



**State of Illinois**  
Illinois Department of Public Health

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# ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act

*July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017*

*As required by PA 098-0122*

**Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act**  
**Annual Report to the General Assembly**  
**July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017**

The Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act (“Act”), Public Act 98-0122, allows an individual who is diagnosed with a debilitating medical condition to register with the state in order to obtain cannabis (marijuana) for medical use. The Act became effective on January 1, 2014. Illinois was the 20<sup>th</sup> state to authorize a legal medical cannabis program. Today there are 29 states and Washington, DC, which have legalized the use of the cannabis plant for medical purposes.

Public Act (P.A.) 98-0122 provides Illinois residents who have various debilitating conditions, as defined by the Act, access to medical cannabis and protects patients with debilitating medical conditions, as well as their physicians and providers, from criminal and civil liability. The Act defines “medical use” as the acquisition; administration; delivery; possession; transfer; transportation; or use of cannabis to treat or alleviate a registered qualifying patient’s debilitating medical condition or symptoms associated with the patient’s qualifying condition.

Three Illinois agencies oversee the process for providing and obtaining medical cannabis. The agencies are:

1. The Department of Public Health (IDPH) operates a confidential registry of qualifying patients authorized to engage in the medical use of cannabis and their caregivers and distributes educational information about health risks associated with abuse of cannabis and prescription medications.
2. The Department of Agriculture (DoA) provides registration and oversight of cultivation centers.
3. The Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (DFPR) enforces the Act’s provisions relating to registration and oversight of dispensing organizations.

Additionally, the Office of the Secretary of State, the Illinois State Police, and the Department of Revenue each has ancillary roles for program implementation.

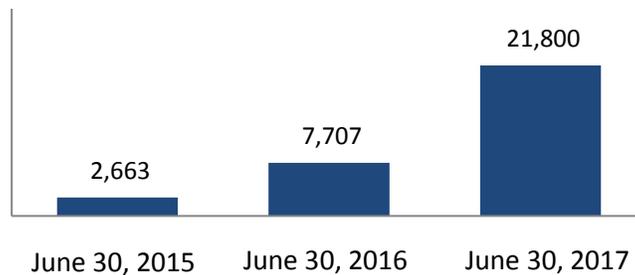
Since P.A. 98-0122 became effective, the legislation authorizing the pilot program has been amended twice. In 2015, the Act was amended to allow persons under age 18 to obtain a registry identification card. In July 2016, the pilot program was extended through July 1, 2020. Additionally, Public Act 099-0519 added Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as a debilitating condition and allowed persons diagnosed with a terminal illness to apply for an expedited medical cannabis registry identification card.

As of June 30, 2017, IDPH approved applications for more than 21,800 qualifying patients (including 180 persons under 18 years of age), since it began accepting applications for the Medical Cannabis Registry program on September 2, 2014.

## Number of Applications Filed

Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, approximately 15,100 people completed an application and submitted payment to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). During state fiscal year 2017, IDPH issued more than 14,000 registry identification cards to registered qualifying patients, including 120 to persons under age 18. A total of 635 qualifying patients were denied a medical cannabis registration identification card. The primary reason why applicants were denied was because they did not respond to multiple attempts to correct deficiencies in their application and/or their fingerprint background check reported that the applicant had excluded criminal offenses. No medical cannabis registry identification cards were revoked.

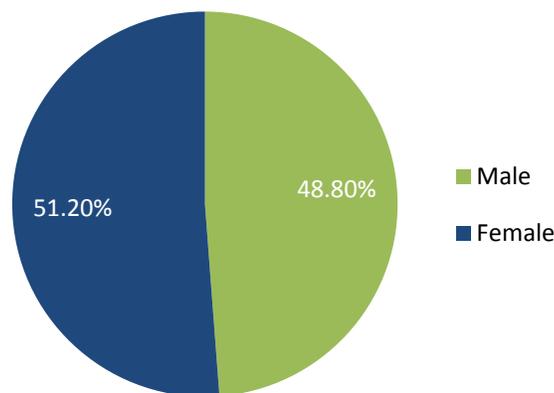
### Number of Registered Adult Qualifying Patients



During the time period of this report, July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, most of the qualifying patient applications were submitted by persons between 51 and 60 years of age (24.18 %). Persons aged 61 to 70 years of age (20.32%) and persons between 41 and 50 years old (17.85%) comprised the next largest group of applicants. Almost 9 percent of applications received from qualifying patients were from persons over age 70.

