

2026 CANNABIS SAFETY AWARDS

Celebrating Excellence,
Leadership & Innovation
in Cannabis Safety.



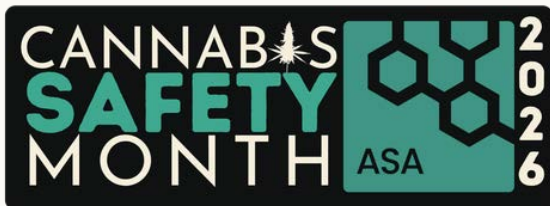


Americans for Safe Access

Advancing Legal Medical Cannabis Therapeutics

Founded in 2002, Americans for Safe Access (ASA) is the largest national organization of patients, medical professionals, scientists, providers, and concerned citizens promoting safe and legal access to cannabis for therapeutic use and research. ASA utilizes a variety of tactics, including legislation, education, litigation, research, grassroots empowerment, advocacy, and services for medical cannabis stakeholders to meet the immediate needs of patients while clearing the way for a national medical cannabis program.

ASA offers a platform for medical cannabis, wellness, and healthcare stakeholders to engage in projects and programs that address knowledge, policy, and regulatory gaps to improve access to medical cannabis. Our work is guided by a shared vision of a national framework that closes the divide between wellness and medicine by fostering the integration of cannabis into patient care as a frontline treatment option that creates pathways to insurance coverage, invests in the development of standardized cannabis-based products, ensures a safe and consistent supply, and eliminates employment, housing, parental, and healthcare discrimination.



Cannabis Safety Month is a national public education campaign focused on recognizing community concerns, spotlighting practical solutions, and building what comes next for cannabis safety and medical access. The campaign brings together patients, healthcare professionals, researchers, educators, businesses, public officials, advocates, families, and other stakeholders to address cannabis safety issues through credible information, inclusion, and problem-solving.



Cannabis safety is shaped by the people who lead, the programs that educate, and the products and innovations that solve real-world problems. The Cannabis Safety Awards celebrate the individuals, organizations, initiatives, and ideas making a meaningful difference in 2026. By spotlighting strong leadership, effective education, practical solutions, and innovation, the awards bring greater visibility to approaches that can strengthen cannabis safety while protecting medical cannabis access.



2026 CANNABIS SAFETY AWARDS

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE, LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION IN CANNABIS SAFETY

HELP RECOGNIZE THE PEOPLE, PRODUCTS & PROGRAMS TURNING PUBLIC CONCERNS INTO PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS.

Cannabis safety is built by people who investigate hard questions, create better tools, educate communities, protect consumers, and turn public concerns into workable policy. The 2026 Cannabis Safety Awards will recognize the leaders and innovations helping cannabis move forward with greater trust, transparency, and responsibility.

These awards reflect the central purpose of Cannabis Safety Month: recognizing community concerns, spotlighting solutions, and building what comes next. The future of medical cannabis will depend not only on laws that permit access, but on trusted information, sound research, informed professionals, responsible products and businesses, effective public policies, and systems capable of protecting patients and the public. The people and initiatives recognized through these awards are helping create that future.

The Cannabis Safety Awards celebrate the individuals, organizations, initiatives, and ideas making a meaningful difference in 2026. Through Sept 10th the public can nominate individuals, organizations, campaigns, products, and services across 18 award categories. Approved finalists will be featured during Cannabis Safety Month, and the public will help select the 2026 winner.

RECOGNITION MATTERS

Cannabis safety debates are too often defined by fear, slogans, and political rhetoric. These awards focus attention on the people and solutions doing practical work: better education, safer storage, clearer labels, stronger consumer protection, responsible product design, public-service leadership, and honest reporting.

Recognizing that work helps communities see that safety and access do not have to compete. Safety can strengthen the future of medical cannabis access.

WHO CAN BE NOMINATED?

Individuals, nonprofit and community organizations, public agencies and educational institutions, Campaigns and public-service programs, companies, products, tools, and services, journalists, advocates, healthcare and public-health leaders, and elected officials

Eligibility depends on the category. Self-nominations are welcome. No nomination fees, but you must provide a working email address.

WHO CAN NOMINATE?

Anyone may submit a nomination, including patients, consumers, healthcare professionals, advocates, educators, public officials, organizations, businesses, and members of the public. Self-nominations are welcome, and there is no fee to participate.

