Charles County Government
Office of Equity & Access
Phone: 301-645-0637 ext:2637 Email: CommunityEquity@CharlesCountyMD.gov

Request for Narrative Proposals for Fiscal Year 2028 (July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028)

Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund Background

In 2023, the Maryland General Assembly approved the Cannabis Reform Act, which created an additional stream of funding for all counties in Maryland, including Charles County. This new funding is called the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund (CRRF). CRRF is funded with money from taxes on adult-use cannabis. Maryland now imposes a 9 percent sales tax on legal adult-use of cannabis, and a portion of these revenues are provided to the counties for them to manage. This money is given to local areas to support programs that help low-income communities and those most affected by past cannabis laws. The State conducted a study by zip codes to determine which were most impacted by cannabis enforcement. In Charles County, those zip codes are 20601, 20602, and 20603.

Charles County Government's Office of Equity & Access currently oversees the management and administration of the fund and established the CRRF Workgroup. Comprised of members of County Departments, Partner Agencies and two at least (2) Community Partners who have expertise in community advocacy, social services, economic development, and fiscal oversight including:

1) Residency in one of the designated zip codes (20601, 20602, and 20603),

2) An individual impacted by the criminal justice system,



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3) An individual with knowledge of the impact of cannabis criminalization in communities, individuals experienced with providing re-entry services,

4) An individual with expertise in small business development, job training, adult professional development, accounting, business, financial management, budgeting, or related fiscal oversight functions.

The workgroup evaluates focus area narratives, participates in community engagement efforts, analyzes community feedback and data, designates CRRF community focus areas, and makes funding recommendations to the Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services for the budget process.

Request for Narrative Proposals

The Office of Equity & Access for Charles County Government is soliciting narrative proposals from organizations that address the needs of low-income communities, and communities negatively impacted by cannabis enforcement.

We define narrative proposal as, ***'A persuasive story that defines a local problem, outlines your proposed solution, and explains why your project, initiative, or program should be prioritized for funding.'***

Submission Requirements

Please complete the **form** below. Your narrative should be a capabilities statement covering the following:

1) What challenge(s), gap in service, or opportunity does your program address?



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2) How will your services benefit or improve outcomes for the underserved in the impacted zip codes (20601, 20602, and 20603) and/or all residents in Charles County, MD?

3) Outline your program concept, target demographics, and why your service is uniquely equipped to succeed.



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4) Explain the urgency of your initiative, and how it aligns with the CRRF priorities (e.g., workforce development, youth services, housing, re-entry support, etc.)

5) Include your proposed costs.

6) Are you submitting as an individual or organization

- ☐ Individual/Resident
- ☐ Nonprofit organization
- ☐ For-profit business
- ☐ Faith-based organization
- ☐ Community group/other



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7) Point of Contact Information

Name:

Organization Name (if applicable):

Address:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Important Information

1) All services must take place in one of the designated impacted zip codes: 20601, 20602, 20603. Participants in your programming do not have to reside in these zip codes, but the service **MUST** be conducted in these zip codes.

2) Submit narratives **proposal FORM** by email to the Office of Equity by December 15, 2026: CommunityEquity@CharlesCountyMD.Gov.

3) Submitted narrative **proposal forms** will be reviewed by the CRRF Workgroup and selected **narrative proposals will be included in the CRRF funding recommendation forwarded to the Department of Fiscal & Administrative Services.** The final budget will be **approved and** adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on or about May 2027

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4) Charles County Government cannot directly fund nonprofit organizations. **Non-profit whose narratives proposals ideas are included in the CRRF funding recommendation** must apply for funding with the Charles County Charitable Trust https://www.charlesnonprofits.org/.

5) Charles County Government's procurement policy is that any anticipated procurement of more than $50,000 must go through a formal procurement process. The process can take up to 120 days to completion and applies to for-profit entities.

6) Individuals and groups that are not currently established as nonprofit organizations or registered with Charles County are **welcomed and** encouraged to submit proposals. Capacity-building workshops will be offered in early 2027 to provide information and guidance on organizational development, registration requirements, and preparing for future funding opportunities. Participation in these workshops does not guarantee funding. **Would you be interested in participating in these workshops?**

☐ Yes, please contact me

☐ Maybe, please send me additional information

☐ No, thank you

7) Contact the Office of Equity & Access at CommunityEquity@CharlesCountyMD.Gov with any questions.