### Qualifying Patient Applications by Gender

Medical Cannabis Registry Database, June 30, 2017



Slightly more females (51.20%) applied for a medical cannabis registration identification card than males (48.80%).

Most registered qualifying patients reside in Cook County (6,648). Lake, Du Page, and Will counties each have more than 1,000 registered qualifying patients. The table below provides the number of qualifying patient applicants by county of residence for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

**Qualifying Patient Applications by County of Residence  
July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017**

County of Residence	Number of Qualifying Patients	County of Residence	Number of Qualifying Patients	County of Residence	Number of Qualifying Patients	County of Residence	Number of Qualifying Patients
Cook	6,648	Macon	110	Hancock	43	Warren	19
Lake	1,519	Ogle	106	Shelby	42	Alexander	18
DuPage	1,398	Effingham	104	Montgomery	40	Jasper	18
Will	1,130	Boone	85	Carroll	39	Hardin	17
Kane	612	Lee	78	Livingston	36	Wabash	17
McHenry	582	Union	77	Logan	36	Cumberland	16
Winnebago	445	Knox	75	Monroe	36	Cass	15
Madison	352	Saline	74	Wayne	36	Douglas	14
Peoria	338	Coles	70	Clinton	33	Washington	14
Tazewell	310	Jefferson	65	Clay	32	Lawrence	13
Sangamon	300	Macoupin	63	Fayette	32	Pope	13
Rock Island	269	Henry	62	DeWitt	30	Pulaski	13
St. Clair	250	Marion	57	Pike	29	Ford	12
McLean	241	Vermilion	57	Moultrie	28	Hamilton	12
Champaign	207	McDonough	56	Perry	26	Edgar	11
LaSalle	207	Christian	54	Clark	24	Greene	11
Williamson	188	Bureau	53	Iroquois	24	Menard	11
DeKalb	183	Mercer	51	Jo Daviess	24	Schuyler	11
Adams	172	Morgan	51	Clark	23	Calhoun	10
Kendall	172	Mason	49	Gallatin	23	Scott	10
Fulton	157	Randolph	48	Bond	22	Stark	10
Kankakee	147	White	47	Richland	22	Putnam	8
Whiteside	143	Stephenson	46	Marshall	21	Brown	7
Grundy	141	Johnson	45	Jersey	20	Edwards	5
Jackson	140	Massac	45	Piatt	20	Henderson	5
Franklin	138	Woodford	44	Crawford	19		

Note: Data for counties with fewer than 5 applicants are not reported due to the small number of applications.

## Debilitating Conditions

Qualifying patients may be certified for a medical cannabis registry identification card under one of the following conditions, specified by the Act:

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS); Agitation of Alzheimer's disease; Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS); Arnold-Chiari malformation and Syringomyelia; Cachexia/wasting syndrome; Cancer; Causalgia; Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy; Crohn's disease; CRPS (Complex Regional Pain Syndromes Type II); Dystonia; Fibromyalgia (severe); Fibrous dysplasia; Glaucoma; Hepatitis C; Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV); Hydrocephalus; Interstitial Cystitis; Lupus; Multiple Sclerosis; Muscular dystrophy; Myasthenia Gravis; Myoclonus; Nail-patella syndrome; Neurofibromatosis; Parkinson's disease; Post-concussion syndrome; RSD (Complex Regional Pain Syndromes Type I); Residual limb pain; Rheumatoid arthritis (RA); Seizure disorders, including those characteristic of Epilepsy; Sjogren's syndrome; Spinal cord disease (including but not limited to arachnoiditis); Spinal cord injury: damage to the nervous tissue of the spinal cord with objective neurological indication of intractable spasticity; Spinocerebellar Ataxia (SCA); Tourette's syndrome; traumatic brain injury (TBI); and Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

An individual diagnosed with one or more of those conditions may qualify to apply for a medical cannabis registry identification card. The qualifying patient must obtain a written certification from a physician indicating medical cannabis would provide a therapeutic or palliative benefit for the individual.

A qualifying patient may identify a caregiver to assist with the use of medical cannabis. Designated caregivers may enter a licensed medical cannabis dispensary and purchase medical cannabis on behalf of a registered qualifying patient. A designated caregiver must be 21 years of age or older and can only assist one patient with the use of medical cannabis. Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, almost 3,000 applications for designated caregivers were approved.

A reduced application fee is available to:

- Veterans who served in one of the five active-duty Armed Services or their respective Guard or Reserve units and who were discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Qualifying patients enrolled in Social Security Disability Income (SSDI), or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs.