HOW IT WORKS

1. Nominate through Sept 10
2. Finalists are announced on September 14th
3. The public votes, and an independent review panel applies published criteria.
4. Winners are announced at the Cannabis Safety Month Closing Roundtable September 30th



INDIVIDUAL



WATCHDOG
AWARD



DISCOVERY
AWARD



PATIENT VOICE
AWARD



PUBLIC COURAGE
AWARD

PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES



ROADWISE
AWARD



SAFETY SIGNAL
AWARD



NEXT GENERATION
AWARD



MARKET WATCH
AWARD



COMMUNITY CATALYST
AWARD



PROFESSIONAL STANDARD
AWARD



SAFE ACCESS
AWARD

PRODUCT & INNOVATION



LOCK IT DOWN
AWARD



FRESHNESS BY
DESIGN AWARD



GREEN STANDARDS
AWARD



SAFE & BALANCED
AWARD



FLOWER FORWARD
AWARD



KNOW YOUR DOSE
AWARD



FULL DISCLOSURE
AWARD

www.SafeAccessNow.org/2026_Award_Nominations

AWARDS FOR INDIVIDUALS

Honoring those whose leadership, advocacy, reporting, and public service are advancing cannabis safety and medical access.

The Awards for Individuals recognize people who are helping move cannabis safety conversations beyond politics, stigma, and conventional assumptions and toward evidence, accountability, practical solutions, and informed action. These honorees may be investigating difficult issues, advancing research, elevating patient experiences, educating the public, building coalitions, or using public office to improve cannabis policy.



THE 2026
**WATCHDOG
AWARD**

Excellence in Investigative
Cannabis Journalism



THE 2026
**DISCOVERY
AWARD**

Research Advancing
Cannabis Safety



THE 2026
**PATIENT VOICE
AWARD**

Patient Advocacy Leadership



THE 2026
**PUBLIC COURAGE
AWARD**

Elected Official Leadership

Cannabis Safety Month recognizes that progress ultimately depends on people willing to ask difficult questions, challenge systems that are not working, bring overlooked perspectives into the conversation, and turn knowledge into action. Individual leadership can change public understanding, influence policy, improve professional practice, expose safety gaps, and make institutions more responsive to patients and communities.

The future of medical cannabis will be shaped by leaders who can help build trust across healthcare, government, research, industry, media, and the public. These awards honor individuals whose work is helping create a safer, more credible, patient-centered, and sustainable future for medical cannabis.

Honoring individuals.
Advancing cannabis safety & medical access.





2026 CANNABIS SAFETY AWARDS

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE, LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION IN CANNABIS SAFETY

WATCHDOG AWARD

Investigative Cannabis Journalism

Honors a journalist, news outlet,
or reporting project that advanced
public understanding and accountability
around cannabis safety through
investigative reporting.

INDIVIDUAL





THE WATCHDOG AWARD

THE IMPACT INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM ON CANNABIS SAFETY

The Watchdog Award honors a reporter, editor, producer, or independent journalist whose original reporting investigated a cannabis safety issue with depth, accuracy, fairness, and public consequence. Strong work may uncover overlooked risks, examine failures in regulation or implementation, challenge unsupported claims, expose problems in products or markets, or investigate whether policies intended to protect the public are actually working.

Cannabis Safety Month is built around the idea that difficult cannabis issues should be examined rather than avoided or reduced to political talking points. Independent journalism plays a critical role in that process by separating evidence from rhetoric, identifying problems that require attention, and giving patients, experts, regulators, businesses, and affected communities a chance to be heard.

The future of medical cannabis will require public trust and accountability. Journalists who investigate the field carefully can help identify weaknesses before they become larger problems, recognize solutions that deserve attention, and ensure that patient needs and public-health concerns remain part of the public conversation.

ELIGIBLE NOMINEES:

Reporters, editors, producers, independent journalists, and other media professionals responsible for original cannabis safety reporting.



2026 CANNABIS SAFETY AWARDS

Celebrating Excellence, Leadership & Innovation in Cannabis Safety.

PATIENT VOICE AWARD

Patient Advocacy Leadership

Honors a patient advocate or community leader whose work elevated patient experience, safety concerns, rights, and access in public conversations, public education, or policy.

INDIVIDUAL





THE PATIENT VOICE AWARD

PATIENT ADVOCACY LEADERSHIP

The Patient Voice Award recognizes an individual who has advanced cannabis safety and medical access through patient-centered advocacy, education, coalition building, public engagement, or policy leadership. Nominees may have elevated an overlooked patient concern, helped people navigate medical cannabis systems, built partnerships across communities, influenced policy, created educational resources, or ensured that decisions affecting patients included patient perspectives.

Cannabis Safety Month recognizes that patients are not simply recipients of cannabis policy; they are a critical source of knowledge about how policies, products, healthcare systems, and safety practices work in the real world. Patient advocates often identify gaps long before those gaps appear in formal research, government reports, or regulatory discussions.

As medical cannabis becomes more integrated into healthcare and public policy, patients and caregivers must remain active participants in shaping that transition. This award honors leaders helping ensure that the future of medical cannabis is built around patient safety, informed choice, dignity, practical access, and lived experience.

