

Buy your medical cannabis here; Pa. announces dispensary sites

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The Pennsylvania Department of Health on Thursday announced the names of 27 companies that will be permitted to sell medical marijuana across the state next year, reaching another milestone in a program that could lead to cannabis being available by 2018.

The announcement also set off another round of consternation about whether the cannabis dispensaries were being distributed fairly and put in places where they would serve the most patients.

In suburban Philadelphia, six are to open in Montgomery County, three in Bucks County, and two each in Chester and Delaware Counties.

In Philadelphia, the state approved four locations, three across the northernmost tier of the city, with one in East Mount Airy and two in Northeast Philadelphia. The fourth is in Fishtown near the SugarHouse Casino.

“There’s not one in Center City, not one in West Philadelphia, not one by the airport, or in Old City,” said Andrew B. Sacks, a lawyer and chairman of the medical marijuana and hemp department at Sacks, Weston, Diamond LLC. “There should have been one on Walnut Street. Period. This is just asinine.”

Each of the 27 winners has the right to operate three storefronts. Though 81 dispensaries are allowed by law, many applicants chose not to ask for additional outlets.

Just 52 are expected to open sometime next year.

“It’s hard to see if there was much consideration for access by patients, given these locations,” said Alva Mather, one of three partners at the Pepper Hamilton LLP law firm leading a new cannabis industry group. “Being able to get to health-care facilities is always an issue. It’s not set up with that framework in mind.”

“A lot of these patients are terminal,” said Chris Goldstein, a marijuana and patient advocate who writes the Philly420 column for Philly.com. “Dispensaries should be as convenient as a CVS or a Rite Aid.”

But that could change.

The winners who have not committed themselves to opening all three of their allotted dispensaries “have the ability to put in for their second or third locations after their first is up and running,” said April Hutcheson, a spokeswoman for the state Health Department.

Hutcheson said the locations were businesses that scored the highest on their applications.

“This is only the start of the program, and we’re moving quickly to getting medication to the public,” Hutcheson said. “As we need to grow, we can. They still have the ability to open up more locations.”

The city zoning office is ready to expand the number of sites. It has cleared the way for 10 dispensary locations, granting zoning permits for real estate in neighborhoods that include Northern Liberties, Old City, and Center City. There is a variance for 12th and Walnut Streets. It is up to a permit winner to arrange with the building owner to open at one of those sites.

All applicants were required to pay \$5,000 to apply for a dispensary permit. The companies also had to post a \$30,000 deposit — refundable only to failed bidders — for each storefront. Each of the winners’ three shops is required to be in a different county.

Dispensaries will operate like pharmacies that sell only one product: medicinal cannabis oils, which can be vaporized or consumed in a solution. They will be forbidden to sell whole-plant, flower, or edible products. Each permit, according to industry experts, is worth \$10 million to \$20 million, depending on the location and the number of customers each serves.

The dispensaries will be the only point where patients will encounter medical marijuana. To get it, they will be required to see a doctor who is certified and registered with the state Department of Health. The doctor will write a letter stating that the patient suffers from one or more of 17 qualifying conditions. It is up to the patient to submit the letter to the state and receive an ID card. Only card holders will be allowed to enter, and they will be able to buy medical cannabis from any dispensary in the state.

In Southeastern Pennsylvania, dispensaries are slated for Abington, Bensalem, Bristol, Devon, Elkins Park, Fort Washington, King of Prussia, Phoenixville, Plymouth Meeting, Philadelphia (4), Sellersville, Upper Darby, West Norriton, and Yeadon,

Last week, the state announced the winners of 12 permits to grow legal cannabis in the state and process it into medicine.

Though industry experts have called the Health Department’s efforts cautious and fair, many losing applicants have called the process opaque and biased. They have until Friday to file

appeals. Several have threatened lawsuits. Litigation filed by failed applicants in Maryland and Florida has stalled the introduction of medical marijuana programs in those states for years.