During state fiscal year 2016, almost 1,300 veterans applied for a registry identification card and met the requirements for a reduced fee. Almost 3,000 qualifying patients applied for the program under the reduced application fee which is available to persons receiving SSDI or SSI.

Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, qualifying patients who applied for a medical cannabis registry identification card were certified for the following debilitating conditions in Illinois.

**Qualifying Patient Applications by Debilitating Condition  
July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017**

Qualifying Debilitating Condition	Number of Qualifying Patients
Severe fibromyalgia	2,407
Cancer	2,139
Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)	1,889
Spinal cord disease/Arachnoiditis	1,166
Rheumatoid arthritis	786
Seizure disorders (including those characteristic of Epilepsy)	671
Spinal cord injury	601
Multiple Sclerosis	596
Traumatic Brain Injury and post-concussion syndrome	563
Crohn’s disease	542
Residual limb pain	354
Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (Complex Regional Pain Syndrome Type I)	352
CRPS (Complex Regional Pain Syndromes Type II)	351
Terminal Illness	305
Glaucoma	287
Parkinson’s disease	231
Lupus	187
Cachexia/wasting syndrome	183
Hepatitis C	176
HIV/AIDS	216
Interstitial cystitis	158
Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy	133
Causalgia	131
Sjogren’s syndrome	128
Dystonia	128
Myoclonus	108
Arnold-Chiari malformation and Syringomyelia	83
Tourette’s syndrome	66
Agitation of Alzheimer’s disease	57
Muscular Dystrophy	43
Neurofibromatosis	31
Amyotrophic Lateral sclerosis (ALS)	29
Myasthenia Gravis	25
Hydrocephalus	21
Spinocerebellar Ataxia (SCA)	20
Tarlov cysts	15
Fibrous dysplasia	12
Syringomyelia	8

\* Some qualifying patients may have more than one debilitating condition

## **Terminal Illness**

Beginning in FY2017, patients diagnosed with a terminal illness were able to apply for a medical cannabis registry identification card valid for six months. Terminal illness is defined as having a life expectancy of six months or less. The terminal illness application is expedited and must be approved or denied within 14 days from receiving a complete application. The terminal illness application is offered at no cost to the patient and there is no fingerprint criminal history background check requirement. IDPH offers a free designated caregiver application for patients applying under the terminal illness category to ensure the patient has access to medical cannabis as their condition deteriorates. The terminal illness application includes a physician confirmation of the terminal illness diagnosis. Cancer was the most frequent terminal illness diagnosis for qualifying patients who applied under this eligibility category.

## **Physician Certification**

The Illinois Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program requires a physician to provide a written certification confirming the diagnosis of a qualifying debilitating condition for patients seeking to apply for a medical cannabis registry identification card. A physician may be a doctor of medicine or osteopathy licensed under the Medical Practice Act of 1987 to practice medicine and must have a current controlled substances license under Article II of the Illinois Controlled Substances Act. No other licensed professional (including dentists) may recommend a qualifying patient for medical cannabis use.

Qualifying patients are encouraged to consult with their physician about the use of medical cannabis. The physician completes a certification document attesting the patient has a confirmed diagnosis of one or more of the debilitating medical conditions defined in the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act and submits the document directly to IDPH. Physicians certify they have:

- Established a bona-fide physician-patient relationship with the qualifying patient applicant;
- Conducted an in-person physical examination of the qualifying patient within the last 90 calendar days;
- Completed an assessment of the qualifying patient's medical history, including the review of medical records from other treating physicians within the previous 12 months; and
- Explained the potential risks and benefits of the medical use of cannabis to the qualifying patient.

Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, almost 2,100 physicians, licensed in Illinois, submitted written certifications for qualifying patients seeking to participate in the medical cannabis program. The majority of physicians certified fewer than 25 qualifying patients each. Sixteen physicians certified more than 100 patients each.

## **Adequate Supply of Medical Cannabis**

A registered qualifying patient may purchase up to 2.5 ounces of medical cannabis during a 14-day period. This amount of medical cannabis, called the “adequate supply,” is defined in Section 10 of the Act. Purchases of medical cannabis can only be made at a licensed medical cannabis dispensary.

The registered patient’s physician may submit a signed, written statement asserting that in the physician’s professional assessment, 2.5 ounces is an insufficient adequate supply to properly alleviate the patient’s debilitating medical condition or symptoms associated with the patient’s debilitating medical condition. The waiver must be mailed by the physician and must be accompanied by a \$25 check or money order from the patient. If the Department approves the waiver, the amount of medical cannabis recommended by the physician shall be noted on the registry identification card.