ELIGIBLE NOMINEES:

Patients, caregivers, advocates, educators, coalition leaders, policy leaders, and others who have demonstrated individual leadership advancing cannabis safety and medical access.



2026 CANNABIS SAFETY AWARDS

Celebrating Excellence, Leadership & Innovation in Cannabis Safety.

PUBLIC COURAGE AWARD

Elected Official Leadership

Honors an elected official who advanced a practical, evidence-informed cannabis safety or medical-access solution through public leadership, policy, or community action.

INDIVIDUAL





THE PUBLIC COURAGE AWARD ELECTED OFFICIAL LEADERSHIP

The Public Courage Award celebrates an elected official who advanced a practical, evidence-informed cannabis safety or medical-access solution during 2026. The award recognizes leadership that goes beyond political positioning to address an actual problem through legislation, oversight, public education, funding, coalition building, agency engagement, or another concrete public action.

Cannabis Safety Month encourages policymakers to recognize legitimate concerns about cannabis while also recognizing that those concerns can be addressed through better policy rather than prohibition, stigma, or barriers to medical care. Effective public leadership creates room for patients, researchers, healthcare professionals, regulators, public-health experts, businesses, families, and communities to work toward solutions together.

The next phase of medical cannabis policy will require elected officials willing to replace outdated assumptions with workable rules and institutions. These leaders can help establish policies that protect patients, strengthen consumer safeguards, improve healthcare integration, support research, and build regulatory systems capable of evolving alongside the science.

ELIGIBLE NOMINEES:

Current elected officials at the local, state, territorial, tribal, or federal level whose public actions during 2026 advanced cannabis safety or medical access.



2026 CANNABIS SAFETY AWARDS

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE, LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION IN CANNABIS SAFETY

DISCOVERY AWARD

Research Advancing Cannabis Safety

Honors an individual researcher, scientist, clinician-researcher, or analyst whose work advanced understanding of cannabis safety and helped inform better practice, education, or policy.

INDIVIDUAL





THE 2026 DISCOVERY AWARD

THE IMPACT OF RESEARCH ON CANNABIS SAFETY

The Discovery Award honors an individual researcher or research team whose rigorous work expands understanding of cannabis safety and produces evidence that can improve patient care, public education, consumer protection, professional practice, or public policy. Research may address clinical outcomes, product safety, dosing, drug interactions, patterns of use, public health, impairment, contaminants, vulnerable populations, healthcare integration, or other questions with direct relevance to cannabis safety.

Research is central to Cannabis Safety Month because durable solutions require better evidence—not louder arguments. High-quality research can clarify genuine risks, identify where concerns have been overstated or misunderstood, reveal differences between products or populations, and give patients and professionals better information for decision-making.

The future of medical cannabis depends on an expanding evidence base capable of supporting clinical practice, professional education, regulation, product standards, insurance decisions, public policy, and patient care. Researchers recognized by this award are helping turn unanswered questions into knowledge that can guide the field forward.

ELIGIBLE NOMINEES:

Individual researchers, clinician-scientists, scholars, public health professionals, data experts, and members of multidisciplinary research teams responsible for original or translational research advancing cannabis safety.

AWARDS FOR PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

Recognizing programs, campaigns, organizations & collaborative efforts that are turning cannabis safety concerns into practical solutions.

The Awards for Programs & Initiatives celebrate efforts that take cannabis safety from information to implementation. Honorees may educate families and communities, train professionals, strengthen consumer protections, expand equitable access, improve impaired-driving prevention, evaluate marketplace practices, or bring diverse stakeholders together to address a shared concern.



The future of medical cannabis depends on building infrastructure around access: informed healthcare professionals, reliable public education, accountable markets, inclusive services, community partnerships, and policies that work in practice. These awards recognize programs and initiatives that are helping create that infrastructure and showing how cannabis safety and safe medical access can advance together.

Celebrating programs that make an impact.
Advancing cannabis safety & medical access.





2026 CANNABIS SAFETY AWARDS

Celebrating Excellence, Leadership & Innovation in Cannabis Safety.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARD AWARD

Cannabis Safety Professional Education & Training

Honors a professional development, continuing education, certification, or workforce training program that improves cannabis safety knowledge and practice among professionals whose work affects cannabis safety.

PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES





THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARD AWARD

CANNABIS SAFETY PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

The Professional Standard Award highlights a professional development, continuing education, certification, academic, or workforce training program that improves cannabis safety knowledge and practice among healthcare professionals, regulators, educators, cannabis workers, public-safety personnel, or other professionals whose work affects cannabis safety.

