



# HARFORD COUNTY COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT & REPAIR FUND (CRRF)

## SURVEY REPORT

May 20, 2025



**BOB CASSILLY**  
Harford County Executive  
**BARBARA W. RICHARDSON**  
Director, Housing and Community Services

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND  
COMMUNITY SERVICES  
OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL POLICY

# Message from the Director



CRRF are distributed to organizations and services that will benefit low-income communities and fortify the other requirements of the Maryland Cannabis Reform Act of 2023 and Harford County Bill No. 24-030.

This report will serve as a guide as the county continues to make informed decisions about the allocation of these funds, and I would like to thank everyone involved in this important effort.

Sincerely,

*Barbara W. Richardson*

Barbara W. Richardson  
Director  
Harford County Department of Housing & Community Services

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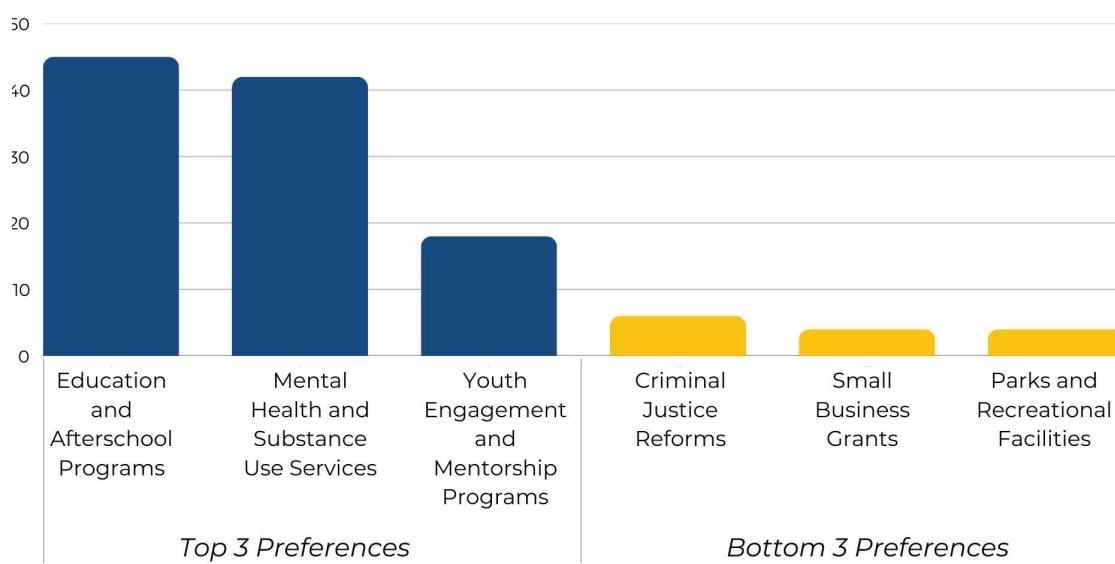
# Summary

In 2022, Maryland voters approved the legalization of recreational adult-use cannabis. Under the new law, a portion of the state revenue generated by the sale of cannabis is dedicated to the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund (CRRF). Each county was required to enact legislation establishing the purposes for which the funds can be used. Harford County Bill No. 24-030 was passed for that purpose.

The CRRF provides money to local governments for distribution to community-based initiatives serving low-income communities and those with higher rates of cannabis prohibition enforcement. The Maryland Office of Social Equity (OSE) has identified 21001 (Aberdeen), 21009 (Abingdon), and 21040 (Edgewood) as priority areas.

In accordance with the Cannabis Reform Act of 2023, the Maryland Office of Social Equity conducted a state-wide survey to solicit public input on the uses of CRRF funds. As such Harford County conducted its own survey to gain insight into the ways residents want CRRF funding to be used within their communities. The information within this survey was gathered through electronic responses and public listening sessions.

## Harford County Preferences for Community Reinvestment and Repair Funding



Information reflective of respondents highest ranked preferences

# Summary

## These funds can be used for:

- Community-based initiatives intended to benefit low-income communities
- Community-based initiatives that serve priority communities
- Any related administrative expenses

## These funds cannot be used for:

- Law enforcement agencies or activities
- Supplant funding that otherwise would be appropriated for preexisting local government programs.

