



HARFORD COUNTY COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT & REPAIR FUND (CRRF)

2026 SURVEY REPORT



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 proud to share the results of our latest survey on how best to administer the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund (CRRF). The 2026 CRRF survey conducted by the Office of Drug Control Policy within the Department of Housing and Community Services captures the voices and priorities of residents across our community. As we work with our state partners and strive to meet the goals established under Maryland law and its local counterpart, Harford County Bill No. 24-030, our commitment remains clear: **CRRF dollars will be invested in our local communities in order to have a meaningful impact, strengthen low-income neighborhoods and expand opportunities to county citizens.** Community feedback plays a critical role in directing funds to fill gaps in services and provide greater financial support to programs that provide the greatest impact.

This report will guide the County as we continue to make informed, community-driven decisions regarding the allocation of these resources. I extend my sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to this effort. Your engagement helps us build a stronger, healthier Harford County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barbara W. Richardson".

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

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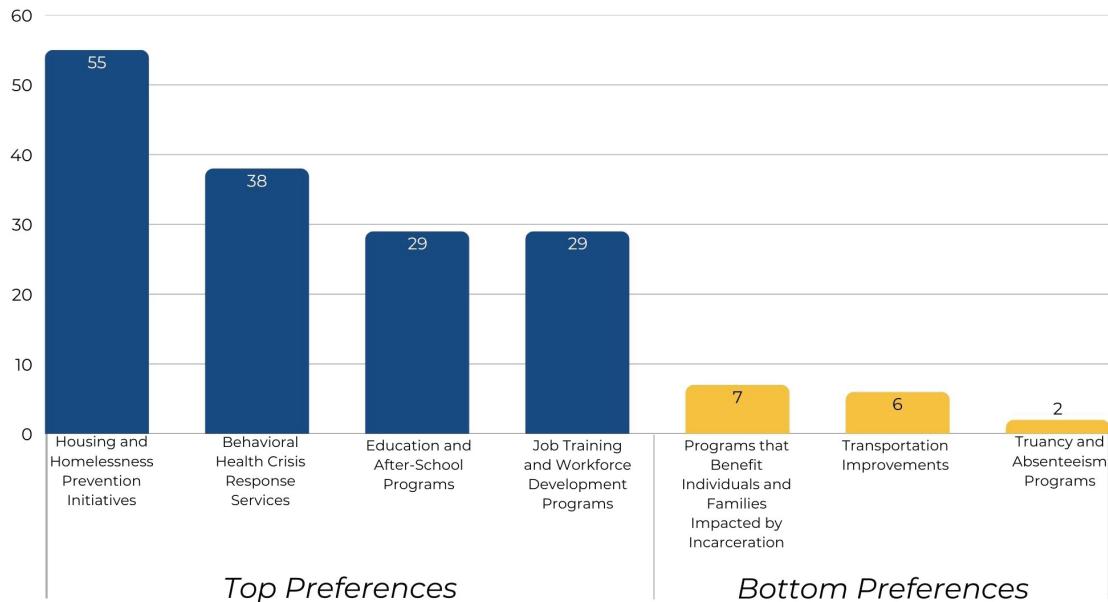
Summary

In 2022, Maryland voters approved the legalization of recreational adult-use cannabis resulting in a new means to invest in local communities through the newly established Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund (CRRF). The CRRF directs a portion of state revenue generated from cannabis sales to local governments for programs and services in low-income communities and those affected by prior cannabis prohibition. As required by the State, Harford County enacted Bill No. 24-030 which enables the county to receive, distribute and invest in those eligible areas identified by the State. In Harford County, the Maryland Office of Social Equity (OSE) has identified three ZIP codes: 21001 (Aberdeen), 21009 (Abingdon), and 21040 (Edgewood) as areas significantly affected under the guidelines.

Since 2024, Harford County has been actively engaging members of the community through community input meetings and surveys, as well as having meaningful discussions with organizations that provide services, programs and education to our residents in order to better understand local priorities and ensure that CRRF resources are allocated in ways that reflect real needs and concerns of residents.

Most recently, through the 2026 survey, residents identified priorities including behavioral health crisis response services, job training and workforce development, housing stability, education and related children and youth programs. This input guides Harford County's decision-making process, helping ensure that CRRF funding is directed toward meaningful initiatives and sustainable progress. All input received since the inception of the CRRF continues to be considered in the formation of the County's strategic plan for future CRRF allocations.