One of the recurring themes of Cannabis Safety Month is that consumers and patients should not be expected to navigate cannabis entirely on their own. Professionals who advise patients, regulate products, manufacture or sell cannabis, respond to emergencies, enforce laws, or educate the public need accurate and current training appropriate to their responsibilities.

The future of medical cannabis requires a knowledgeable professional infrastructure. Programs recognized through this award are helping cannabis move from a specialized or stigmatized subject toward an area where clinicians, regulators, educators, and other professionals can apply established standards of competence, ethics, continuing education, and accountability.

ELIGIBLE NOMINEES:

Continuing education programs, professional training programs, certification programs, academic or workforce education initiatives, professional associations, healthcare education programs, regulatory training programs, and other professional development initiatives that strengthen cannabis safety knowledge, skills, or practice.



2026 CANNABIS SAFETY AWARDS

Celebrating Excellence, Leadership & Innovation in Cannabis Safety.

COMMUNITY CATALYST AWARD

Collaborative Cannabis Safety Leadership

Honors a company or organization that brought patients, families, healthcare providers, educators, businesses, or public officials together around a cannabis safety need.

PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES





COMMUNITY CATALYST AWARD

COLLABORATIVE CANNABIS SAFETY LEADERSHIP

The Community Catalyst Award highlights a company or organization that brought patients, families, healthcare providers, educators, businesses, researchers, public officials, or other stakeholders together around a cannabis safety need. Strong nominees do more than raise awareness: they create partnerships capable of solving problems, sharing expertise, reaching new audiences, or building lasting community infrastructure.

Cannabis Safety Month is intentionally designed as a collaborative campaign because cannabis safety cannot be addressed by any single institution or sector. Product safety, healthcare access, youth education, impaired driving, consumer protection, professional training, and other concerns require participation from people who do not always work together.

The future of medical cannabis will depend on stronger bridges between patients, healthcare systems, government, industry, researchers, and communities. Organizations that create those connections help move cannabis policy away from isolated debates and toward shared responsibility for improving safety and access.

ELIGIBLE NOMINEES:

Companies, nonprofit organizations, associations, public agencies, community organizations, coalitions, and other organizations leading collaborative cannabis safety efforts.



2026 CANNABIS SAFETY AWARDS

Celebrating Excellence, Leadership & Innovation in Cannabis Safety.

MARKET WATCH AWARD

Consumer Protection & Retail Accountability

Honors an organization or program that independently evaluates retail practices, age verification, accessibility, labeling, patient experience, compliance, or consumer safety.

PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES





THE MARKET WATCH AWARD

CONSUMER PROTECTION & RETAIL ACCOUNTABILITY

The Market Watch Award honors an organization or program that independently evaluates cannabis retail practices, age verification, accessibility, labeling, patient experience, regulatory compliance, consumer safety, or other elements of the marketplace that affect public confidence and patient well-being.

Cannabis Safety Month recognizes that rules on paper are only useful when they work in practice. Independent evaluation can reveal whether businesses are following requirements, whether patients can understand product information, whether accessibility standards are being met, and whether regulations are producing the safety outcomes policymakers intended.

Medical cannabis increasingly operates within complex commercial markets. Its future depends on accountability mechanisms that reward responsible operators, identify weak practices, improve patient experiences, and give regulators and consumers reliable information about how the marketplace is functioning.

ELIGIBLE NOMINEES:

Consumer protection programs, secret shopper initiatives, nonprofit organizations, watchdog groups, research organizations, public-interest projects, and other independent efforts evaluating cannabis retail or consumer safety practices.



2026 CANNABIS SAFETY AWARDS

Celebrating Excellence, Leadership & Innovation in Cannabis Safety.

NEXT GENERATION AWARD

Youth & Family Cannabis Education

Honors age-appropriate education that helps young people, parents, caregivers, schools, or pediatric communities address cannabis honestly and responsibly.

PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES





THE NEXT GENERATION AWARD YOUTH & FAMILY CANNABIS EDUCATION

The Next Generation Award celebrates age-appropriate education that helps young people, parents, caregivers, schools, pediatric professionals, or communities address cannabis honestly and responsibly. Strong nominees provide credible information, encourage communication, support prevention of unintended or inappropriate access, and recognize that families may encounter cannabis in both medical and nonmedical contexts.

Youth and family education is a central Cannabis Safety Month issue because conversations about cannabis frequently become polarized between normalization and fear-based prevention. Families need tools that acknowledge risks, answer difficult questions, distinguish adult and pediatric medical use from nonmedical use, and help young people understand why age, development, product type, dose, and context matter.

The future of medical cannabis depends on public confidence that protecting access for patients does not mean ignoring youth safety. Programs that help families navigate these issues with accuracy and credibility can reduce stigma around legitimate medical use while improving prevention, storage, communication, and responsible decision-making.