## Maryland Proportion of Cannabis Charges (July 1, 2002 - January 1, 2023)

Rank	County	Number of Charges	Proportion
1	Baltimore City	77,485	30.63%
2	Baltimore (County)	38,806	15.34%
3	Prince Georges	28,900	11.42%
4	Anne Arundel	17,701	7.00%
5	Montgomery	14,515	5.74%
6	<b>Harford</b>	<b>8,553</b>	<b>3.38%</b>
7	Charles	7,305	2.89%
8	Frederick	7,128	2.82%
9	Howard	6,802	2.69%
10	Wicomico	5,923	2.34%
11	Washington	5,169	2.04%
12	Carroll	5,030	1.99%
13	Calvert	3,984	1.57%
14	St. Mary's	3,580	1.42%
15	Cecil	3,493	1.38%
16	Worcester	3,083	1.22%
17	Dorchester	2,969	1.17%
18	Allegany	2,638	1.04%
19	Queen Annes	2,128	0.84%
	Caroline	2,121	0.84%
20	Talbot	1,922	0.76%
21	Somerset	1,394	0.55%
22	Kent	1,267	0.50%
23	Garrett	1,065	0.42%
<b>Maryland (Statewide)</b>		<b>252,961</b>	<b>100%</b>

# Methodology

The Harford County Department of Housing and Community Services was committed to the process of providing a forum for community input to ensure a clear insight from local, affected communities. In providing these forums, the county, with the support of the State of Maryland, acknowledged the lasting impact of these disproportionalities by providing a place for residents to be heard and the intention to promote change through growth.

The Maryland Office of Social Equity CRRF Survey yielded responses from 54 individuals. In order to promote a greater understanding of community interests related to CRRF, the Harford County Department of Housing and Community Services' Office of Drug Control Policy developed a supplemental survey which yielded responses from 159 individuals.

## **The questions from the survey included:**

1. How did you find out about this survey?
2. Do you live in Harford County (if no, in which jurisdiction do you reside)?
3. What is your Zip Code?
4. Which of the following best describes you (racial background)?
5. How old are you?
6. What is your annual household income before taxes?
7. Are you a member of a community organization (if so, which organization)?
8. Are you an elected official?
9. Have you or a family member been personally affected by the criminalization of cannabis in the past (if yes, please explain)?
10. In regards to CRRF, which issues do you think are most important to address with these funds in your community?

# Methodology

Beginning in December of 2024, the Office of Drug Control Policy conducted six (6) community input sessions to discuss how funds may be allocated. The intent of these sessions was to be inclusive of individuals, community leaders, and organizations that serve impacted communities.

## **The agendas for the sessions consisted of the following:**

1. Introductions and Welcome
2. Overview of CRRF Funding
3. How it works
4. Potential Uses
5. Application Process
6. Community Input and Discussion
7. Additional Discussion
8. Adjournment

