



Cannabis Control Board FY26 Budget

Senate Appropriations
Friday, February 21, 2025

Organizational Structure

The Cannabis Control Board Team – 3 Board members, 25 staff

Executive Team and Business Office

Executive Director
Olga Fitch

Director of Operations
Karen Schifferle

General Counsel
Gabriel Gilman

Education & Outreach
Manager
Patrick Crowley

Finance Manager
Sonya Samalis

Data Manager
Elizabeth Love

Compliance & Enforcement Team

Director
Michael DiTomasso

Deputy Director
Nicole West

Compliance &
Enforcement Agents
Christine Motyka
Denise McCarty
Lawrence "Chipper" Sullivan
Alex Rioux
Duane Tomlin
Andy Chevrefils
(vacant)

Licensing Team

Director
Kimberley Lashua

Deputy Director
Melissa Andersen

Licensing Agents
Heather Munzberg-
Edson
Dominique Fisk
(vacant)

Medical Program
Isabel Senter
(vacant)

Quality Control Lab

Director
(vacant)

Chemists
(vacant)
(vacant)

Report ID: VTPB-11_GOV REC
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State of Vermont
FY2026 Governor's Recommended Budget: Rollup Report

Organization: 02330 - Cannabis Control Board

Budget Object Group: 1. PERSONAL SERVICES

Budget Object Rollup Name	FY2024 Actuals	FY2025 Original As Passed Budget	FY2025 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2026 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed	Percent Change FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed
Salaries and Wages	1,750,030	1,940,847	1,940,847	2,184,191	243,344	12.5%
Fringe Benefits	1,026,537	1,254,873	1,254,873	1,515,693	260,820	20.8%
Contracted and 3rd Party Service	231,503	492,504	492,504	414,745	(77,759)	-15.8%
PerDiem and Other Personal Services	457	554,000	554,000	351,659	(202,341)	-36.5%
Budget Object Group Total: 1. PERSONAL SERVICES	3,008,528	4,242,224	4,242,224	4,466,288	224,064	5.3%

Budget Object Group: 2. OPERATING

Budget Object Rollup Name	FY2024 Actuals	FY2025 Original As Passed Budget	FY2025 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2026 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed	Percent Change FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed
Equipment	2,988	20,000	20,000	23,000	3,000	15.0%
IT/Telecom Services and Equipment	609,053	1,387,977	1,387,977	1,462,415	74,438	5.4%
IT Repair and Maintenance Services	0	0	0	2,575	2,575	100.0%
Other Operating Expenses	1,306	3,897	3,897	5,012	1,115	28.6%
Other Rental	79,180	69,187	69,187	91,941	22,754	32.9%
Other Purchased Services	83,186	100,630	100,630	128,718	28,088	27.9%
Property and Maintenance	281	1,008	1,008	1,027	19	1.9%
Property Rental	115,896	197,675	197,675	294,593	96,918	49.0%
Supplies	8,140	27,541	27,541	29,200	1,659	6.0%
Travel	6,799	12,075	12,075	14,901	2,826	23.4%
Budget Object Group Total: 2. OPERATING	906,828	1,819,990	1,819,990	2,053,382	233,392	12.8%

Budget Object Group: 3. GRANTS

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Grants Rollup	7,532	0	0	10,000	10,000	100.0%
Budget Object Group Total: 3. GRANTS	7,532	0	0	10,000	10,000	100.0%

Total Expenditures	3,922,888	6,062,214	6,062,214	6,529,670	467,456	7.7%
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Fund Name	FY2024 Actuals	FY2025 Original As Passed Budget	FY2025 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2026 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed	Percent Change FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed
Special Fund	3,922,888	6,062,214	6,062,214	6,529,670	467,456	7.7%
Funds Total	3,922,888	6,062,214	6,062,214	6,529,670	467,456	7.7%

Position Count	26
FTE Total	25.8

Expenses outside FY26 Gov Recommend

1 Compliance & Enforcement Attorney Position (in Cannabis Misc Bill)

New attorney role within the CCB Compliance & Enforcement Division would be responsible for vertical management of the agency's enforcement caseload: drafting letters of warning & violation notices, structuring corrective action plans and litigating contested cases from notice to hearing, through administrative appeal. Role would be fully distinguished from policy and operations at all phases prior to judicial litigation.

CCB has only one attorney at present who provides counsel to the Board, manages legislative affairs, manages state-federal and intergovernmental affairs, continuously updates the agency's four rule sets, maintains formal guidance, oversees policy development, and builds out an orderly and fair hearing process.

Separation of policy-based legal roles from enforcement-based litigation roles is a best practice for agencies:

- Promotes fairness and independent judgment. Using policy attorney as stand-in prosecutor complicates procedural fairness and invites conflicts. If those arise, there is no backup role.
- Protects uninterrupted performance of policy and enforcement functions. With one attorney position, a handful of active contested cases, appeals, or judicial challenges can halt policy work; alternatively, a large rulemaking project can halt enforcement litigation.

CCB Funding and Revenue

- Revenue Allocation Changes:

- **Through FY25:** A portion of the Excise Tax revenue had been used to cover the balance of the CCB's operational costs first, with the remainder transferred to the General Fund. In FY25, \$15.4M from the Cannabis Regulation Fund was transferred to the General Fund.
- **Effective FY26:**
 - Cannabis Excise Tax revenue no longer funds CCB operations directly.
 - All Cannabis Excise Tax revenue goes directly to the General Fund.
 - The Cannabis Regulation Fund will consist solely of application fees, annual licensing/renewal fees, and administrative penalties.

- FY26 Budget and Projected Revenue:

- CCB Expected Operational Costs: \$6.5M
- CCB Projected Fee & Fine Revenue: \$2.61M
- Governor's Recommended Budget allows retention of \$3.89M from the FY25 year-end balance to meet FY26 costs. Remaining balance will be split:
 - 70% to General Fund
 - 30% to Substance Misuse Prevention Special Fund

CCB Funding and Revenue - Continued

Cannabis Revenue, Sales, and Tax Trends

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Fee Revenue</i>	<i>Taxable Sales</i>	<i>Sales Tax (6%)</i>	<i>*Excise Tax (14%)</i>
FY23	\$2.19M	\$47.8M	\$2.9M	\$6.7M
FY24	\$2.46M	\$128.5M	\$7.7M	\$17.4M
FY25 (Prjctd)	\$2.6M	\$148.5M	\$8.9M	\$20.8M
FY26 (Prjctd)	\$2.6M	\$160M	\$9.6M	\$22.5M

* Tax Data is based on JFO's January 2025 Economic Review and Revenue Forecast.

**All sales tax revenue supports the Universal Afterschool and Summer Special Fund administered by the Department of Education.

The CCB's current fee structure and mandate were not established to be fully self-sustaining. The projected administrative fee revenue does not support the full operational costs of the Agency. Moving forward, the CCB will continue to rely on Excise Tax revenue to support a portion of its operations—whether through reinstatement of the Cannabis Regulation Fund Excise Tax provision or allocations from the General Fund.