ELIGIBLE NOMINEES:

Youth education programs, parent and caregiver resources, school-based initiatives, pediatric education programs, community campaigns, nonprofit programs, public agencies, and other age-appropriate cannabis education efforts.



2026 CANNABIS SAFETY AWARDS

Celebrating Excellence, Leadership & Innovation in Cannabis Safety.

SAFETY SIGNAL AWARD

Public Education

Honors an education campaign that made a complex cannabis safety issue understandable, useful, and actionable for the public.

PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES





THE SAFETY SIGNAL AWARD

PUBLIC EDUCATION IMPACT

The Safety Signal Award recognizes an education campaign that made a complex cannabis safety issue understandable, useful, and actionable for the public. Strong nominees translate technical, scientific, regulatory, or health information into resources people can use to make better decisions without relying on fear, stigma, exaggeration, or oversimplification.

Public education is a foundation of Cannabis Safety Month. People cannot act on information they cannot understand, and confusion around terminology, potency, product testing, health effects, laws, dosing, and responsible practices can itself create safety risks.

The future of medical cannabis requires a more cannabis-literate public. Clear education initiatives can help patients make informed choices, families have better conversations, consumers recognize risks, policymakers understand practical problems, and communities distinguish credible safety concerns from misinformation.

ELIGIBLE NOMINEES:

Public education campaigns, nonprofit initiatives, company-sponsored education programs, public agency campaigns, community programs, and other educational efforts addressing cannabis safety.



2026 CANNABIS SAFETY AWARDS

Celebrating Excellence, Leadership & Innovation in Cannabis Safety.

ROADWISE AWARD

Impaired-Driving Education

Honors a campaign, training, tool, or public-service initiative that improves understanding of impairment, driving risk, prevention, enforcement, or transportation alternatives.

PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES





THE 2026 ROADWISE AWARD

IMPAIRED-DRIVING EDUCATION & PREVENTION

The Roadwise Award honors a campaign, training, tool, research-based program, or public-service initiative that improves understanding of cannabis impairment, driving risk, prevention, enforcement, transportation alternatives, or responsible decision-making.

Impaired driving is a legitimate public-safety concern and an important part of Cannabis Safety Month. Addressing it effectively requires accurate education about impairment and behavior rather than assumptions that every cannabis consumer is impaired or that the presence of cannabis metabolites alone answers every safety question.

The future of medical cannabis depends in part on demonstrating that roadway safety and patient access are compatible goals. Better education, research, training, transportation options, and prevention strategies can reduce impaired driving while helping policymakers avoid rules that unnecessarily penalize patients who use cannabis medicines responsibly.

ELIGIBLE NOMINEES:

Impaired-driving education campaigns, training programs, public-service initiatives, educational tools, nonprofit programs, public agencies, research-based initiatives, and other programs addressing cannabis impairment and driving safety.



2026 CANNABIS SAFETY AWARDS

Celebrating Excellence, Leadership & Innovation in Cannabis Safety.

SAFE ACCESS AWARD

Accessibility & Inclusive Design

Honors a product, package, tool, or system that improves usability, accessibility, or safer access for patients and consumers with diverse physical, sensory, cognitive, or age-related needs.

PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES





THE SAFE ACCESS AWARD

EQUITABLE ACCESS & INCLUSIVE CANNABIS SAFETY

The Safe Access Award celebrates a program or initiative that removes barriers to credible cannabis safety information, healthcare resources, practical support, or medical cannabis access for communities that have historically been overlooked or face obstacles to safe access.

Cannabis safety is inseparable from access. A person who cannot reach a regulated provider, obtain understandable information, afford appropriate products, communicate in their preferred language, navigate disability barriers, or receive knowledgeable medical guidance may have fewer, not more, opportunities to make safe decisions.

Cannabis Safety Month recognizes that effective safety strategies must work for real people across different communities and circumstances. The future of medical cannabis will require systems that serve rural patients, people with disabilities, low-income patients, older adults, linguistically diverse communities, and others whose needs may be poorly addressed by one-size-fits-all programs.

ELIGIBLE NOMINEES:

Community-based programs, nonprofit initiatives, healthcare and public health programs, educational campaigns, public agencies, culturally or linguistically responsive resources, disability-access initiatives, rural outreach efforts, affordability programs, and other initiatives that expand equitable access to cannabis safety information or medical cannabis resources.

AWARDS FOR PRODUCTS & INNOVATIONS

Celebrating products, technologies, tools, and design innovations that make cannabis use safer, clearer, more consistent & more accountable.

The Awards for Products & Innovations recognize practical solutions to real-world cannabis safety challenges. Honorees may help people store cannabis securely, measure doses more consistently, preserve product quality, understand testing and labeling, reduce environmental impacts, improve whole-flower administration, or respond more safely to uncomfortable cannabis experiences.



