



News Release

Comptroller of Maryland to Host Third Annual Bridging Communities Conference on June 30

Conference at Coppin State University will convene nonprofit and state leaders to strengthen partnerships and address pressing community challenges

Baltimore, Md. (June 4, 2026) — The Office of the Comptroller of Maryland today announced that it would host its third annual Bridging Communities Conference on Tuesday, June 30, at Coppin State University in Baltimore. Hosted in partnership with Maryland Nonprofits and the Coppin State University Nonprofit Leadership Program, the conference will bring together nonprofit organizations, state agencies, philanthropic leaders, and community advocates to explore opportunities for collaboration that improve quality of life and strengthen communities across Maryland.

Held under the theme “**Building Stronger Partnerships Between Nonprofits and State Government**,” this year’s conference will focus on practical tools and timely conversations around nonprofit sustainability, state funding opportunities, compliance requirements, community development resources, and wealth-building strategies.

“Nonprofit organizations employ nearly 230,000 Marylanders and are essential to the health and stability of our communities,” **said Comptroller Lierman**. “The communities and neighborhoods that depend on these organizations, the funders who help them effectuate their mission, and nonprofit leaders are all aligned to ensure organizations are working as efficiently and effectively as possible. Strong nonprofits are accountable nonprofits: they manage resources wisely, measure what works, and continuously

improve. This conference is about giving organizations the connections and capacity to do that - so they can cut through bureaucracy, operate with confidence, and deliver real results for the communities counting on them.”

“Nonprofits are on the front lines of Maryland’s most urgent challenges, from housing and food security to youth development, health, workforce, and community stability,” said Carmen C. Marshall, Interim President & CEO of Maryland Nonprofits. “But strong missions require strong operating conditions. This conference is an important opportunity to bring nonprofit leaders and state government partners into the same room to strengthen relationships, clarify resources, and advance practical solutions that help organizations remain stable, responsive, and ready to serve communities when conditions change.”

The conference will feature opening remarks from Comptroller Lierman and Senator Antonio Hayes, followed by a plenary session titled “Nonprofit Management in Turbulent and Demanding Times.” The session will examine the growing challenges nonprofits face amid federal funding uncertainty, increased service demands, and evolving policy environments.

“The Bridging Communities Conference reflects a shared commitment to community engagement and collaboration,” said Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Chanta M. Haywood. “This gathering brings together higher education and community members to share ideas and advance meaningful solutions that strengthen our communities.”

Confirmed panelists for the plenary session include Amanda Brown Lierman, Vice President of Impact, Policy, and Engagement at GoFundMe.org, and Kari Snyder, Assistant Secretary for Neighborhood Revitalization at the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. Together, they will share insights on how nonprofits can navigate financial pressures, strengthen operations, and continue advancing their missions during periods of uncertainty and change.

The conference will also include breakout sessions focused on:

- Navigating state funding opportunities and positioning organizations for success
- Understanding nonprofit compliance and maintaining good standing with state agencies
- Accessing community development financing tools, tax credits, and revitalization programs
- Exploring wealth-building programs and strategies that strengthen economic opportunity for Maryland residents

Additional speakers and panelists include leaders and representatives from the Maryland Department of Commerce, Department of General Services, Secretary of State's Office, State Department of Assessments and Taxation, Maryland Community Investment Corporation, Maryland Historical Trust, Maryland Saves, the Greater Washington Community Foundation, and the Comptroller of Maryland.

The Bridging Communities conference is designed for nonprofit executive directors, staff, and board members, community-based organizations, development professionals, philanthropic leaders, and anyone interested in strengthening nonprofit-government partnerships in Maryland. Participants will hear directly from state leaders, connect with agency representatives, and leave with practical information they can immediately apply within their organizations and communities.

Attendees can register or learn more here.

EVENT DETAILS

Bridging Communities Conference

Monday, June 30, 2026

8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

J. Millard Tawes Center

Coppin State University

2500 West North Avenue

Baltimore, MD 21216

Attendees can register or learn more [here](#):

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