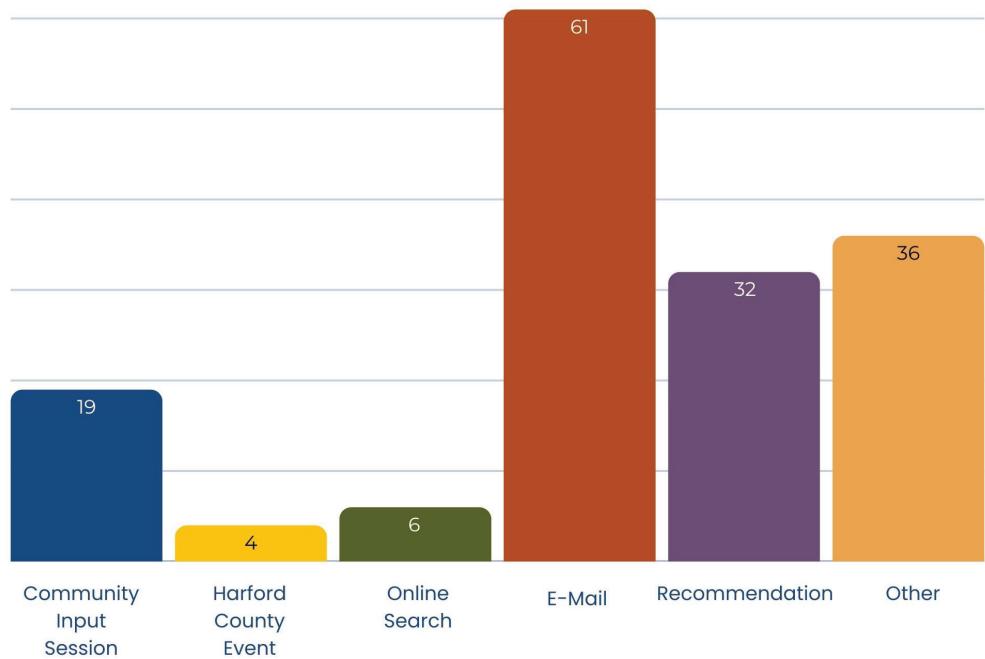


In addition to community input sessions, meetings were conducted with community leaders which emphasized the importance of these funds. Initially, the fund would consist of a fixed number of awards with fixed dollar amounts. Through engagement with grassroots community organizations which included an additional input session as requested by an organization in the forefront of these matters.

# Survey Analysis

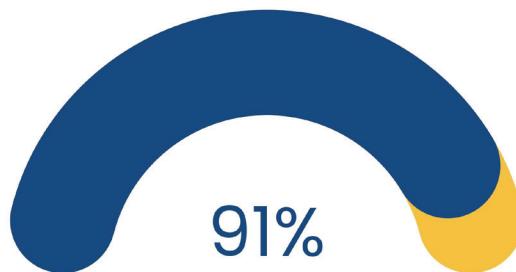
## Question 1:

How did you find out about this survey?



## Question 2:

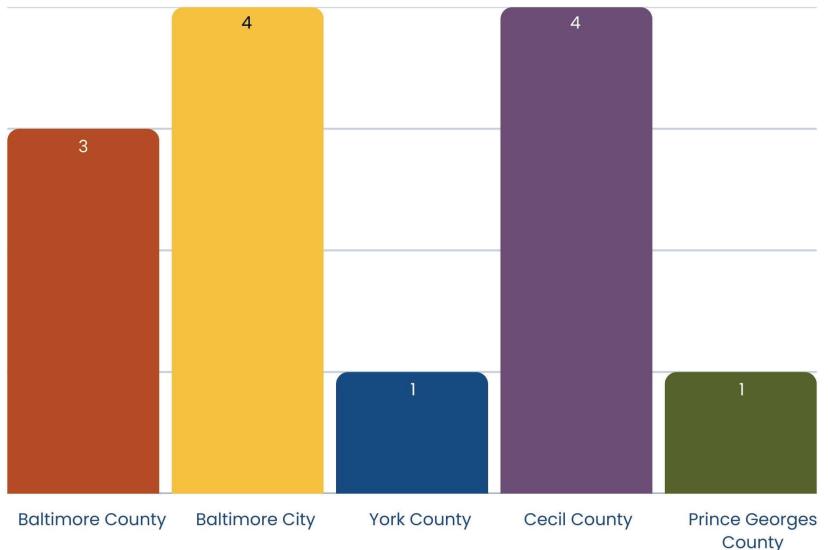
Do you currently live in Harford County?