THE 2026 LOCK IT DOWN AWARD

Safe Storage Innovation



THE 2026 FRESHNESS BY DESIGN AWARD

Product Preservation
Innovations



THE 2026 GREEN STANDARDS AWARD

Sustainability, Stewardship
& Standards



THE 2026 SAFE & BALANCED AWARD

THC Safety, Education
& Response



THE 2026 FLOWER FORWARD AWARD

Whole-Flower
Vaporization Innovation



THE 2026 KNOW YOUR DOSE AWARD

Precision Dosing
& Measurement



THE 2026 FULL DISCLOSURE AWARD

Testing, Labeling &
Product Transparency

Innovation will also play an important role in the future of medical cannabis. As cannabis becomes more integrated into healthcare, patients and professionals will expect greater precision, consistency, transparency, usability, quality control, and accountability. These awards recognize innovators who are helping raise those expectations and create the products and systems that a mature medical cannabis landscape will require.

Recognizing products & innovations.
Advancing cannabis safety & medical access.





2026 CANNABIS SAFETY AWARDS

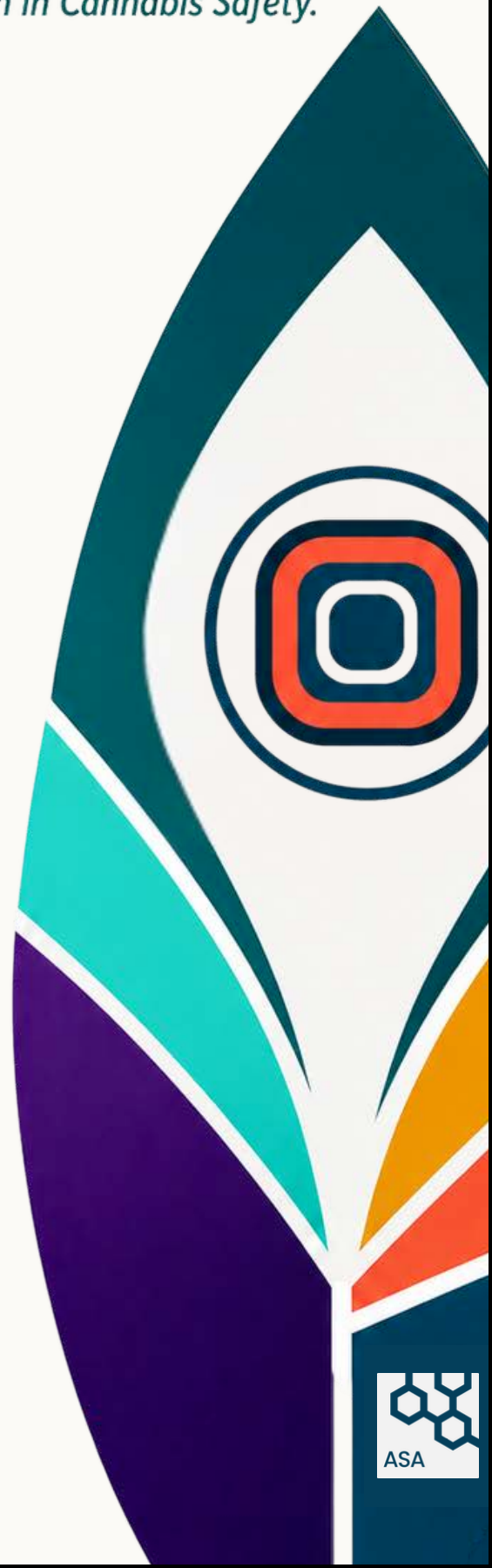
Celebrating Excellence, Leadership & Innovation in Cannabis Safety.

LOCK IT DOWN AWARD

Safe Storage Innovation

Honors a product, package, storage device, or safety tool that improves secure cannabis storage and helps prevent accidental access, misuse, or diversion.

PRODUCTS & INNOVATIONS





LOCK IT DOWN AWARD

SAFE STORAGE INNOVATORS ARE KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

The Lock It Down Award honors a child-resistant, secure, practical storage product or system that helps prevent unauthorized access, accidental ingestion, loss, or diversion while remaining usable for the patients and adults who need legitimate access.

Safe storage is one of the most direct ways households can reduce preventable cannabis-related incidents. Cannabis Safety Month emphasizes practical solutions people can adopt immediately, and good storage design can help families turn general safety recommendations into everyday habits.

As medical cannabis becomes more common in homes, storage systems need to account for the realities of patients, caregivers, children, visitors, multiple product types, and differing physical abilities. Innovations recognized through this award can help establish safer household norms while ensuring that security does not create unreasonable barriers for patients who need regular access to their medicines.

