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ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL SERVICES

ELAINE CLARK
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OFFICE OF CANNABIS POLICY

JOHN HUDAK
DIRECTOR

September 23, 2026

Dear AUCP and MMCP Stakeholders,

Today, in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act (MAPA) and 22 M.R.S. § 2430, the Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP) is formally engaging in major substantive rulemaking for the *Medical Cannabis Research Grant Program*, 18-691 CMR, ch. 100. This proposed rule provides interested individuals and institutions with the requirements applicable to grants for scientific research into the health effects and efficacy of cannabis for medical use. In particular, the proposed rule specifies:

- The required qualifications for persons conducting the research;
- Factors to be used by grant application evaluators to assess the scientific merit and objectivity of a research proposal;
- Criteria for determining the amount of program funds distributed;
- Criteria for determining the duration of the research;
- Procedures for soliciting research participants, including outreach to patients, and for obtaining the informed consent of participants;
- Reporting requirements for the results of the research and evaluation of the research results, including requirements applicable to public access to any data and scientific publications resulting from work using grant funds; and
- The process by which the Office may recruit and utilize peer reviewers to assist in the review of grant applications received through a request for applications issued in accordance with State procurement laws and rules.

We invite you to review Chapter 100 and provide your written feedback. A copy of the proposed rule and public comment form can be found on [the OCP website](#).

Public participation is a critical component of the rulemaking process. OCP will accept comments starting today, September 23, 2026, through **Friday, October 23, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.** We ask that you please be specific in your comments.

OCP is also holding an in-person public hearing on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, to take public comments and questions.

Public Hearing
Tuesday, October 13 at 10:00 a.m.
109 Capitol Street, Augusta, Maine
Maine Room, First Floor

In addition to the in-person public hearing, OCP will be accepting written public comments until October 23, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. via the public comment form, email, and mail. Interested

members of the public may use any of these avenues to provide feedback to OCP on the format, content, and/or application of the proposed rules.

Once the public comment process is complete, OCP will consider the feedback received and make appropriate revisions to the rule. Following these revisions, OCP will submit the provisionally adopted major substantive rule for review and consideration by the Maine Legislature *before* final adoption.

When the Legislature approves a major substantive rule, the resolve permitting the final adoption of that rule goes into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns *sine die*. Agencies must finally adopt the major substantive rules within 60 days of that legislation going into effect. As such, the *earliest* OCP would be able to finally adopt the *Medical Cannabis Research Grant Program*, 18-691 CMR, ch. 100 is likely Fall 2027.

Thank you for your attention to these rulemaking efforts. We look forward to engaging with you over the coming weeks and months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Hudak', with a stylized, cursive script.

John Hudak
Director