

Chris Alexander is a senior government executive, criminal justice reformer, advocate, and policy expert.

Chris served as the inaugural Executive Director of the New York State Office of Cannabis Management. In this role, he was charged with the implementation and oversight of New York's cannabinoid hemp, adult-use, and medical cannabis programs. He was appointed to this role in September of 2021 and served until June of 2024. He is responsible for the launching of New York's cannabis market that has now generated over \$500 million dollars in revenue and generated over 10,000 new jobs in the State.

He previously worked as a Field Director for the New York State Democratic Party, as a Legislative aide to Congress, and as a Policy Coordinator for the Drug Policy Alliance where he began his work in cannabis by launching the Start SMART NY campaign to end marijuana prohibition in the state. He was the lead drafter of the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA), New York's legalization bill.

He also worked as an Associate Counsel to the New York State Senate where he managed the work of the Cities, Codes, and Crime Victims, Crime and Correction Committees providing oversight over the affairs of New York City and over New York State's criminal justice system. In this role he developed and negotiated legislation to reform policing in the state, decarcerate state and local prisons, end solitary confinement, enact meaningful parole reform, expand access to education in state prisons, and end marijuana prohibition.

He received his BA in Political Science from Syracuse University and his JD from CUNY School of Law.