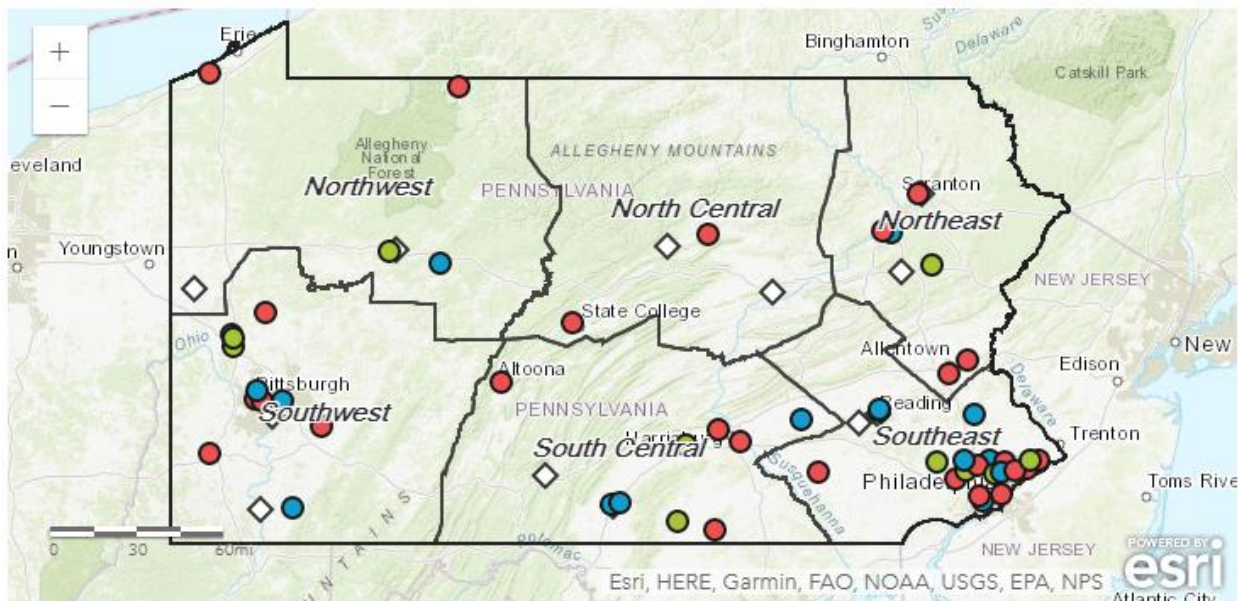
The Health Department on Wednesday said it remained on track to provide cannabis oil to patients in 2018.

Medical Marijuana Dispensaries in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania’s Department of Health on Thursday awarded 27 companies licenses to open medical-marijuana dispensaries. The companies can operate three storefronts, and 52 are scheduled to open next year. Four dispensaries were awarded licenses in Philadelphia and 20 in the Southeastern region, one of the six medical-marijuana regions established by the state.

Click on the markers on the map for more information.