FY26 Harford County Preferences for Community Reinvestment and Repair Funding



Information reflective of respondents highest ranked preferences

Summary

Pursuant to current Maryland law, CRRF funds can be used for:

- Funding community-based initiatives intended to benefit low-income communities, including:
 - a. *Behavioral health crisis response services;*
 - b. *Education and after-school programs;*
 - c. *Truancy and absenteeism intervention programs;*
 - d. *Housing and homelessness prevention initiatives;*
 - e. *Transportation improvements in high-density areas that have public transportation;*
 - f. *Job training and workforce development programs;*
 - g. *Community childcare and recreational services; and*
 - h. *Programs that benefit individuals and families impacted by incarceration;*

- Funding community-based initiatives that serve priority communities; and
- Any related local government administrative expenses incurred while administering the funds, not to exceed 15% of the funds received in the fiscal year.

These funds cannot be used for:

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

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

Rank	County	# 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	Alleghany	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 is committed to creating opportunities for community input throughout this process through various means and forums. In doing so, Harford County heard directly from residents who shared their life experiences and voiced needs, which help shape positive, community-driven change.

The Office of Drug Control Policy within the Department of Housing and Community Services launched their second CRRF survey. The FY2026 survey generated 149 responses which, when compared to the FY2025 survey, and provided a sharper focus on community interests related to the CRRF. Together, these combined engagement efforts form the foundation of this report.

2. 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. To which age group do you belong?
6. What is your annual household income before taxes?
7. Did you complete the 2025 CRRF Survey?
8. How familiar are you with the Harford County Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund (scale, 1-10)?
9. Are you aware of the application process for CRRF funding in Harford County?
10. Are you a member of a community organization (if so, which organization)?
11. Are you an elected official?
12. Have you or a family member been personally affected by the criminalization of cannabis in the past (if yes, please explain)?
13. In regard to CRRF, which issues do you think are most important to address with these funds in your community (priority ranking)?
14. Based on the above allowable uses, what specific areas can be targeted through this fund?

Continued on page 6

Methodology

Continued from page 5

15. What organization(s) are you aware of that can address the needs/priorities you have identified above?
16. Are you interested in being added to the Harford CRRF email distribution list (if you answered yes to the previous question, please enter your email below).
17. Please share any additional information or ideas.

In addition to the FY2026 survey, the Office of Drug Control Policy conducted two (2) community input sessions to provide an overview of the CRRF and discuss how funds may be allocated. These sessions were open to individuals, community leaders, and organizations that were encouraged to actively engage in the resulting discussions and question/answer periods offered within.

Thirty-one (31) individuals attended the FY26 input sessions.

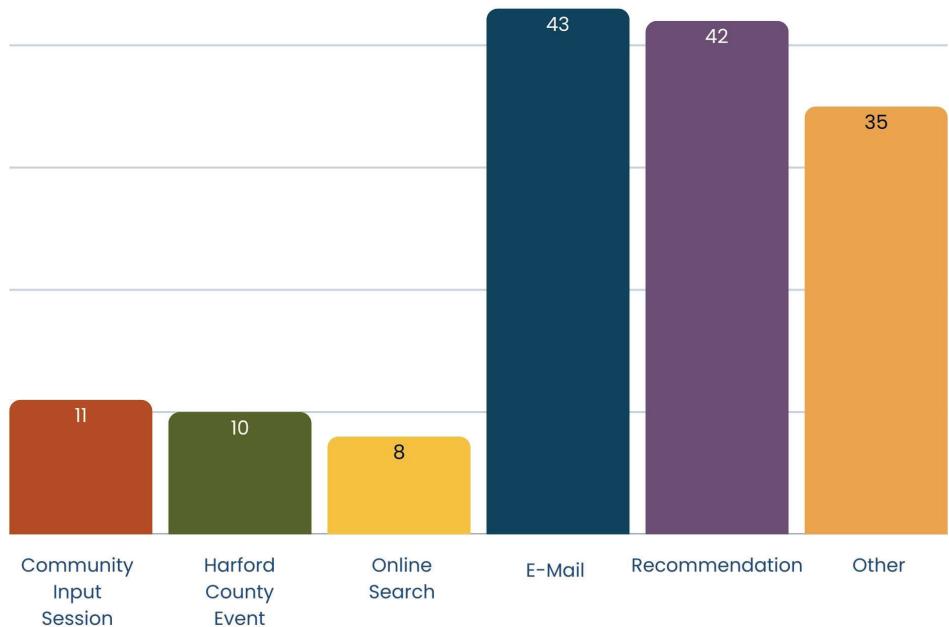
The agenda and presentation slides for the Community Input Sessions are publicly available via:

