

Anne Arundel County Community Reinvestment & Repair Commission (CRRC)

Monday, October 13, 2025

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Chesapeake Room

2664 Riva Road, 2nd Floor

[Recording](#)

- I. Call to Order & Introduction of New Commission Members
Dr. Ashworth, Chair, CRRC

In Attendance:

Commission Members

Dr. Shawn Ashworth (Chair), Laurie Benner, Joshua Freeman, Laurietta Jones, Randall Stites, Theresa Wellman, Michael Woldemariam, Brandon Davis, Laticia Hicks, Pete Hill, Jacquetta Jacobs.

Ex. Officio Members

Beth Brush, Jazmyn Covington.

County/ACDS Staff

James Kitchen (County Executive's Office), Elisha Harig-Blaine (ACDS), Maggie Staudenmaier (ACDS), Tasia Mackey (ACDS).

Community Members

Lynda Davis, Jane Lawrence, Ratasha Harley.

- II. Review of Meeting Norms & Approval of September Minutes and October Agenda
Dr. Ashworth, Chair, CRRC (8:34)

- Laticia Hicks: Request for meeting materials to be sent out at least two weeks in advance of monthly meetings.
 - ACDS agrees to provide meeting materials two weeks in advance of the meetings, but acknowledges that internal review procedures may sometimes delay that.
- Motion to approve September minutes and October agenda: Laurie Benner.
 - Seconded: Michael Woldemariam.
 - Approved: Unanimously.

III. [Public Comment](#) Period (18:37)

Dr. Ashworth, Chair, CRRC

Community Members

- Lynda Davis, community member.

IV. Discussion of Fiscal Year 2027 Decision Points (21:06)

Dr. Ashworth, Chair

- Should the CRRC Allow Multi-Year Funding Requests?
 - Pete Hill: If an organization has a proven track record and a justifiable need for multiple years of funding, then they should be eligible for a multi-year grant.
 - Jacquetta Jacobs: Agreement that multi-year grants should be allowed but may require a larger allocation of funds.
 - Dr. Ashworth: Discussion of political constraints on allocating funding from future years, as local leadership who approve recommendations will change.
 - Jacquetta Jacobs: Suggestion to include contingency clause in multi-year agreements.
 - Michael Woldemariam: Support multi-year grants, but with a lower maximum request.
 - Laticia Hicks: Proposal of an equity-based model for determining the amount of funding allocated to each review committee, based on the number of applications received.
 - Pete Hill: It may be beneficial to revisit this tool during the next meeting once we have settled some of the policy decision needed.
 - Pete Hill: Suggestion to set a threshold for the maximum number of applications a review committee can receive and still grant multi-year grants.
 - Randall Stites: If an organization receives a multi-year grant, are they allowed to apply for additional funds the next year for an alternative program?
 - Michael Woldemariam: Motion to reduce the maximum request in tier 1 from \$300,000 to \$200,000. (57:18)
 - Elisha Harig-Blaine: Request to revise maximum request amount to allow for an even yearly request (i.e. \$65,000 per year for a maximum request of \$195,000)
 - Michael: Motion to reduce the maximum request from \$300,000 to \$210,000 (i.e. \$70,000) per year for 3 years)
 - Seconded: Laurietta Jones.
 - Jaquetta Jacobs: Given that the maximum grant allocated in the FY26 cycle was \$180,000, would a maximum grant of \$210,000 be feasible in FY27?
 - Elisha: The maximum grant allowable in FY27 may be determined by the total amount of funding allocated.

