



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



Harford County is pleased to present the findings from our survey on potential uses for the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund (CRRF). The survey conducted by Harford County Department of Housing and Community Services' Office of Drug Control Policy reflects the collective voice and perspective of our residents.

Our goal is to ensure that the monies available through the

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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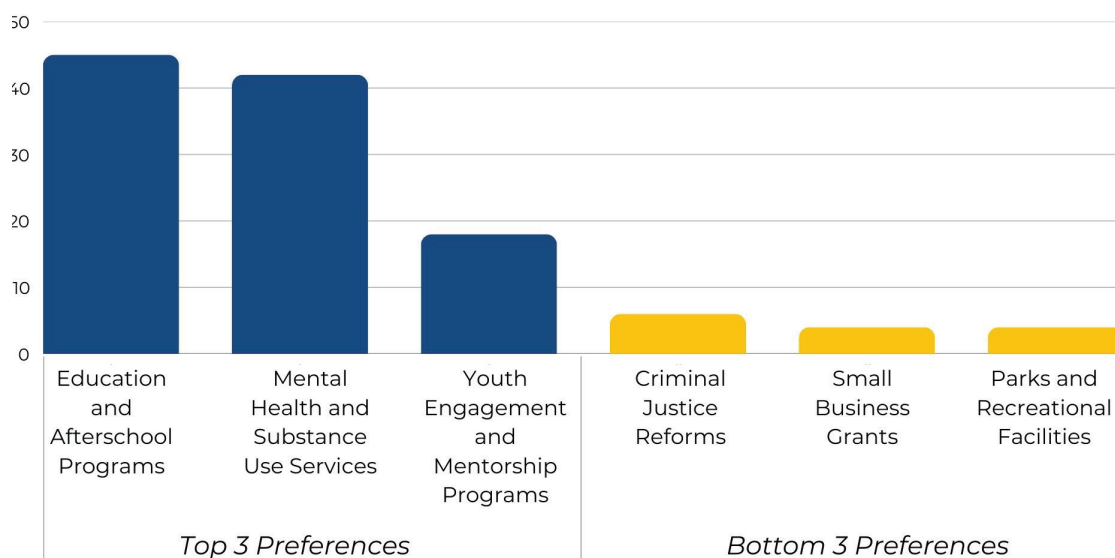
Summary

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	Harford	8,553	3.38%
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%
Maryland (Statewide)		252,961	100%

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:

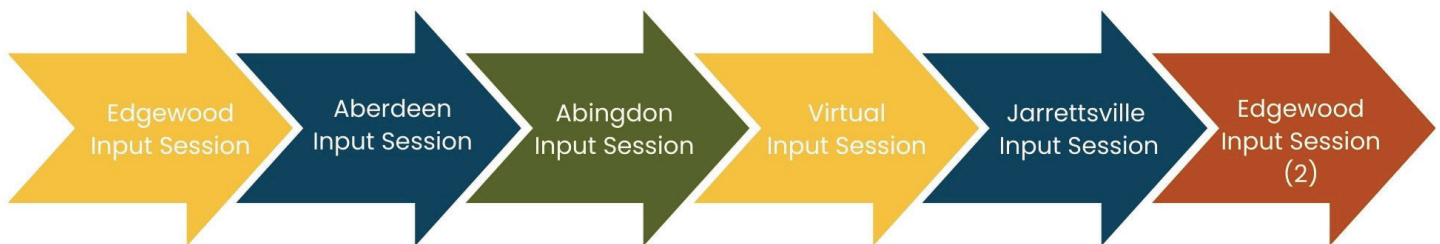
1. How did you find out about this survey?
2. Do you live in Harford County (if no, in which jurisdiction do you reside)?
3. What is your Zip Code?
4. Which of the following best describes you (racial background)?
5. How old are you?
6. What is your annual household income before taxes?
7. Are you a 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

