

city of **yes** for economic opportunity

Guide to Life Sciences

Today's confusing, outdated zoning regulations about life sciences labs and research facilities hold back this important industry.

*city of **yes** for economic opportunity* is a set of zoning changes to support NYC's economy, including industries like life sciences.



The Problem

Ambiguity in zoning over which life sciences activities are considered commercial or industrial makes building new labs difficult.

A special permit to allow new commercial labs often can't be used near important research centers that these labs would benefit from, such as hospitals and universities.

The Solution

*city of **yes** for economic opportunity* would:

- Simplify and modernize how zoning rules define what a laboratory is, to give the industry more certainty.
- Broaden an existing "Scientific Research and Development Facility Special Permit," so commercial labs can set up near hospitals and universities.
- Modernize loading dock rules for building conversions, which would allow more labs in converted buildings.
- Create new, flexible zoning tools to enable the construction of buildings that are well-suited to laboratory needs.

Questions or comments?

Please email NYC Planning at EconomicOpportunity@planning.nyc.gov.