ELIGIBLE NOMINEES:

Storage products, locking devices, containers, cabinets, systems, accessories, or other innovations designed to improve secure cannabis storage.



2026 CANNABIS SAFETY AWARDS

Celebrating Excellence, Leadership & Innovation in Cannabis Safety.

FRESHNESS BY DESIGN AWARD

Product Preservation Innovations

Honors a product, package, container, or preservation solution that protects cannabis quality and integrity from light, air, moisture, contamination, tampering, or damage while supporting safer and more reliable use.

PRODUCTS & INNOVATIONS





FRESHNESS BY DESIGN AWARD

PRODUCT PRESERVATION INNOVATION

The Freshness by Design Award celebrates a product, technology, packaging system, storage solution, or other innovation that protects cannabis quality and integrity from light, air, moisture, temperature, contamination, physical damage, or tampering while supporting safe, clear, and practical use.

Product safety does not end when testing is completed or a package leaves a manufacturing facility. Storage conditions, packaging materials, environmental exposure, and handling can affect the condition and consistency of cannabis products over time. Cannabis Safety Month calls attention to the entire product lifecycle, including what happens between production and actual patient use.

For medical cannabis to mature as a healthcare product category, patients and professionals need confidence that products can retain their expected characteristics through storage and use. Preservation innovations help support consistency, reduce waste, protect product integrity, and establish stronger expectations for how cannabis medicines are packaged, transported, stored, and handled.

ELIGIBLE NOMINEES:

Packaging products, containers, closure systems, humidity- or temperature-control technologies, storage products, preservation systems, monitoring tools, and other innovations designed to protect cannabis quality and product integrity.



2026 CANNABIS SAFETY AWARDS

Celebrating Excellence, Leadership & Innovation in Cannabis Safety.

GREEN STANDARDS AWARD

Sustainability, Stewardship & Standards

Honors a product, package, system, or operational innovation that meaningfully reduces environmental impact and advances higher sustainability standards in cannabis without sacrificing safety, integrity, accessibility, or compliance.

PRODUCTS & INNOVATIONS





GREEN STANDARD AWARD

SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION

The Green Standard Award celebrates a product, program, technology, facility, or business practice that measurably reduces the environmental impact of cannabis production, distribution, or use without compromising safety, accessibility, product integrity, or regulatory compliance.

Cannabis Safety Month looks beyond immediate product and consumer concerns to the broader public-health impacts of cannabis systems. Energy use, water consumption, waste, packaging, transportation, cultivation practices, manufacturing, and supply chains all influence the long-term footprint of legal cannabis.

The future of medical cannabis should not require choosing between patient access, product safety, and environmental responsibility. Leaders recognized through this award demonstrate that better systems can achieve all three and can help establish sustainability as a normal component of responsible cannabis production and regulation.

Strong nominations may address energy and water conservation, waste reduction, sustainable materials, reusable or circular systems, transportation, cultivation or manufacturing practices, or supply-chain transparency.

ELIGIBLE NOMINEES:

Cannabis businesses, nonprofit or public programs, cultivators, manufacturers, retailers, laboratories, technology providers, product and packaging designers, facilities, and collaborative initiatives demonstrating measurable sustainability results.



2026 CANNABIS SAFETY AWARDS

Celebrating Excellence, Leadership & Innovation in Cannabis Safety.

SAFE & BALANCED AWARD

THC Safety, Education & Response

Honors a product, service, tool, or educational resource that helps adults understand, prevent, or respond calmly and safely to uncomfortable THC overconsumption.

PRODUCTS & INNOVATIONS





SAFE & BALANCED AWARD

THC SAFETY, EDUCATION & RESPONSE

The Safe & Balanced Award honors a product, service, tool, program, or educational resource that helps adults understand, avoid, and respond calmly and safely to uncomfortable THC overconsumption.

Cannabis Safety Month recognizes that excessive THC exposure can happen and that people need practical information about prevention, dose awareness, what symptoms may occur, when supportive measures may be appropriate, and when professional or emergency assistance should be sought. Providing credible guidance can reduce panic, misinformation, and preventable harm.

As medical cannabis products become more varied and potent, the future of patient safety will require better education about individual sensitivity, product onset, serving size, route of administration, and dose. Resources recognized by this award help build a culture in which uncomfortable experiences are addressed with accurate information and responsible care rather than stigma or false promises.

ELIGIBLE NOMINEES:

Products, services, tools, educational resources, digital platforms, programs, or other innovations designed to help adults understand and safely respond to THC overconsumption.



2026 CANNABIS SAFETY AWARDS

Celebrating Excellence, Leadership & Innovation in Cannabis Safety.