<https://www.harfordcountymd.gov/3872/Community-Reinvestment-Repair-Fund>

Survey Analysis

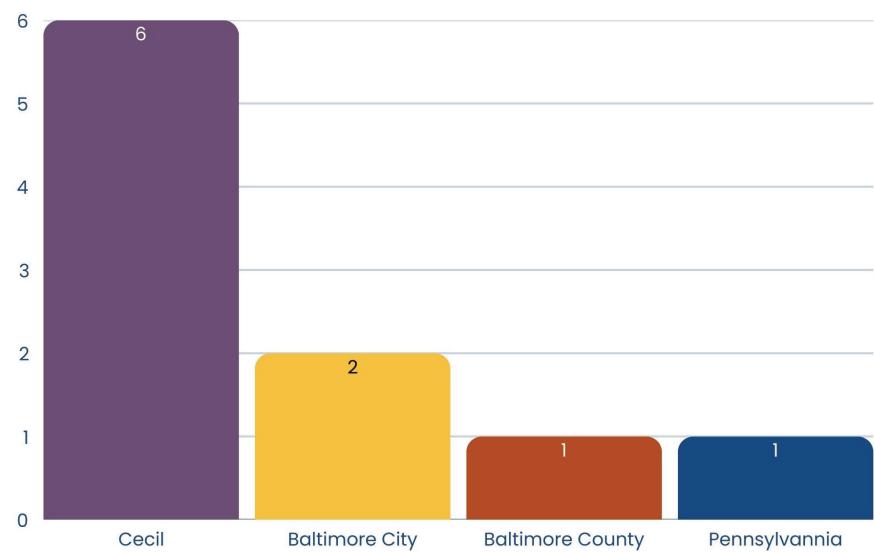
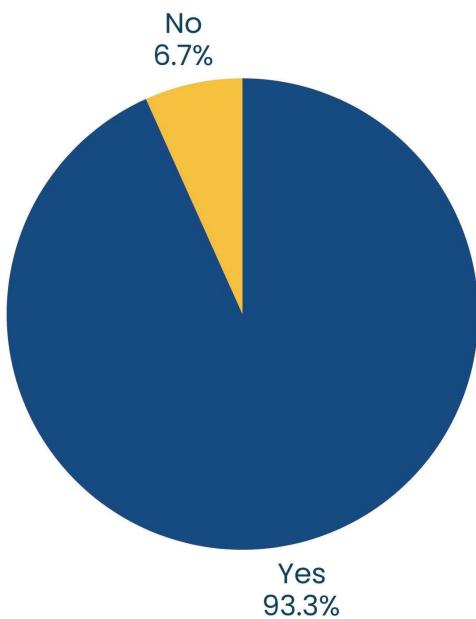
Question 1:

How did you find out about this survey?



Question 2:

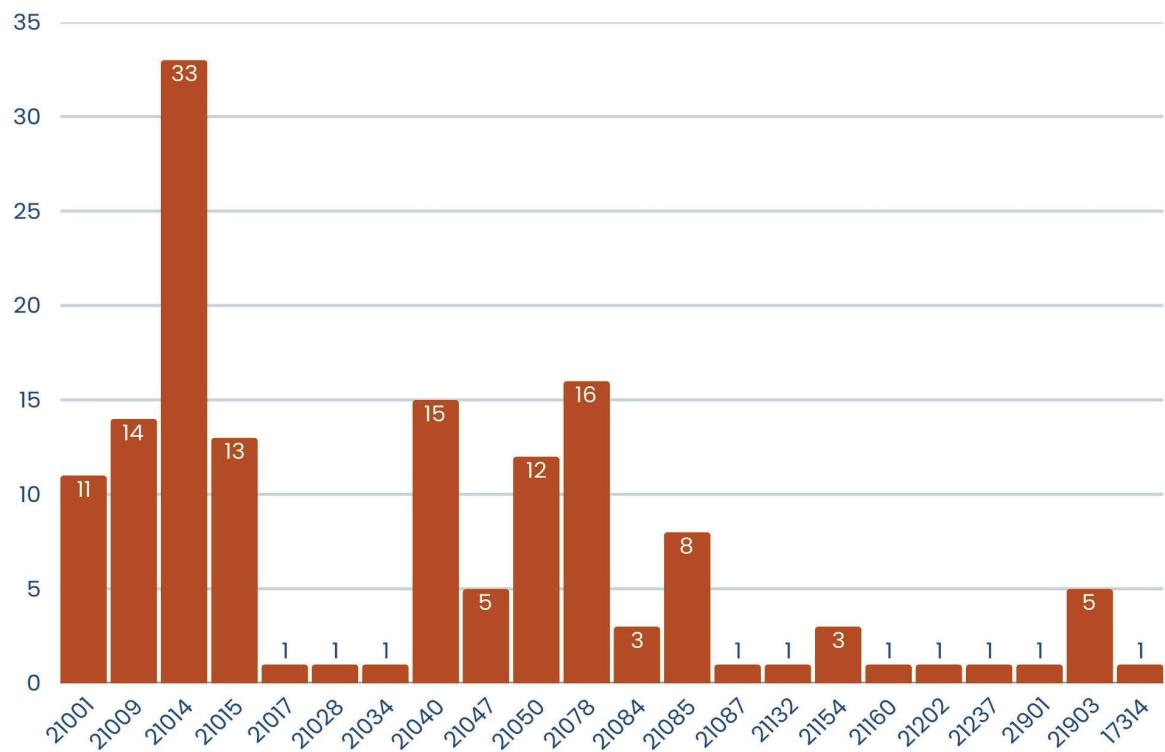
Do you live in Harford County (if no, in which jurisdiction do you reside)?