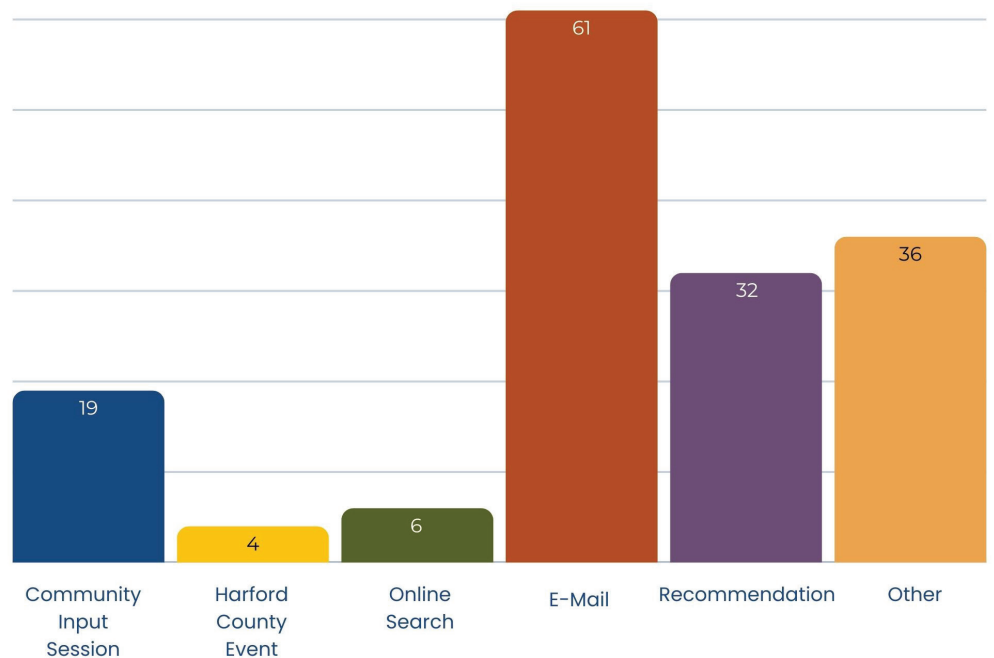


In addition to community input sessions, meetings were conducted with community leaders which emphasized the importance of these funds. Initially, the fund would consist of a fixed number of awards with fixed dollar amounts. Through engagement with grassroots community organizations which included an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

Survey Analysis

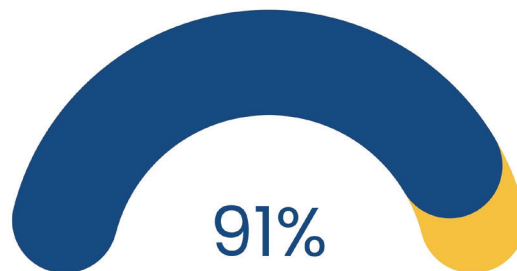
Question 1:

How did you find out about this survey?



Question 2:

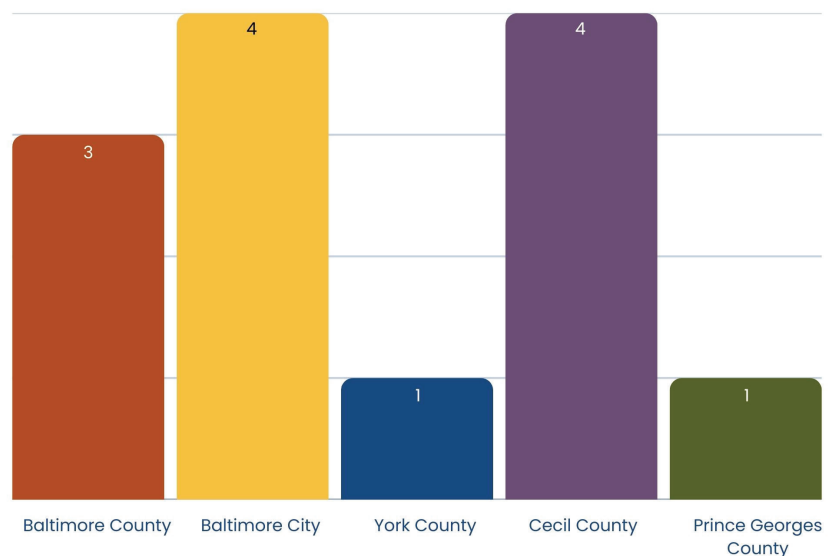
Do you currently live in Harford County?



146 (91%) individuals reported living in Harford County

Question 3:

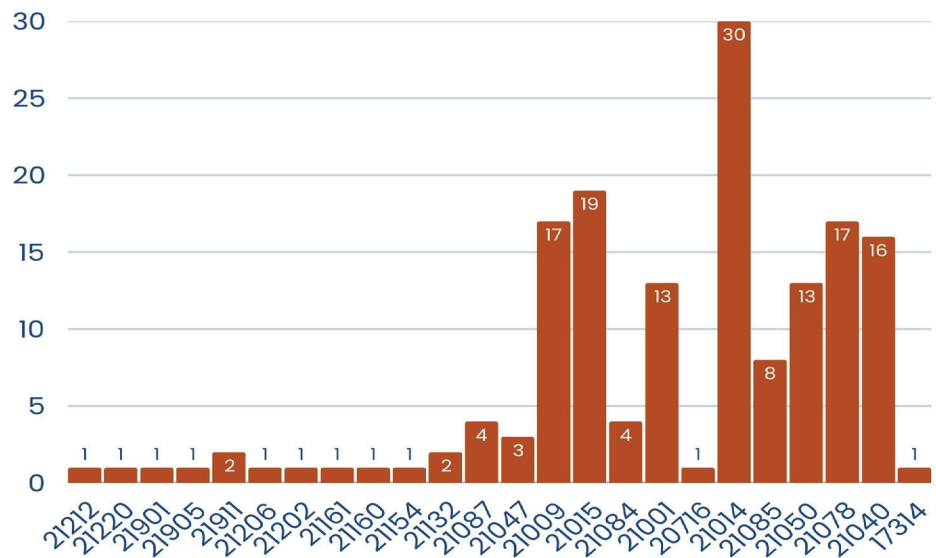
If no, in which jurisdiction do you reside?



Survey Analysis

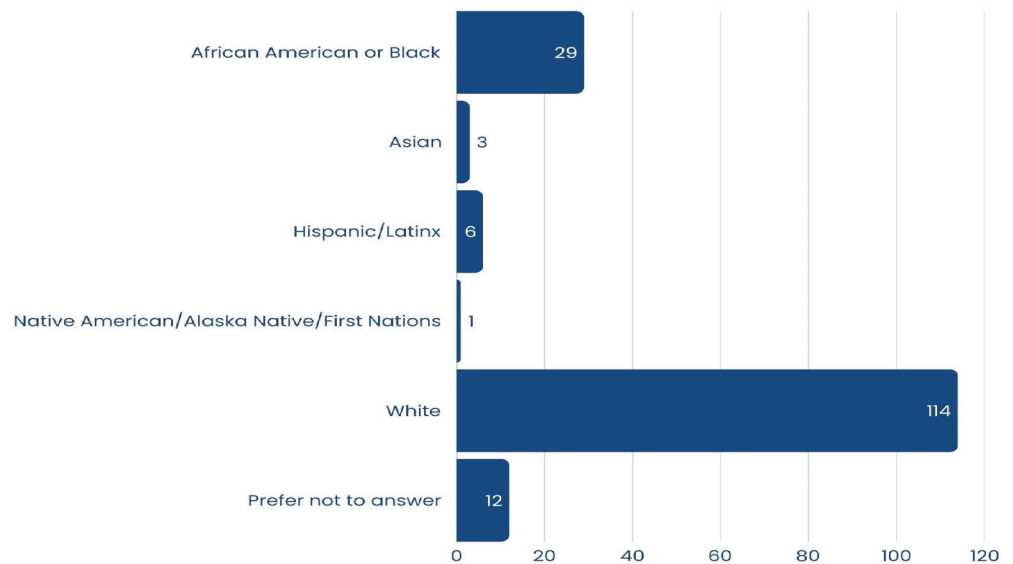
Question 4:

What is your ZIP code?



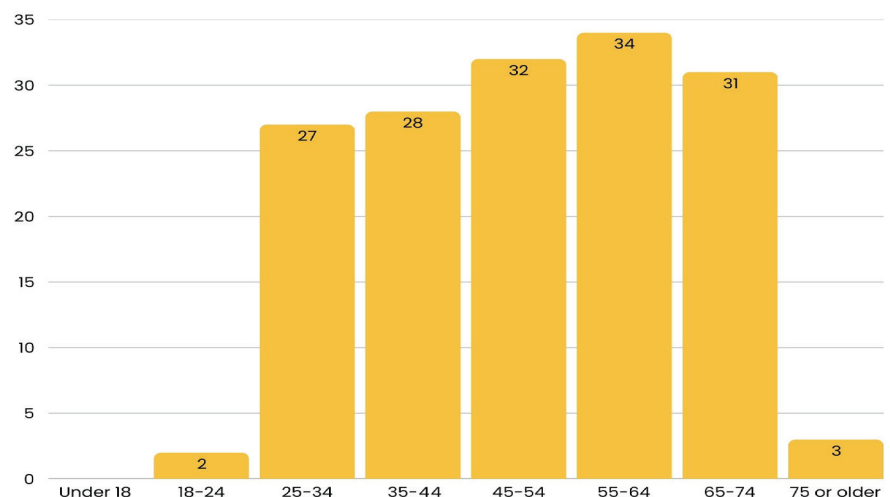
Question 5:

Which of the following best describes you?