FLOWER FORWARD AWARD

Whole-Flower Vaporization Innovation

Honors a product, device, or innovation that advances cleaner, safer, and more effective whole-flower vaporization for adult consumers and patients.

PRODUCTS & INNOVATIONS





FLOWER FORWARD AWARD

WHOLE-FLOWER VAPORIZATION INNOVATION

The Flower Forward Award recognizes a whole-flower vaporization device or accessory that advances temperature control, materials safety, cleanability, dose awareness, usability, and clear consumer guidance.

Medical cannabis patients use a wide variety of product forms and routes of administration, and safety discussions need to reflect how people actually consume cannabis. Cannabis Safety Month provides an opportunity to recognize technologies that apply better engineering, clearer information, and stronger product design to whole-flower use rather than treating the device itself as an afterthought.

Whole-flower cannabis is likely to remain important to many medical cannabis patients even as pharmaceutical and manufactured cannabis products expand. Better vaporization technologies can support more informed product use, greater consistency, improved maintenance and hygiene practices, and patient choice while encouraging manufacturers to compete on safety and usability as well as performance.

ELIGIBLE NOMINEES:

Whole-flower vaporizers, vaporization devices, accessories, temperature-control technologies, or related innovations designed specifically for whole-flower cannabis use.



2026 CANNABIS SAFETY AWARDS

Celebrating Excellence, Leadership & Innovation in Cannabis Safety.

KNOW YOUR DOSE AWARD

Precision Dosing & Measurement

Honors a product, tool, package, or dosing system that improves measurement, titration, labeling, or dose communication to help adults use cannabis more safely and predictably.

PRODUCTS & INNOVATIONS





KNOW YOUR DOSE AWARD PRECISION DOSING & MEASUREMENT

The Know Your Dose Award recognizes a device, accessory, package, digital tool, or system that helps patients and adult consumers measure, portion, track, or better understand cannabis dosing.

Dose is one of the most important—and often least standardized—elements of cannabis safety. Differences in product type, cannabinoid concentration, route of administration, serving size, onset, individual sensitivity, and labeling can make it difficult for people to reproduce an experience or communicate accurately about what they have taken.

Cannabis Safety Month emphasizes that better dosing does not begin and end with a potency number on a package. The future of medical cannabis will require tools that help patients and healthcare professionals understand actual exposure, identify appropriate amounts, track outcomes, and make more informed adjustments over time. Innovations recognized through this award help move cannabis closer to the precision and consistency expected of other therapeutic products.

ELIGIBLE NOMINEES:

Dosing devices, measuring tools, portion-control systems, packaging innovations, tracking tools, digital platforms, or other products that help consumers better understand or manage cannabis dosing.



2026 CANNABIS SAFETY AWARDS

Celebrating Excellence, Leadership & Innovation in Cannabis Safety.

FULL DISCLOSURE AWARD

Testing, Labeling & Product Transparency

Honors a product, package, labeling system, testing practice, or transparency innovation that helps consumers better understand ingredients, potency, contaminants, and product quality.

PRODUCTS & INNOVATIONS





THE FULL DISCLOSURE AWARD

EXCELLENCE IN TESTING, LABELING & PRODUCT TRANSPARENCY

The Full Disclosure Award spotlights a product, laboratory, platform, labeling system, traceability tool, or transparency program that makes cannabis test results, ingredients, potency, warnings, batch information, recalls, sourcing, or instructions easier for patients and consumers to understand and verify.

Transparency is fundamental to informed decision-making. Cannabis Safety Month calls attention not only to whether cannabis is tested or labeled, but to whether the information provided is reliable, understandable, accessible, and useful to the person making a decision about a product.

As medical cannabis becomes more deeply integrated into healthcare, patients and professionals will expect to know what a product contains, how it was tested, where it came from, whether anything has changed, and what to do if a safety problem is identified. Initiatives recognized by the Full Disclosure Award are helping create the information infrastructure necessary for stronger consumer confidence, more responsive recalls, better clinical conversations, and greater accountability throughout the cannabis supply chain.

ELIGIBLE NOMINEES:

Laboratories, testing programs, labeling systems, transparency platforms, traceability tools, product information systems, packaging technologies, or other innovations that improve access to clear and verifiable cannabis product information.



2026 CANNABIS SAFETY AWARDS



RECOGNIZING THE PEOPLE, PRODUCTS & PROGRAMS
MOVING CANNABIS SAFETY FORWARD.

**NOMINATIONS CLOSE
SEPTEMBER 10, 2026**

Americans for Safe Access is seeking sponsors for the 2026 Cannabis Safety Awards to help support the recognition program, expand its reach, and spotlight the people and solutions advancing cannabis safety and medical access.

SafeAccessNow.org/Cannabis_Safety_Month_2026_Sponsor