Survey Analysis

Question 3:

What is your ZIP code?



Question 4:

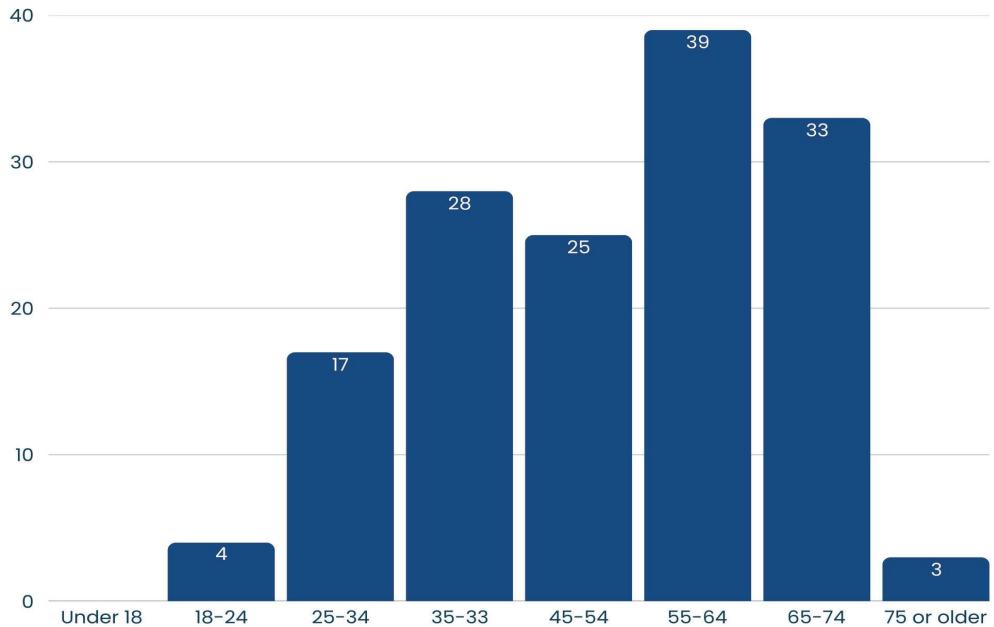
Which of the following best describes you (racial background)?

Which of the following best describes you?	Census	2025 Survey	2026 Survey	% Change
White	76.6%	69.1%	72.8%	▲ 3.7%
African American or Black	16.3%	17.6%	17.2%	▼ 0.4%
Asian	3.3%	1.8%	.7%	▼ 1.1%
Hispanic/Latinx	5.9%	3.6%	2.6%	▼ 1.0%
Native American/Alaska Native/First Nations	.5%	.6%	0%	▼ 0.6%
Prefer not to answer	N/A	7.3%	6.6%	▼ 0.7%