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- Michael: Motion rescinded pending further discussion. (1:02:47)
 - Laticia Hicks: Are we planning to revisit this decision each year and decide a new maximum grant amount?
 - Elisha Harig-Blaine: The aim is to establish a policy that will be consistent each year.
 - Michael Woldemariam: Motion to cap the maximum request for tier 1 at \$210,000, or \$70,000 per year. (1:25:28)
 - Elisha Harig-Blaine: It may be helpful to revisit Laticia's suggestion around funding allocation per committee to better understand how we want to further split up this funding.
 - Elisha: It would also be useful to determine the timeline for grant distribution.
 - Laurie Benner: Amendment to motion to update the maximum request for tier 1 to \$225,000, or \$75,000 per year, to match the maximum amount allowed for a single year request in Tier 2.
 - Laurie Benner: Motion that tier 1 has a maximum request of \$75,000 per year, or \$225,000 total, and that tier 2 allows requests between \$25,000 to \$75,000 (1:38:22).
 - Seconded: Michael Woldemariam.
 - Approved: Unanimously.
 - Discussion of FY27 Total Allocation.
 - James Kitchen: Balance remaining in the fund after the disbursement of FY26 funds is \$4,318,100.
 - Pete Hill: What is the reason to not allocate the full remaining balance?
 - Michael Woldemariam: Our thinking for FY26 was that a large portion of the balance is non-recurring funding and we wanted to leave a balance in the bank given that it was our first cycle.
 - James Kitchen: May want to consider managing expectations on the amount of funding that will be available year after year and holding off until further guidance is issued by the state Office of Social Equity.
 - Laurie Benner: Suggestion to allocate \$3 million.
 - Randal Stites: Based on estimates of quarterly disbursements, we are likely to gain \$1 million over the next year, leaving \$2.3 million in the account if we allocate \$3 million for FY27.
 - James Kitchen: We are more likely to see an increase of \$500,000 by the time we are making decisions next.
 - Laticia Hicks: Suggestion to allocate \$3.3 million.
 - Laurie Benner: Motion to allocate \$3.3 million for the CRRC FY27 cycle (1:23:56).
 - Seconded: Laticia Hicks.

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- Approved: Unanimously (1:24:45).
 - Elisha Harig-Blaine: Proposal to open FY27 application in mid-January.
 - Laticia Hicks: Request for further clarity on application timeline.
 - Elisha: The application would be open for six weeks and would close in late February or early March, with reviews of applications beginning in late March and final recommendations being finalized in early May, for approval in the County Council's budget in mid-June, with decision letters going out shortly after that.
 - Elisha: We will develop a timeline for FY27 and distribute to the group.
 - Laticia Hicks: Motion to open FY27 CRRC application on January 14, 2026 (1:36:08).
 - Seconded: Pete Hill.
 - Approved: Unanimously.
 - Beth Brush: Returning to Randalls earlier point, should the CRRC allow organizations who have received a multi-year grant to apply again next year for a different program?
 - Michael Woldemariam: We could make it an evaluative criterion within the scoring rubric.
 - Dr. Ashworth: If they're already receiving a multi-year grant, they can only apply for a single-year grant in future years during the term of their multi-year grant.
 - Laurie Benner: Due to limited resources, if an organization receives a multi-year grant, they should not receive additional funding until their grant term is up.
 - Elisha Harig-Blaine: We can notify the three current multi-year grantees of their options for applying in future years.
 - Michael Woldemariam: Suggestion to determine a maximum amount of funding an organization can receive within a single fiscal year so that if they have received a smaller multi-year grant in a previous grant cycle, they are still eligible to receive additional funds in future grant cycles.
 - Should the CRRC Maintain the existing DIAs?
 - Laticia Hicks: Did the commission have a role in selecting those in the first place?
 - Elisha Harig-Blaine: The state OSE identified eight DIAs and following demographic analysis, the commission decided to add an additional two zip codes.
 - Dr. Ashworth: During the application trainings, community members expressed a desire for expansion of the DIAs to the south county area.
 - Laticia: Request for data showing demographic trends.
 - Suggested Changes to the Application.
 - Laurie Benner: Overall desire to simplify application.

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- Laticia Hicks: Suggestion to include this conversation in the agenda for the November meeting.
 - Michael Woldemariam: Thank you to ACDS for the design of the application, I had all of the information I needed to make a decision.
 - Should a survey be sent out that asks the public for input on ranking the four priority areas?
 - Pete Hill: Would this be sent out to individual citizens of Anne Arundel County, or to groups that represent and serve them?
 - Jacquetta Jacobs: Is the purpose of the survey to guide the allocation of funds across categories?
 - Laticia: Going back to the equity-based model that could be one data point used to determine the allocation.
 - Michael Woldemariam: We could include an area for feedback on our website.
 - Beth Brush: We are required to hold a public hearing and should consider that in addition to the survey.

V. Review of Housekeeping Items & Next Meeting Date (1:58:26)

Dr. Ashworth, Chair, CRRC

- Items for November CRRC Meeting
 - Maintaining existing DIAs?
 - Changes to the application.
 - ACDS will send out a blank application to be edited in track changes and sent back.
 - Equity based model for review committee allocations.
 - Survey of community priorities.
- Next Meeting Date: Monday, November 10, 2025

VI. Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn: Laticia Hicks (2:04:41)
 - Seconded: Pete Hill.
 - Meeting adjourned (2:04:52)