



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Contact: *Sirita Wright*
Office of Social Equity
Email: sirita.wright@maryland.gov

Maryland Office of Social Equity Launches Statewide Listening Tour for Cannabis Community Reinvestment

Eight Town Halls to Shape the Future of the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund

LINTHICUM HEIGHTS, MD (October 11, 2024) - The Maryland Office of Social Equity (OSE) today announced a comprehensive statewide listening tour to engage communities on the implementation of the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund (CRRF). This initiative marks a significant step in Maryland's commitment to equitable cannabis policy, inviting residents to directly influence how cannabis tax revenue will be reinvested in communities most impacted by previous criminalization.

"These town halls are an opportunity to listen, learn, and grow," said Audrey Johnson, Executive Director of the Office of Social Equity. "By bringing diverse voices to the table, we can improve and refine our strategies to ensure the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund truly serves the needs of all Marylanders."

The CRRF, established by landmark legislation, earmarks a substantial portion of cannabis tax revenue for community reinvestment. This fund represents Maryland's proactive approach to addressing the lingering effects of cannabis criminalization and fostering equitable economic development.

Key Highlights:

- **Statewide Engagement:** Eight strategically located town halls across Maryland, ensuring comprehensive geographic representation.

- **Community-Driven Approach:** Direct input from residents will shape CRRF priorities and allocation strategies.
- **Diverse Perspectives:** Engagement with community groups, nonprofits, and local leaders to ensure a multifaceted understanding of community needs.
- **Transparent Process:** Open forums for questions, concerns, and proposals from all attendees.

Town Hall Schedule:

1. **Eastern Shore:** Tuesday, October 15, 2024 - Harriet Tubman Museum, Cambridge
2. **Anne Arundel County:** Tuesday, October 22, 2024 - Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center, Annapolis
3. **Montgomery County:** Tuesday, October 29, 2024 - Montgomery College- Rockville Campus
4. **Baltimore:** Wednesday, October 30, 2024 - Baltimore Unity Hall
5. **Southern Maryland:** Thursday, October 31, 2024 - Waldorf West Library
6. **Howard County:** Thursday, November 7, 2024 - The Meeting House
7. **Western Maryland:** Friday, November 8, 2024 - University Systems of Maryland at Hagerstown
8. **Prince George's County:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024 - Location to be announced

All events will run from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, with the exception of the Southern Maryland town hall on November 7, which will run from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM.

"By engaging directly with our communities, we ensure that every voice is heard and every perspective is considered as we shape the future of the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund," Johnson explained.

Community members, local leaders, and media representatives are encouraged to attend. Registration is required due to limited capacity. To secure your spot, please visit: [OSE Town Halls](#)

For press inquiries or to schedule an interview with Executive Director Audrey Johnson, please contact Sirita Wright at sirita.wright@maryland.gov.

For more information about the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund and the Office of Social Equity's initiatives, visit [OSE Programs and Resources](#).

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