Survey Analysis

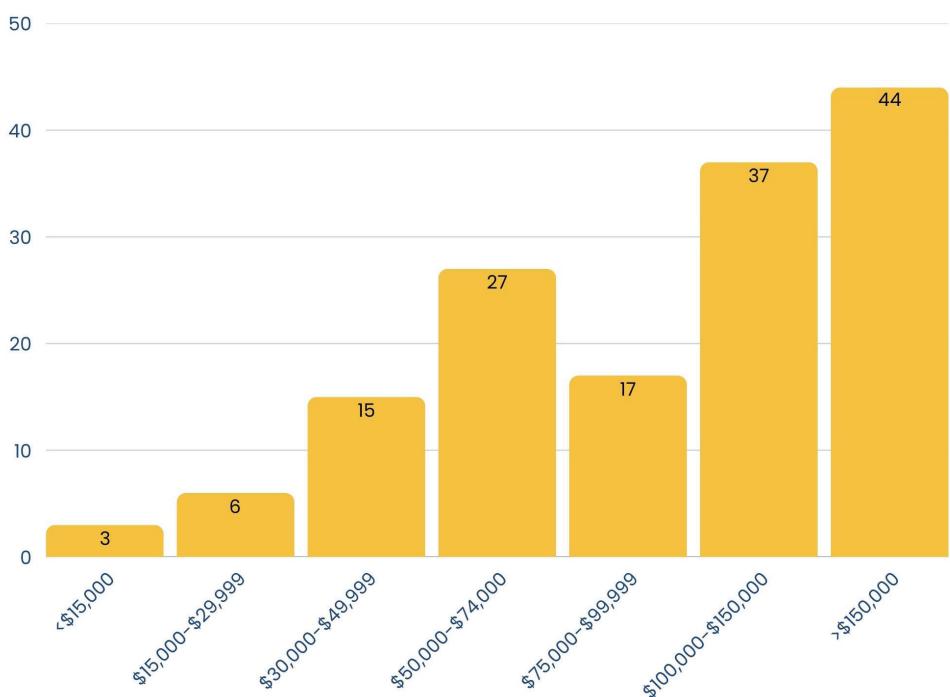
Question 5:

To which age group do you belong?



Question 6:

What is your annual household income before taxes?

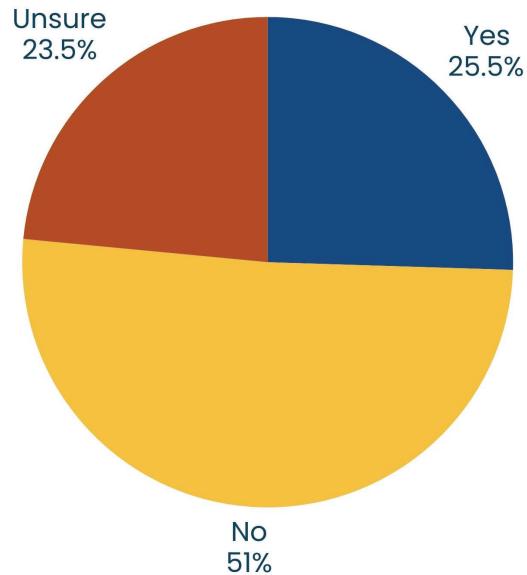


Survey Analysis

Question 7:

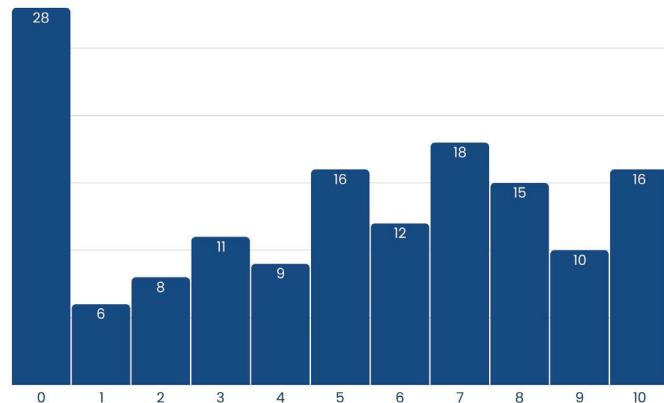
Did you complete the 2025 CRRF Survey?

A meaningful share of respondents indicated this survey was their first introduction to the CRRF.



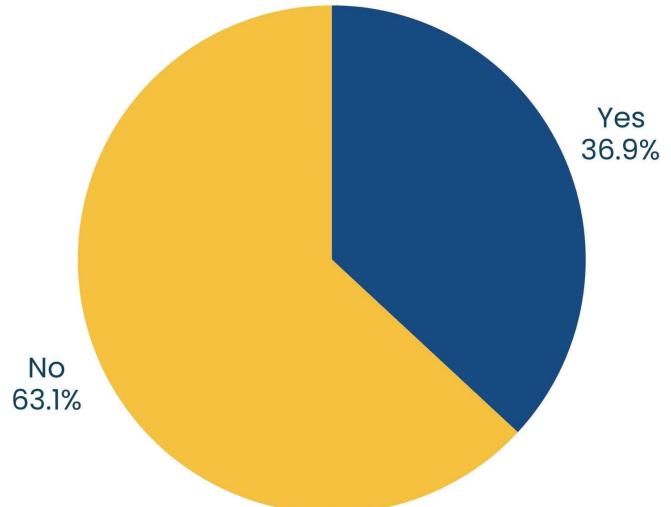
Question 8:

How familiar are you with the Harford County Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund (scale, 1-10)?