146 (91%) individuals reported living in Harford County

## Question 3:

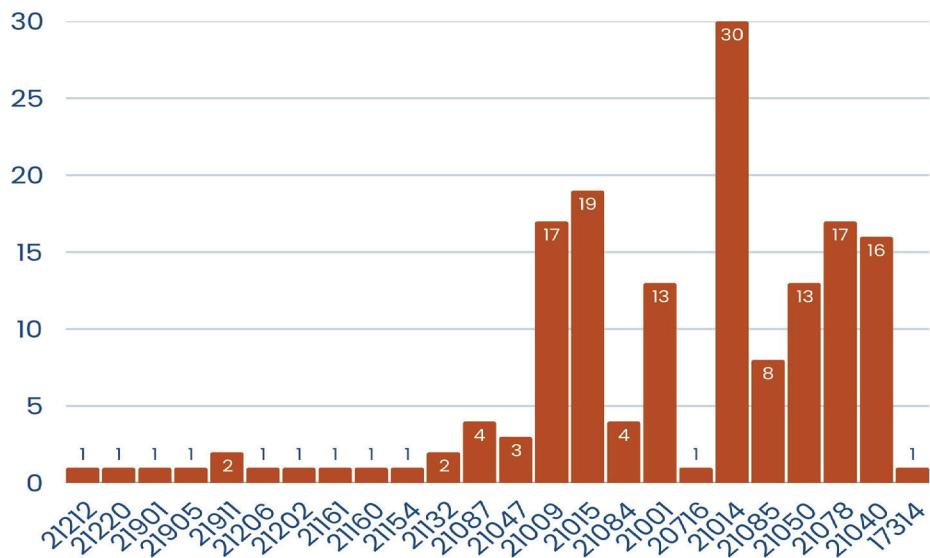
If no, in which jurisdiction do you reside?



# Survey Analysis

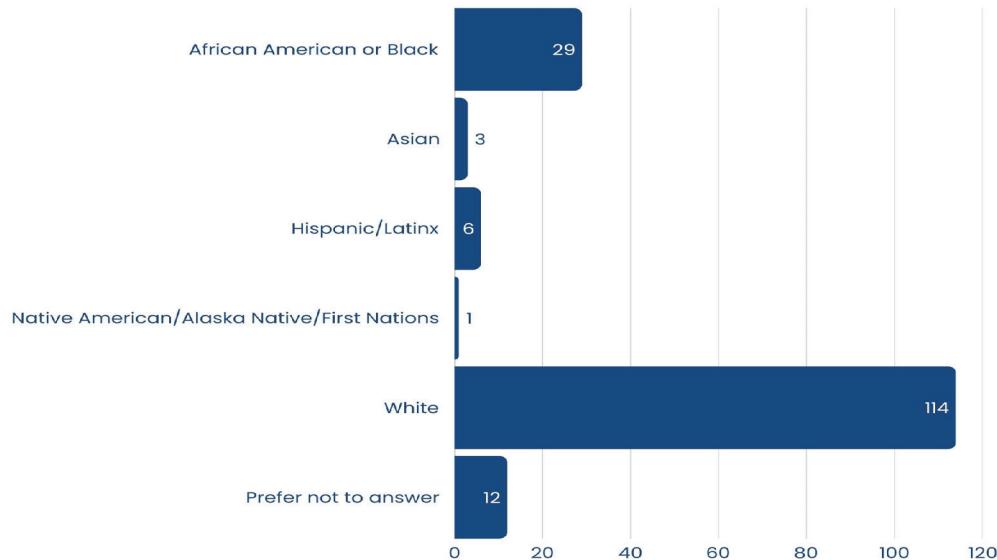
## Question 4:

What is your ZIP code?



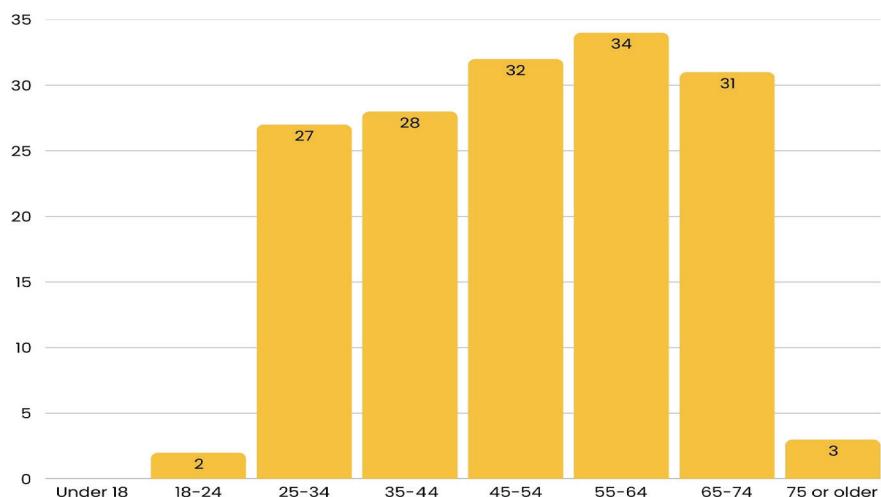
## Question 5:

Which of the following best describes you?



