

Queen Anne's County Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund (CRRF)

FY 2025 Queen Anne's County Guidelines

Cannabis Reform Act of 2023

The Cannabis Reform Act of 2023 established the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund (CRRF) to reinvest tax revenue from adult-use cannabis sales into communities disproportionately impacted by historical cannabis prohibition. The fund aims to promote social equity and economic development through targeted programs that address critical community needs such as mental health services, education, housing, and economic development.

What is the CRRF and the CRRC?

Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund (CRRF)

The CRRF is a special, non-lapsing fund managed by the Queen Anne's County Local Management Board (LMB). It provides grants to community-based organizations for programs that benefit low-income communities and those disproportionately impacted by cannabis prohibition.

Community Reinvestment and Repair Commission (CRRC)

The Queen Anne's County Local Management Board serves as the CRRC, tasked with administering the CRRF. The commission's responsibilities include developing and managing the public grant process, recommending fund allocations, and ensuring community input in decision-making.

CRRC Members

Voting Members

- Current members of the Queen Anne's County Local Management Board.

Non-Voting Ex Officio Members

- Representative from Queen Anne's County Department of Economic and Tourism Development.
- Representative from Queen Anne's County Department of Community Services.
- Representative from Queen Anne's County Department of Finance.

Leadership

- The Chair of the Local Management Board serves as the Chair of the CRRC.
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Fund Overview

Focus Areas in Queen Anne's County

The CRRF will prioritize funding programs that align with the community's needs and the state's equity goals:

1. **Minority Entrepreneur Training Accelerator (META) Program:** Supporting business development and leadership training for minority entrepreneurs.
2. **After-School Programs:** Providing educational and recreational opportunities for youth.
3. **Homelessness Prevention Initiatives:** Addressing housing instability and providing wraparound support services.
4. **Ad-Hoc Community Needs Funding:** Allocating resources for community-identified priorities through a public application process.

Prohibited Uses

- Funds cannot be used for law enforcement activities.
 - Funds cannot supplant pre-existing program funding as of July 1, 2023.
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Eligibility

Eligible Applicants

- Community-based organizations serving Queen Anne's County.
- Nonprofit and for-profit organizations with a demonstrated commitment to community impact.
- Organizations must be in good standing with the State of Maryland.

Prioritization Criteria

- Programs benefiting low-income communities and historically impacted populations.
 - Initiatives aligned with CRRF focus areas, including education, housing, mental health, and economic development.
 - Organizations with inclusive and diverse leadership.
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Reporting Requirements

Local Reporting

- Annual reports on fund allocations, program outcomes, and impact assessments to the County Commissioners (due by December 1 each year).

State Reporting

- Biannual reports to the Governor, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, and House Appropriations Committee (due every even-numbered year).
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Meetings

Schedule

- The CRRC will meet at least four times annually or as needed to fulfill its duties.

Public Access

- All meetings will comply with the Maryland Open Meetings Act.

Quorum and Decision-Making

- A quorum consists of a majority of voting members. Decisions require a majority vote of members present.
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How to Apply

Application Process

1. **Public Notice:** Grant opportunities will be announced on the Queen Anne's County website and through local media channels.
2. **Submission:** Applicants must complete the online application form and provide required documentation, including:
 - Organizational mission and leadership structure.
 - Program details and alignment with CRRF priorities.
 - Budget and financial statements.
3. **Review:** Applications will be reviewed by the CRRC based on eligibility, impact, and alignment with focus areas.
4. **Award Notification:** Applicants will receive notification of funding decisions within 60 days of submission deadlines.

FY25 Allocations

The CRRF is currently at \$595,000 with the following allocations recommended:

Programs

- **Minority Entrepreneur Training Accelerator (META) Program:** \$100,000
- **After-School Programming: Partnering For Youth:** \$250,000
- **Homelessness Prevention Efforts:** \$75,000
- **Ad-Hoc: Funding determined by community needs:** \$170,000