Question 9:

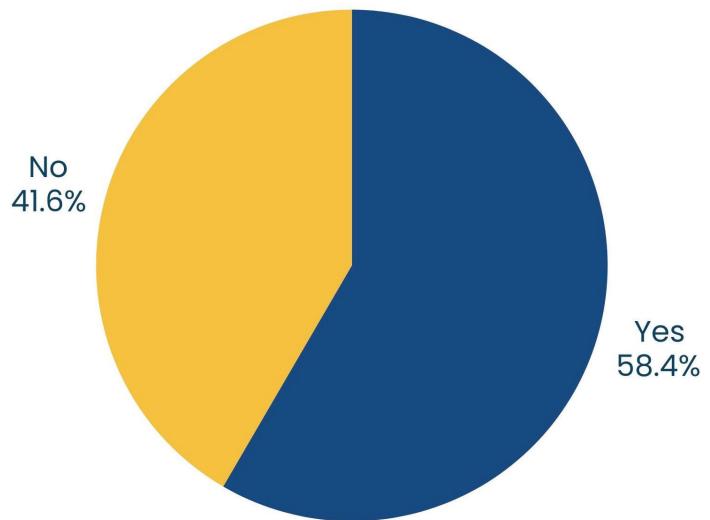
Are you aware of the application process for CRRF funding in Harford County?



Survey Analysis

Question 10:

Are you a member of a community organization (if so, which organization)?



Abilities Network
755 Alliance, Inc
Ashley Addiction Treatment
Bethesda Transformation Center
BRIDGE Maryland, Inc.
CHOSEN Community Development Corporation
Chrysanthemoms, Inc.
Community Advisory Board
Edgewood Parks and Rec
Edgewood Senior Activity Center
Epicenter
Extreme Family Outreach
Faith Transformation Worship Center
Fresh Start Furnishings
Harford Arts Collective
Harford County Caucus of African American Leaders
Harford County Public Schools
Harford County Republican Alliance
Harford County Women's Giving Circle
Harford Family House
The Hope Center of Maryland
Homecoming Project

Imagination Library of Harford County
Instant Change
Joppa Magnolia Volunteer Fire Company (JMVFC)
Linking All So Others Succeed (LASOS)
LTs House of Grace, Inc
Mann House
Mason Dixon Community Center
NAACP
New Hope Day Shelter
N-STEP
Oak Grove Baptist Church
Office on Mental Health
People Inspiring People
Rage Against Addiction
Shifting Gears Inc.
Springboard Community Services
The Y in Central Maryland (Ward Y)
Think Big Act Bold - Share the Vision
Together We Will
Urban Impact
Voices of Hope
We Cancerve Movement

denotes organizations that had the most responses

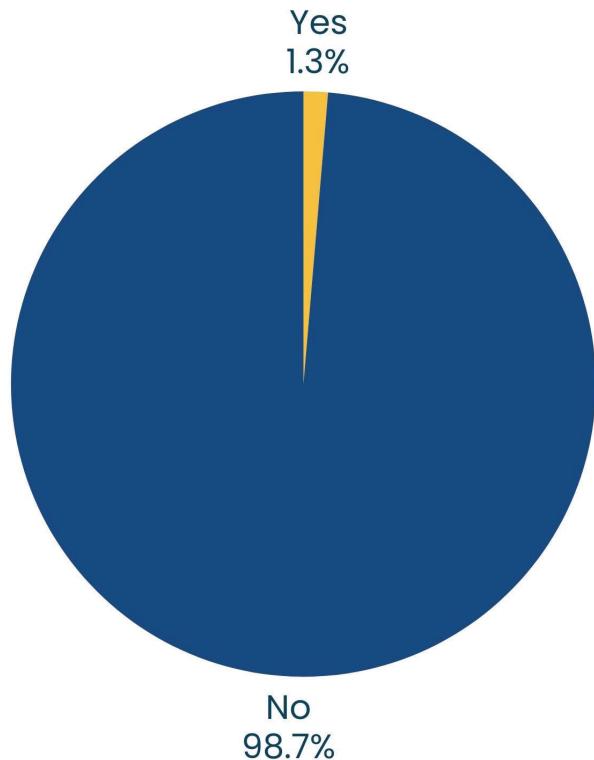
Survey Analysis

Question 11:

Are you an elected official?

