

What is a cooperative?

The new medical marijuana cooperative law replaced the marijuana collectives law on July 1, 2016. Up to four medical marijuana patients or their designated provider* may join together to grow marijuana for the patients' personal use.

Every member must be entered into the medical marijuana authorization database and have a medical marijuana recognition card. The total number of plants authorized for the participants may not exceed 60 plants.

Cooperatives must register with the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (WSLCB) and follow all regulations.

Record-keeping

The leader of the cooperative must:

- Maintain all records required by the WSLCB.
- Ensure that members notify the WSLCB within 15 days of joining or leaving the cooperative.
- Wait 60 days after a member leaves the cooperative before adding a new member.

Extraction

- Members of the cooperative may extract or separate the resin from marijuana using only noncombustible methods as referenced in law.

**A designated provider is someone that the medical marijuana patient authorizes to purchase their marijuana product or grow the marijuana for the patient.*

Medical marijuana laws and rules

The **Cannabis Patient Protection Act** (SB5052) was signed into law April 2015 and went into full effect on July 1, 2016.

This law aligns licensing and regulation of all marijuana producers, processors and retail stores under the oversight of the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board. This includes the new medically endorsed marijuana stores.

Read the specific laws and rules for the medical marijuana cooperatives:

- **RCW 69.51A.250**
- **RCW 69.50.331 (7-8)**
- **Chapter 314-55-410 WAC**



Learn more...

Washington State Department of Health
Medical Marijuana Program

www.doh.wa.gov/medicalmarijuana

Join our listserv:
medicalcannabis@listserv.wa.gov

360-236-4819
medicalmarijuana@doh.wa.gov

A patient's guide to ...

Medical Marijuana Cooperatives



DOH 608-014

June 2016

Forming a medical marijuana cooperative...



Step 1: Have a medical marijuana authorization form

To participate in a medical marijuana cooperative you must be **authorized by your healthcare practitioner** to use marijuana for medical purposes or be a designated provider for a patient.



Step 2: Get entered into the database

Each member of the cooperative must take their medical marijuana authorization form to a **licensed and medically endorsed marijuana store in Washington**. A consultant in the store can enter the information into the medical marijuana authorization database and create the medical marijuana recognition card.

Step 3: Join together

Up to four cardholders may form a cooperative that must be located at the home of one of the members.



Step 4: Register your cooperative

One of the cooperative members must be designated as the leader and will complete the registration application on the **Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board's (WSLCB)** website. Photocopies of all cooperative members' medical marijuana recognition cards are needed for the application.



Step 5: Get your plants

If you are starting a new cooperative, you must buy your plants from a **licensed WSLCB producer** so they will be entered into the tracking system. If you are changing from a collective to a cooperative or starting a new cooperative, be sure not to grow more than the number of authorized plants for each cardholder.

Step 6: Keep your permit at the growing site

Once you have received your registration, make sure you keep it and copies of all the members' recognition cards near where the plants are being grown. WSLCB enforcement officers and local law enforcement may visit to ensure you are following regulations.



Cooperative regulations

In order to form a cooperative, all members must follow the state law and rules.

Cooperative members may ONLY:

- Be in a cooperative if they have a valid medical marijuana recognition card.
- Form a four member cooperative.
- Participate in a cooperative if they are at least 21 years of age.
- Grow up to the total number of plants authorized, with a maximum of 60 plants.
- Belong to one cooperative.
- Grow plants in the cooperative and not anywhere else.
- Use the marijuana and its products, and not sell or give away marijuana or marijuana products to anyone who is not in the cooperative.

A cooperative must be:

- Located at one of the member's homes.
- Limited to one cooperative per tax parcel.
- Enclosed by an 8-foot fence, if outdoors, and cannot easily be seen or smelled.

No cooperative may be located in any of the following areas:

- Within one mile of a marijuana retailer;
- Within the smaller of either:
 - 1,000 feet of schools, playgrounds, recreation centers, daycare centers, or any facility restricted to people 21 years or older, or
 - The area restricted by ordinances; or
 - Where prohibited by city, town, or county zoning laws.