



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 13, 2024

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Maryland Office of Social Equity Launches Community Survey for Cannabis Reform Fund Allocation

LINTHICUM HEIGHTS, MD (November 13, 2024) - The Maryland Office of Social Equity (OSE) announced today a groundbreaking initiative to gather essential community input that will shape the future allocation of millions in cannabis tax revenue. Through a comprehensive statewide survey, open through November 25, 2024, OSE aims to raise community awareness, understanding, and priorities for the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund (CRRF) implementation.

This survey represents a critical first step in ensuring the CRRF effectively serves Maryland communities most impacted by cannabis prohibition. It builds upon momentum from OSE's ongoing town hall series, where hundreds of residents across Baltimore City, Montgomery County, and Eastern Maryland have already engaged in crucial discussions about community reinvestment.

"Understanding our communities' baseline knowledge and needs is essential for effective fund implementation," said Audrey Johnson, Executive Director of the Office of Social Equity. "The Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund represents Maryland's commitment to not just legalize cannabis, but to repair decades of disproportionate impact on our communities. This survey helps ensure we're not just allocating resources, but truly meeting communities where they are and addressing their most pressing needs."

Senator Antonio Hayes, a key architect of the Cannabis Reform Act, emphasized the importance of this assessment: "Before we begin distributing these historic funds, we must

understand how to best reach and serve our communities. This survey is about listening first, then acting with purpose and precision to repair decades of disproportionate impact."

Key Survey Topics:

- Community awareness of the Office of Social Equity's mission and services
- Understanding of the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund (CRRF)
- Interest in applying for funding opportunities
- Demographics and community representation
- Community priorities for social equity initiatives

The survey complements OSE's comprehensive community engagement strategy, which includes:

- Eight regional town halls across Maryland through November 2024
- Partnerships with community leaders, policy-makers, and advocates
- Targeted outreach in disproportionately impacted areas

Community leaders, nonprofits, cannabis business owners, social equity licensees, and residents of disproportionately impacted areas are encouraged to participate in this historic opportunity to shape Maryland's cannabis equity landscape.

Take the Survey: <https://bit.ly/CRRF2024Survey>

Town Hall Schedule: <https://bit.ly/OSETownHalls>



Office of Social Equity:
Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund Survey

Share Your Voice!

Your neighborhood. Your voice. Your future. Join over 2,000 Marylanders helping direct cannabis tax revenue to community programs. **5-minute survey open now.**

Take the survey:
bit.ly/CRRF2024Survey

Open through November 25, 2024

Deadline to Complete Survey: **November 25, 2024**

For more information about the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund or to request OSE participation in community events, please contact info.ose@maryland.gov.

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About the Office of Social Equity

The Office of Social Equity ensures diverse participation in Maryland's cannabis market, provides resources and support for social equity applicants and licensees, and addresses the impact of past cannabis prohibition on communities through strategic programming, technical assistance, and community engagement.