## Question 6:

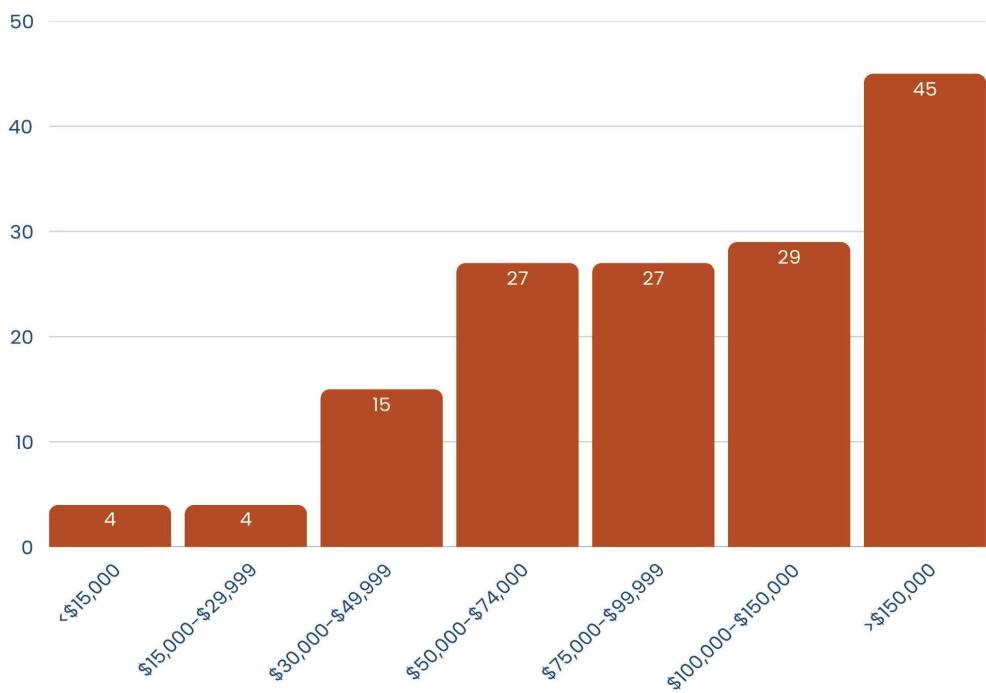
How old are you?



# Survey Analysis

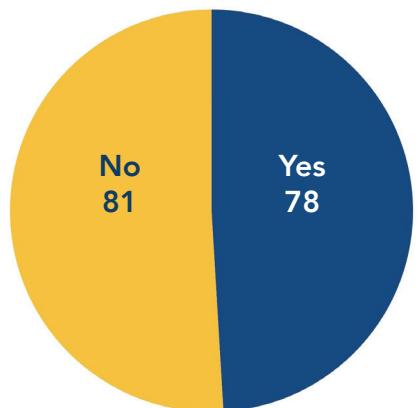
## Question 7:

What is your annual household income before taxes?



## Question 8:

Are you a member of or associated with a community organization?



## Question 9: If so, which organization?

755 Alliance  
Aberdeen on the Move  
**Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority**  
**Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity**  
**Ashley Addiction Treatment**  
The BEcome Project  
Boys2Men Mentoring  
Black Philanthropy Giving Circle of Harford County (BPGCHC)  
CASA  
Chrysantemoms  
Citizens Review Board for Children (CRBC)  
Decoding Dyslexia Harford County  
The EPICENTER at Edgewood  
**Faith Based Community**  
**First Harford Square Association**  
Fresh Start Furnishings  
Friends of Harford County Public Library  
Habitat for Humanity  
Halls Cross Roads Elementary