Dispensaries: ● Primary ● Second ● Third **Growing facilities:** ◇



SOURCE: Pennsylvania Department of Health

Staff Graphic

Dispensary Name	Address	Town	County
TerraVida Holistic Centers	1626 Old York Rd.	Abington	Montgomery
Mission Pennsylvania II LLC	2733 W. Emmaus Ave.	Allentown	Lehigh
Lebanon Wellness Center LLC	514 E. Pleasant Valley Blvd.	Altoona	Blair
Holistic Pharma LLC	4201 Neshaminy Rd.	Bensalem	Bucks
Keystone Canna Remedies	1309 Stefko Blvd.	Bethlehem	Northampton
Columbia Care Pennsylvania LLC – Tobyhanna Dispensary	Route 940 and Kimberly Drive	Blakeslee	Monroe
Dubois Wellness Center LLC	109 Main St.	Bradford	McKean
Bristol Dispensary	2412-2414 Dunham Road	Bristol	Bucks
Dubois Wellness Center LLC	240 W. Main St.	Brookville	Jefferson
Butler County Dispensary Facility	201 Pillow St.	Butler	Butler
Firefly Dispensaries	872 Harrisburg Pike	Carlisle	Cumberland
Organic Remedies Inc.	600 Wayne Ave.	Chambersburg	Franklin
Firefly Dispensaries	1737 Lincoln Way E.	Chambersburg	Franklin
The Healing Center	270 Executive Dr.	Cranberry	Butler
Keystone Integrated Care LLC	21181 Route 19	Cranberry	Butler
Keystone Dispensaries	420 W. Lancaster Ave.	Devon	Chester
Dubois Wellness Center LLC	1222 S. Brady St.	Dubois	Clearfield
Justice Grown	78 Gateway Shopping Center	Edwardsville	Luzerne
Restore Integrative Wellness Center LLC	8003 Old York Rd.	Elkins Park	Montgomery
Organic Remedies Inc.	4425 Valley Rd.	Enola	Cumberland
GTI Erie Dispensary	7789 W. Ridge Rd.	Fairview	Erie
Cure Pennsylvania	475 Pennsylvania Ave.	Fort Washington	Montgomery

Lebanon Wellness Center LLC	19 Baltimore St.	Gettysburg	Adams
Keystone Integrated Care LLC	303 E. Pittsburgh St.	Greensburg	Westmoreland
Knox Medical	6444-652 Frederick St.	Hanover	York
Keystone Dispensaries	120 Hansen Access Rd.	King of Prussia	Montgomery
Cure Pennsylvania	1890 Fruitville Pike	Lancaster	Lancaster
Lebanon Wellness Center LLC	847 Cumberland St.	Lebanon	Lebanon
The Healing Center	130 Mall Circle Blvd.	Monroeville	Allegheny
Reading Dispensary	3225 N. 5th Street Hwy.	Muhlenberg	Berks
TerraVida Holstic Centers	8319-8325 Stenton Ave.	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
PharmaCannis LIFE	599 Franklin Mills Circle	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Restore Integrative Wells Center LLC	957-963 Frankford Ave.	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Holistic Pharma LLC	8900 Krewstown Rd.	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Cure Pennsylvania	500 Kimberton Rd.	Phoenixville	Chester
Maitri Medicinals – Oakland	2846 Boulevard of the Allies	Pittsburgh	Allegheny
Keystone Relief Centers – Squirrel Hill	3885 Forward Ave.	Pittsburgh	Allegheny
Keystone Integrated Care LLC	5200 Harrison St.	Pittsburgh	Allegheny
Ilera Healthcare	420 Plymouth Rd.	Plymouth Meeting	Montgomery
Harvest of Reading	2701 N. 5th Street Hwy	Reading	Berks
Columbia Care Pennsylvania LLC – Keyser Dispensary	1790 N. Keyser Ave.	Scranton	Lackawanna
TerraVida Holstic Centers	64 N. Main St.	Sellersville	Bucks
PA Health and Wellness	2105 N. Atherton St.	State College	Centre
Firefly Dispensaries	801 S. Front St.	Steelton	Dauphin

Maitri Medicinals – Uniontown	7 W. Main St.	Uniontown	Fayette
Grassroots Cannabis	130 S. State Rd.	Upper Darby	Delaware
The Healing Center	799 W. Chestnut St.	Washington	Washington
Holistic Pharma LLC	2030 W. Main St.	West Norriton	Montgomery
Columbia Care Pennsylvania LLC – Kidder Street Dispensary	765 Kidder St.	Wilkes-Barre	Luzerne
Keystone Center of Integrative Wellness LLC	1322 W. 4th St.	Williamsport	Lycoming
Keystone Dispensaries	622 Industrial Park Dr., B	Yeadon	Delaware
Keystone Relief Centers – Jackson’s Pointe	Corner of Jackson Lane and Jackson Pointe Court	Zellenople	Butler

<http://www.philly.com/philly/business/cannabis/a-list-of-medical-cannabis-shops-coming-to-southeast-pa-20170629.html?mobi=true>