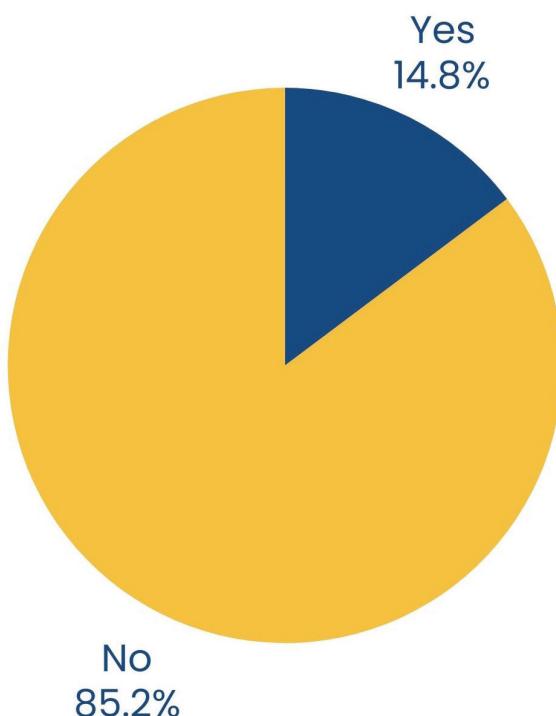
147 (98.7%) respondents reported not being an elected official

2 (1.3%) respondents reported being an elected official



Question 12:

Have you or a family member been personally affected by the criminalization of cannabis in the past (if yes, please explain)?



Survey Analysis

Question 13:

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

Please rank the following options in priority order, 1 being the highest priority.

Priority Area	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
Housing and Homelessness Prevention Initiatives	55	28	23	7	15	12	8	1
Behavioral Health Crisis Response Services	37	38	20	18	12	9	6	9
Education and After-School Programs	30	22	29	26	22	10	8	2
Job Training and Workforce Development Programs	8	17	22	29	23	26	19	5
Community Child Care and Recreational Services	4	15	17	24	20	21	28	20
Truancy and Absenteeism Intervention Programs	2	12	15	20	23	25	27	25
Transportation Improvements in High-Density Areas the Have Public Transportation	6	10	16	17	18	22	28	32
Programs that Benefit Individuals and Families Impacted by Incarceration	7	7	7	8	16	24	25	55

Survey Analysis

Question 14:

Based on the above allowable uses, what specific areas can be targeted through this fund?

The consensus among the respondents is for basic needs to be prioritized and addressed before families can meaningfully benefit from additional focused programs and services. Basic needs identified are housing, homelessness prevention, and behavioral health, with respondents suggesting investment in homelessness and eviction prevention, reduced waitlists and rental assistance. Other areas identified such as investing in education, workforce training, and long-term planning initiatives follow and are supported by the foundation of meeting basic needs.

Additional areas identified for programs and services through the CRRF are affordable and expanded childcare for parents working non-traditional hours as a means to increase parenting support and improved economic mobility while decreasing truancy.

Additionally, survey results show strong support for youth-focused initiatives such as after-school programs, mentoring, substance use prevention, and life-skills development, especially along the Route 40 corridor. This has been and continues to be a primary focus of the current Administration as witnessed by the financial and programmatic support provided through the award-winning Southern County Task Force.

Additional highlights include integrated behavioral health services for youth and adults, recovery services, crisis response and increased transportation access. While workforce development was seen as important, it was generally viewed as secondary to stabilization, reinforcing a housing-first approach.

Survey Analysis

Question 15:

What organization(s) are you aware of that can address the needs/priorities you have identified above?

Dominant Respondent Themes

Housing & Homelessness Support (Most Frequently Cited)

Commonly cited organizations:

- Harford Family House/Welcome One;
- Harford Community Action Agency (HCAA);
- Fresh Start Furnishings;
- Housing Authority/Habitat for Humanity;
- Hope for the Homeless Alliance;
- Anna's House; and
- New Hope Day Shelter.

Capacity issues were consistently raised including but not limited to:

- Long waitlists;
- Limited intake hours; and
- Insufficient space for women, families, and children.