Question 6:

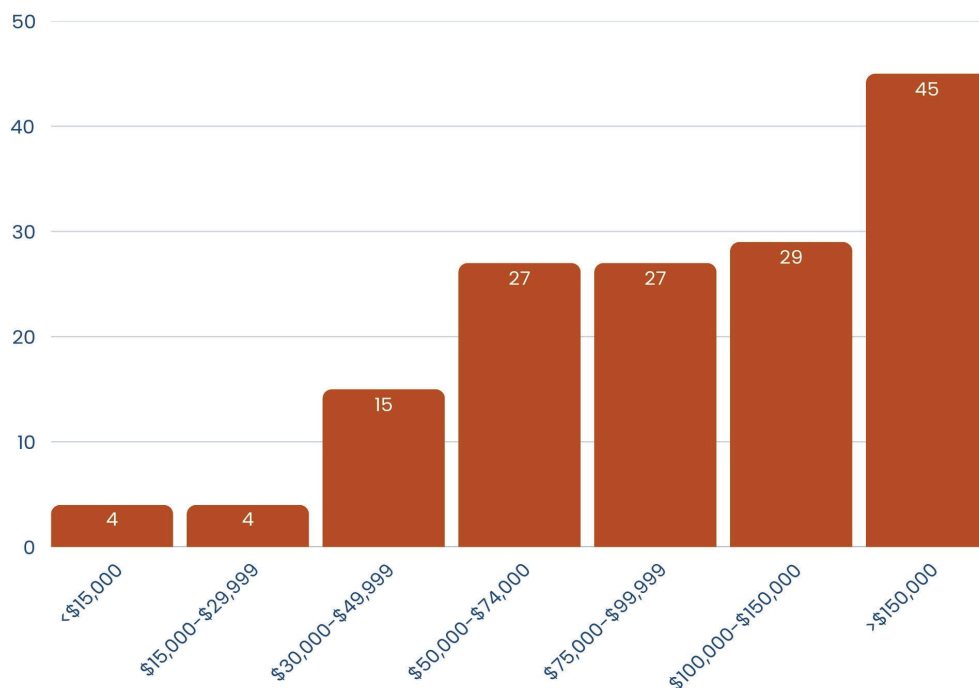
How old are you?



Survey Analysis

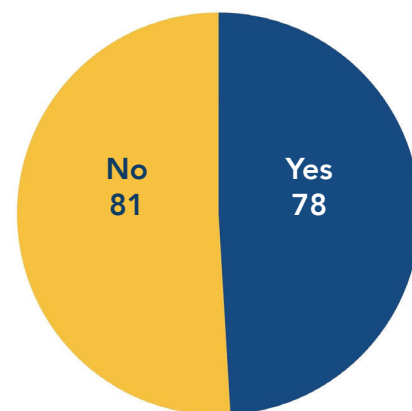
Question 7:

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

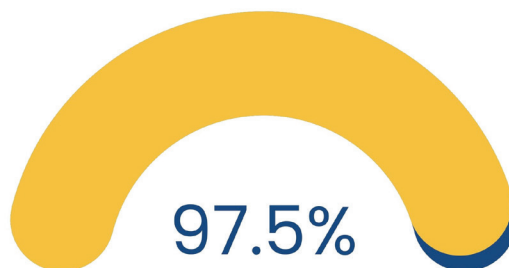
Military Officers Association of America
Moms Demand Action
Moms for Liberty
NAACP
National Education Association
Neighbors United
New Day Wellness & Recovery Center
N-STEP
Office of Mental Health/Core Services
Southern Harford County Rotary Club
Together We Will
University of Maryland
Upper Chesapeake 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?

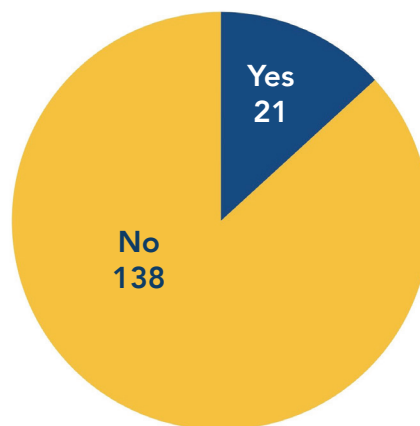


155 (97.5%) respondents reported not being an elected official.

4 (2.5%) respondents reported being an elected official

Question 11:

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



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