Harford Community College Foundation  
Harford County 4-H Program  
Harford County Board of Education  
**Harford County Caucus of African Leaders**  
Harford County Chamber of Commerce  
Harford County Council  
Harford County Education Association  
Harford County Public Schools  
**Harford County Public Library Foundation**  
**Harford County Public Library**  
Harford County Sheriff's Office Foundation  
HarfordTV Foundation  
Homecoming Project  
The HOPE Center of Maryland  
Liriodendron Foundation  
Ma & Pa Trail Foundation  
Maryland Center for the Arts  
Mason-Dixon Ministerium

Military Officers Association of America  
Moms Demand Action  
Moms for Liberty  
NAACP  
National Education Association  
Neighbors United  
New Day Wellness & Recovery Center  
N-STEP  
Office of Mental Health/Core Services  
Southern Harford County Rotary Club  
Together We Will  
University of Maryland  
Upper Chesapeake Health System  
**Voices of Hope**  
Westshore Community  
Women's Army Vets

denotes organizations that had the most responses

# Survey Analysis

## Question 10:

**Are you an elected official?**



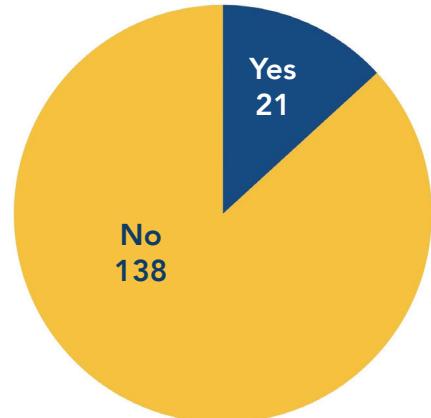
155 (97.5%) respondents reported not being an elected official.

4 (2.5%) respondents reported being an elected official

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## Question 11:

**Have you or a family member been personally affected by the criminalization of cannabis in the past?**



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## Question 12:

**If yes, please explain:**

Of the 16 respondents who provided answers to this question, many reported that family members have been incarcerated for cannabis possession which has prevented them from gainful employment. Others reported that they themselves have been incarcerated due to cannabis possession. One respondent reported that they were involved in a car accident caused by an individual under the influence of cannabis.

# Survey Analysis

## Question 13:

**In regard to Community Reinvestment and Repair Funds, which issues do you think are most important to address with these funds in your community? Please rank the following options in priority order with 1 being the highest priority.**

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th
Education and After School Programs	45	31	31	15	16	13	3	4	1
Mental Health and Substance Use Services	42	39	25	19	15	5	8	4	2
Youth Engagement and Mentorship Programs	18	33	25	32	21	17	5	6	2
Housing and Homelessness Prevention	18	15	24	29	27	25	12	9	0
Healthcare Access and Services	14	13	20	20	26	31	22	8	5
Job Training and Workforce Development	8	6	14	24	23	21	39	21	3
Criminal Justice Reforms	6	12	10	7	18	26	23	23	34
Small Business Grants	4	5	1	7	9	9	30	55	39
Parks and Recreational Facilities	4	5	9	6	4	12	17	29	73

# Conclusion

## COMMUNITY INPUT

Community input sessions were instrumental in creating a dialogue regarding community needs. Community participation in the survey provided additional insight that was not captured in the initial Maryland Office of Social Equity survey.

## CHANGING TIMES

Public perceptions are ever-changing. In addition to utilizing community input regarding the use of funds, it is imperative to understand the evolving perceptions of cannabis use and the lasting impact of prohibition in Harford County communities.

## COMMUNITY HEALING

Community Reinvestment and Repair Funds have the power to promote healing in communities most disproportionately impacted by cannabis prohibition.

## FUNDING THE COMMUNITY

The CRRF differs drastically from other county funding sources. It is designed to intentionally serve low income and disproportionately impacted communities while elevating grassroots community organizations that would otherwise be unable to obtain funding from government sources.



Bob Cassilly, County Executive

**Harford County Housing and Community Services**  
**Office of Drug Control Policy**  
[www.harfordcountymd.gov/ODCP](http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/ODCP)