Behavioral Health and Substance Use Recovery Commonly cited organizations/programs:

- Voices of Hope (VOH)
- Ashley Addiction Treatment/The Clubhouse
- Rage Against Addiction
- Klein Family Center
- Recovery Housing programs
- Drug Court



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Survey Analysis

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Workforce Development, Education & Youth Support

Commonly cited organizations/programs:

- Susquehanna Workforce Network (SWN)
- Harford Community College / Workforce training programs
- Boys & Girls Club
- Mentoring programs (WillPower, Boys2Men, Coming of Kings, HCPS Mentorship Alliance)

Basic Needs & Emergency Assistance Services identified:

- Organizations that address food insecurity: HOPE Center, churches, Salvation Army
- Emergency assistance: HCAA, faith-based groups, and local nonprofits

Transportation & Access Barriers

- Availability, access and schedules were cited as a limiting factor with transportation gaps reducing the effectiveness of otherwise strong programs.

Cross-cutting Concerns & Gaps Identified:

- Capacity & waitlists
- Fragmentation & navigation challenges: Lack of consistent and easily understood eligibility requirements, referral pathways and intake coordination, all of which suggest a need for navigation support or centralized access points.

Implications for the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund

Based on responses provided, the CRRF is positioned to:

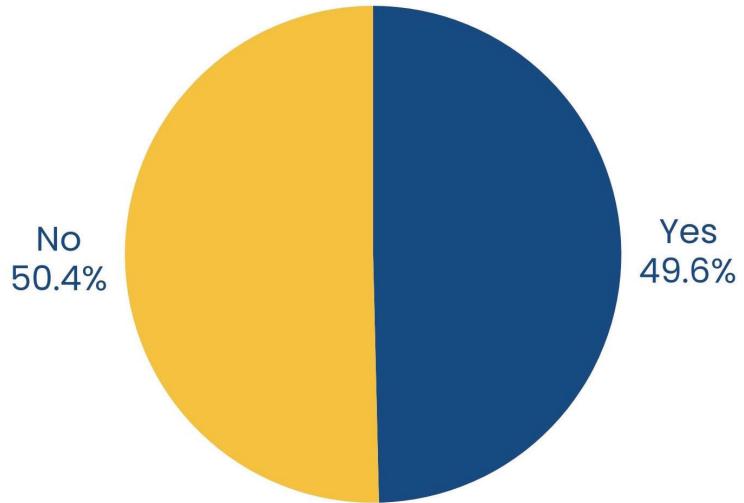
- Invest in capacity-building, not just program creation;
- Support established and provide new/expanded opportunities for frontline organizations;
- Fund direct assistance models;
- Strengthen coordination and navigation, reducing system fatigue for residents; and
- Stabilize geographically vulnerable services, preventing loss of critical access points.

Survey Analysis

Question 16:

Are you interested in being added to the Harford CRRF email distribution list

(if you answered yes to the previous question, please enter your email below).



Question 17:

Please share any additional information or ideas.

Responses received included, but were not limited to:

- Housing stability;
- Long-term re-entry programs including combining housing, case management, and workforce training, along with services for children and families impacted by incarceration;
- Youth investment focusing on prevention with requests for expanded mentoring, trade pathways, recreation and accessible community assets.
- Transportation: Services increased for evenings and weekends.
- Evidence-based, multi-year funding;
- Post-award evaluation; and
- Greater community education and involvement in distribution of funding.

Conclusion

Recognized Community Investment

The 2026 Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund (CRRF) survey reflects the input of a community deeply invested in shaping meaningful local investments. Across Harford County, residents, service providers, and community stakeholders are requesting systemic changes to challenges that can serve as the foundation for long-term community repair.

Themes Identified

Survey responses highlight several consistent themes: housing-first approaches, the importance of basic household needs, the value of youth-focused prevention and mentorship, and the critical role of integrated behavioral health services. Respondents consistently emphasized a sequenced, strategic approach: stabilize basic needs first, support family and youth well-being next, and then build opportunities through education and economic development. Transportation and geographic access were identified as cross-cutting factors that influence the effectiveness of all interventions.

Increased Awareness and Community Engagement

A meaningful share of respondents indicated that this survey was their first introduction to the CRRF. Respondents expressed a strong interest in staying connected with the CRRF through email distribution lists, input sessions, etc., which demonstrate a community that is eager to be informed and engaged.

Respondents also provided practical recommendations to strengthen the fund's impact, including support for evidence-based, multi-year programs, improved coordination among organizations, targeted investments in high-need areas, and greater community involvement in the distribution of funding. Collectively, these insights reinforce the CRRF's dual mission: to repair and create new opportunities in our local communities in order to support a stronger, more resilient and promising future for all Harford County residents.

CRF



Bob Cassilly, County Executive

Harford County Housing and Community Services
Office of Drug Control Policy
www.harfordcountymd.gov/ODCP