract Professional Services	0	0	325,750	495,000	110,000
Operating Supplies and Expenses	0	0	1,758,922	2,148,183	2,487,705
Assistance and Grants	0	0	250,000	0	0
Subtotal: Operating	0	0	6,756,063	6,941,530	7,519,425
Capital Purchases and Equipment	0	0	547,500	345,000	445,000
Subtotal: Other	0	0	547,500	345,000	445,000
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Expenditures by Source of Funds					
Restricted Receipts	0	0	7,303,563	7,286,530	7,964,425
Total Expenditures	0	0	7,303,563	7,286,530	7,964,425

Personnel

Rhode Island Cannabis Control Commission

Central Management

		FY 2026		FY 2027	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Classified					
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	0A24 A	2.0	137,098	2.0	146,657
CHF OF INSP,OFF OF CANN REG (D	0135 A	1.0	110,698	1.0	114,019
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER I	0141 A	1.0	121,189	1.0	124,825
CHIEF IMPLEMENTATION AIDE	0128 A	1.0	73,926	1.0	78,940
CHIEF IMPLEMENTATION AIDE	0A28 A	1.0	87,243	1.0	89,860
CHIEF OF LEGAL SERVICES	0141 A	1.0	133,541	1.0	137,547
CHIEF OF POLICY, CANNABIS CONTROL COMMISSION	0141 A	1.0	115,008	1.0	118,459
CHIEF OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, CANNABIS CONTROL COMMISSION	0141 A	1.0	120,721	1.0	130,705
CHIEF PUBLIC PROTECTION INSPECTOR	0A32 A	7.0	679,197	7.0	709,403
CHIEF REGULATORY OFFICER,CANNABIS CONTROL COMMISSION	0143 A	1.0	143,570	1.0	150,261
DATA ANALYST II	0138 A	0.0	0	1.0	112,297
ECONOMIC AND POLICY ANALYST I	0130 A	1.0	84,209	1.0	89,641
LICENSING AIDE	0A15 A	1.0	44,002	1.0	50,915
SENIOR ECONOMIC AND POLICY ANALYST	0134 A	3.0	293,673	3.0	312,914
SENIOR LEGAL COUNSEL	0136 A	1.0	109,352	2.0	209,125
SENIOR SYSTEMS ANALYST	0A26 A	1.0	82,727	1.0	85,208
Subtotal Classified		24.0	2,336,154	26.0	2,660,776
Unclassified					
ADMINISTRATOR, CANNABIS OFFICE	0849 A	1.0	186,767	1.0	198,747
CHAIRPERSON, CANNABIS CNTL COM	0883 F	1.0	204,069	1.0	204,069
Subtotal Unclassified		2.0	390,836	2.0	402,816
Subtotal		26.0	2,726,990	28.0	3,063,592
Transfer In			2,914		3,002
Longevity Pay			8,185		8,431
Regular Wages			2,802,330		3,139,711
Turnover			(59,931)		0
Total Salaries			2,750,584		3,148,142
Benefits					
FICA			199,561		230,323
Health Benefits			328,077		417,393
Payroll Accrual			15,385		17,500
Retiree Health			85,796		93,452
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Performance Measures

Rhode Island Cannabis Control Commission

Central Management

Medical Cannabis Patient Count

The figures below represent the number of actively registered medical cannabis patients. The CCC would like to maintain the current number of actively registered medical cannabis patients and is committed to keeping medical patients licensed, while responsibly expanding the adult-use market. [Note: This performance measure was established in FY 2026 and historical targets are not available.]

	<i>Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year</i>				
<i>Frequency: Annual</i>	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Target	--	--	--	7,000	7,000
Actual	11,618	7,866	7,128	--	--

Cannabis and Hemp Establishment Inspection Rate

The figures below represent the percent of licensed cannabis and hemp establishments that were inspected within the reporting timeframe. [Note: This performance measure was established in FY 2026 and historical targets and actuals are not available.]

	<i>Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year</i>				
<i>Frequency: Annual</i>	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Target	--	--	--	15%	15%
Actual	--	--	--	--	--

Cannabis and Hemp Licenses Issued

The figures below represent the number of adult-use cannabis, medical cannabis, and hemp licenses issued. [Note: This performance measure was established in FY 2026 and historical targets and actuals are not available. Given the timeline for adult-use license applications and uncertainty regarding federal and state rules on hemp, no future targets are currently available.]

	<i>Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year</i>				
<i>Frequency: Annual</i>	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Target	--	--	--	--	--
Actual	--	--	--	--	--

Commercial Cannabis Establishment Employee ID Cards

The figures below represent the number of commercial cannabis establishment identification cards issued to employees of cannabis establishments. [Note: This performance measure was established in FY 2026 and historical targets and actuals are not available. Targets are not utilized in this measure as it is dependent on industry and public demand.]

	<i>Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year</i>				
<i>Frequency: Annual</i>	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Target	--	--	--	--	--
Actual	--	--	--	--	--

Social Equity Certification Count

The figures below represent the count of applicants who were approved for social equity status. [Note: This performance measure was established in FY 2026 and historical actuals are not available. Targets are not utilized in this measure as it is dependent on industry and public demand.]

	<i>Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year</i>				
<i>Frequency: Annual</i>	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Target	--	--	--	--	--
Actual	--	--	--	--	--