

Minority Business Development

1. The CCC should develop a multilingual website (and hard copy) that serves as a primary resource for minority owned businesses¹. On this site, would-be or current minority-owned businesses can find information about access to capital (i.e. grants, loans, and alternative financing information).²
2. Ancillary businesses (i.e. CPA's, Business Counseling, Training Programs, etc.) that **do not** come in direct contact with cannabis may register with the CCC and receive an accreditation to protect Massachusetts consumers and businesses from predatory entities. This accreditation applies to any entity purporting to cater to the cannabis industry. Accreditation/Registration for ancillary businesses that **do not** come into direct contact with cannabis should be optional.
3. The CCC should maintain a comprehensive list of those registered and accredited with the CCC as well as a list of businesses found to be predatory or unscrupulous so that consumers and businesses may collect reliable information prior to engaging their services.
4. The CCC should develop a mentoring program through which experienced entrepreneurs are paired with vetted entrants into the industry to gain valuable business insight and hands on training.
5. The CCC should engage the legislature to develop a minority business fund out of which qualifying businesses, who but for finances would qualify for licensing, may receive funds for legally required businesses necessities (security, training, testing, etc.).

¹ Minority includes POC, women, and veterans and any other qualifying characteristic covered under Chapter 55.

² Minority owned means at least 51% or more of ownership is a minority.