IDPH received 200 requests for an adequate supply waiver during the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. The amount of increase in the allowable amount requested ranged from 2.6 ounces to 10 ounces. Twenty-five percent of registered qualifying patients who requested an increase to the adequate supply of medical cannabis had a diagnosis of cancer. Other debilitating conditions included HIV/AIDS, seizure disorders, and Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy.

## **Cultivation Centers and Medical Cannabis Dispensaries**

The departments of Agriculture and Financial and Professional Regulation oversee the licensing of cultivation centers and medical cannabis dispensaries. As of June 30, 2017, there were 20 licensed operating cultivation centers and 53 licensed medical cannabis dispensaries in Illinois. The first licensed medical cannabis dispensaries opened to the public in November 2015.

The Act requires registered qualifying medical cannabis patients to select a medical cannabis dispensary to purchase medical cannabis. An updated list of registered dispensaries is available at <http://www.idfpr.com/Forms/MC/ListofLicensedDispensaries.pdf>. Registered patients may change their medical cannabis dispensary by notifying IDPH of their selection. The table on the following page provides an overview of how many registered patients selected the medical cannabis dispensaries listed between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. Because registered patients may change dispensaries as often as once every 24 hours, these numbers do not reflect the total number of registered patients currently active.

Total medical cannabis sales since November 2015 for the period ending June 30, 2017 were as follows:

- Total retail sales since 11/2015 by licensed medical cannabis dispensaries -- \$74,028,383.78
- Total wholesale sales since 11/2015 by cultivation centers -- \$43,725,202.92

## Number of Registered Medical Cannabis Patients by Licensed Dispensaries on June 30, 2017

Licensed Medical Cannabis Dispensary	Number of Patients	Licensed Medical Cannabis Dispensary	Number of Patients
Dispensary 33 (Dist. 44)	1,151	Herbal Remedies Dispensary (Dist.20)	289
The Clinic Mundelein (Dist. 27)	1,056	New Age Care (District 32)	284
EarthMed (Dist 24)	765	Elevele (Dist.27)	276
HCI Alternatives (Dist.11)	684	Mindful Dispensary (Dist. 24)	273
Harbory (Dist. 13)	668	Windy City Cannabis (Dist. 37)	254
3C Compassionate Care Center (Dist. 24)	664	Thrive Harrisburg (Dist.19)	242
PharmaCannis Health & Wellness (Dist.31)	649	Midwest Compassionate Center (Dist.29)	233
MedMar Rockford, LLC (Dist.16)	635	Midway Dispensary (Dist. 43)	232
3C Compassionate Care Center (Dist. 29)	612	The Dispensary (Dist.1)	231
Greenhouse Group, LLC (Dist. 33)	597	The Herbal Care Center (Dist. 48)	226
MOCA/Modern Cannabis (Dist. 48)	585	The Green Solution Illinois (Dist. 6)	196
Trinity Compassionate Care Centers (Dist. 8)	512	Mapleglen Care Center (Dist 16)	186
Salveo Health & Wellness Dispensary (Dist.14)	501	Greenhouse Group (Dist. 25)	181
HCI Alternatives (Dist. 9)	499	Thrive Anna (Dist. 22)	178
Greenhouse Group, LLC (Dist. 29)	474	FloraMedex (Dist. 35)	166
Windy City Cannabis (Dist. 40)	447	Columbia Care IL (Dist. 41)	162
PharmaCannis Health & Wellness (Dist 26)	429	Windy City Cannabis (Dist. 39)	151
Seven Point (Dist. 36)	422	NuMed East Peoria (Dist.8)	150
Windy City Cannabis (Dist. 38)	412	MedMar Lakeview (Dist. 44)	126
PharmaCannis Health & Wellness (Dist. 34)	405	NuMed Urbana (Dist.10)	95
PDI Medical (Dist. 27)	403	Union Group of Illinois (Dist. 41)	79
The Clinic Effingham (Dist. 12)	370	The Green Solution Illinois (Dist. 11)	79
Nature's Treatment of Illinois (Dist.7)	344	Maribis of Springfield (Dist.9)	61
Phoenix Botanical (Dist.10)	333	Greenhouse (Dist.18)	51
Healthway Services of West Illinois (Dist. 26)	329	Maribis of Chicago (Dist. 43)	39
Nature's Care Company (Dist. 30)	301	Mission Illinois (Dist 42)	2
PharmaCannis Health & Wellness (Dist 17)	295		