



**Anne Arundel County
Community Reinvestment & Repair Commission (CRRC)**

Monday, May 12, 2025

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Independence Room

2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD

[Recording](#)

- I. Call to Order & Introductions
Dr. Ashworth, Chair, CRRC

In Attendance:

Commission Members:

Dr. Shawn Ashworth (Chair), Laurie Benner, Joshua Freeman, Ahsun Powell, Theresa Wellman, Donald Whitehead, Michael Woldemariam, Brandon Davis.

Ex. Officio Members:

Bekki Leonard, Amber Barnett, Beth Brush, Sandy Jones, Tonii Gedin.

ACDS & County Staff

James Kitchin (County Executive's Office), Elisha Harig-Blaine (ACDS), Maggie Staudenmaier (ACDS)

Community Members

Jesse Raudales, Jen Pastrone, Tyjah Brown, Saran Fossett, Kacy Leach, Vicki DeLair, Amanda Gollmer, Vernetta Johnson, Dr. Barbera Palmer, Bob Gillingham, Lynda Davis, Joanne Stableford, Diana Markel, Rebecca Klug, Linda Mundy, Dawn Paige, Nysia Wilhite, Deborah Chin, Alexander Harris, Rico Callaway.

- II. Review of Meeting Norms & Approval of March and April Minutes and May Agenda
Dr. Ashworth, Chair, CRRC (2:30)

- Ahsun Powell: Clarification requested on discussion from previous meeting surrounding scoring applications that receive a low threshold eligibility score.
 - Elisha Harig-Blaine: Clarification that the scoring rubric is a guide, and not a binding document. Decisions will be made through a vote of the commission, independent from the score on the rubric
- Motion to approve March and April meeting minutes: Theresa Wellman
 - Seconded: Laurie Benner
 - Approved: Unanimously

III. Public Hearing on Community Needs (7:12)

Dr. Ashworth, Chair, CRRRC

Community Members'

Public Commenters:

- Tyjah Brown, Seeds4Success
- Jesse Raudales, OICAAC
- Saran Fossett, AZIZA PE&CE
- Dawn Paige, Concerned Black American Citizens
- Joanne Stableford, Riviera Beach Volunteer Fire Company
- Kacy Leach, BeMoreCaring

IV. Discussion of Scoring Rubric (34:40)

Dr. Ashworth, Chair, CRRRC

- Ahsun Powell: Question around entering into a closed session to discuss the scoring rubric.
 - James Kitchin: Guidance from the County regarding parameters for a closed meeting. Maryland Public Meetings Act does not allow for a closed meeting to discuss scoring rubrics, as advised by the Office of Law.
- Ahsun Powell: Suggestion to include evaluation of whether program is promoting sustainable equity vs. providing crisis intervention in Section III. Program Information and Design.
- Ahsun Powell: Concern around “Underserved population” language within Section III. Program Information and Design.
 - Dr. Ashworth: Suggestion to develop and agree to standard definitions for terms within the scoring rubric.
- Ahsun Powell: Question of how we are defining a commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and to which characteristics we are applying it to (race, gender, etc.)
 - Discussion of a strong commitment to DEI vs. a performative commitment.
 - Amber Barnett: Suggestion to review the Office of Equity and Human Rights definitions of DEI and potentially adopt those.
- Laurie Benner: Question of whether reviewers will give a score for each bullet point or one score for the full section of the scoring rubric.
 - Dr. Ashworth: Each section will receive one overall score but the score can be any number between 0 and 10.
- Donald Whitehead: Question of evaluating financial stability for Section V.
 - Elisha Harig-Blaine: Measuring with review of organizations 990.
 - Ahsun Powell: Concern about financial stability requirements being a barrier to emerging groups.
 - Dr. Ashworth: These requirements would apply to the fiscal sponsor.

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- Ahsun Powell: Question of when the commission decided to limit this grant to exclusively 501(c)(3) organizations (and those with a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor) as opposed to other tax-exempt status' (501(c)(4), 501(c)(7), etc.)
 - Elisha Harig-Blaine: It has not been an operational need to address this as we have not received any inquiries regarding eligibility of organizations with alternative tax-exempt status' but if that need were to be presented, the commission could discuss that.
 - Ahsun Powell: Question of when the commission decided to require all unregistered groups to obtain a fiscal sponsor.
 - Dr. Ashworth: This issue has been discussed at every meeting and it was decided by the commission that, for the first round of funding, unregistered groups would be required to have a fiscal sponsor as we develop an alternative for future funding cycles.
 - Ahsun Powell: Motion to correct community outreach and promotional materials to be reflective of all tax-exempt organizations: Ahsun Powell
 - Conversation continues without a formal vote.
 - ACDS agrees to update language to the fullest extent possible.
Note: Upon review, there has been previous agreement by the Commission on eligibility criteria as part of the application, which identified 501(c)(3) organizations or fiscal sponsors as eligible entities.
 - Donald Whitehead: Motion to accept rubric as it is printed
 - Theresa Wellman: Seconded
 - In Favor
 - Brandon Davis
 - Theresa Wellman
 - Donald Whitehead
 - Michael Woldemariam
 - Shawn Ashworth
 - Laurie Benner
 - Joshua Freeman.
 - Opposed
 - Ahsun Powell

V. Discussion of Application Review Process (1:21:00)

Dr. Ashworth, Chair, CRRC

- Maggie Staudenmaier: Applications to date
 - 19 submitted applications
 - 117 in-progress application
 - 136 total applications
 - Elisha Harig-Blaine: Funds requested from submitted applications totals over \$15 million
- Discussion of committee assignments
 - Ahsun Powell requests to be moved from Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services review committee to Workforce Development and Employment Training review committee.

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- Donald Whitehead volunteers to be added to Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services review committee.
 - Brandon Davis: Question of how many applications per category are submitted.
 - Elisha Harig-Blaine: That information will be shared following the closing of the application on May 16 at 12:00 p.m.
 - Discussion of application review timeline.
 - Dr. Ashworth: Review committee meetings to be set via poll sent out to commissioners.
 - Michael Woldemariam: Question about final decisions to be made at July 14 CRRC meeting and role of committees in making recommendations.
 - Elisha Harig-Blaine: Review committees are an opportunity to have an in-depth conversation about applications. July meeting will be a report-out on the review committee's recommendations to the full commission.
 - Dr. Ashworth: Questions about whether July CRRC meeting will be an open meeting, given that funding decisions will be discussed.
 - ACDS to seek guidance from the County.
 - Discussion of deciding allocation amounts per committee.
 - Donald Whitehead: Suggestion of equal distribution across committees.
 - Donald Whitehead: Suggestion of pro-rata (proportional) distribution based on the number of applications in each category.
 - Ahsun Powell: Suggestion to allocate funding by whether the program is crisis intervention or sustainable.
 - Joshua Freeman: Question of whether the commission is required to fund all applicants.
 - Dr. Ashworth: No, the commission is not required to grant funding to all applicants.
 - Dr. Ashworth: Discussion of what constitutes a conflict of interest.

VI. Review of Housekeeping Items & Next Meeting Date (1:40:24)

Dr. Ashworth, Chair, CRRC

- Ethics Training
 - Dr. Ashworth: Requirement to complete by Friday, May 16 in order for a commissioner to participate in application review process.
- Next Meeting Date
 - Monday, June 9, 2025

VII. Adjourn (1:52:46)

- Motion to adjourn: Laurie Benner
 - Seconded: Donald Whitehead
 - Approved: Unanimously