



# News Release

## Comptroller of Maryland Hosts Third Annual Bridging Communities Conference

*Conference highlights the state's continued support for Maryland nonprofits*

**Baltimore, Md. (July 1, 2026)** — The Office of the Maryland Comptroller welcomed more than 300 nonprofit leaders, state agency representatives, philanthropic partners, and community advocates to Coppin State University for the third annual Bridging Communities Conference on Tuesday, June 30.

Hosted in partnership with Maryland Nonprofits and the Coppin State University Nonprofit Leadership Program, the conference brought together nonprofit and public sector leaders to share resources, build connections, and explore collaborative strategies to address the challenges facing Maryland communities.

“Our nonprofit sector plays a dual role in Maryland’s success,” said **Comptroller Brooke E. Lierman**. “These organizations employ nearly 300,000 Marylanders and generate billions in economic activity, while also fulfilling missions that make our communities stronger. This conference helps support these organizations as the businesses they are and as drivers of positive change in Maryland communities.”

Maryland’s nonprofit sector is a foundational part of the state’s economy, with more than 43,000 organizations employing approximately 280,000 Marylanders, roughly 13% of the state’s workforce. Collectively, Maryland nonprofits generate more than \$101 billion in annual revenue and contribute more than \$1.5 billion in payroll taxes.

The conference opened with welcome remarks from Comptroller Lierman, Coppin State University President Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins, Senator Antonio Hayes, and Maryland Nonprofits Interim President and CEO Carmen Marshall. Participants then heard from experts during a plenary session examining the challenges nonprofits face amid shifting federal funding, increasing demand for services, and an evolving policy landscape.

Attendees also participated in breakout sessions covering state funding opportunities, nonprofit compliance requirements, community development resources, and wealth-building programs that support Maryland residents. Representatives from state agencies and partner organizations shared guidance on accessing grants, navigating state processes, and leveraging resources that strengthen local communities.



**Comptroller Brooke E. Lierman delivers opening remarks at the conference.**



**Panelists share insights on the hurdles and possibilities ahead for Maryland nonprofits.**



**Over 300 nonprofit leaders, state officials, philanthropists, and advocates gathered at Coppin State University for the third annual Bridging Communities Conference.**



**(Left-to-Right) Deputy Secretary of State Michael Lore, Vice President of Impact, Policy, and Engagement GoFundMe.org Amanda Brown Lierman, Comptroller Brooke E. Lierman, President Coppin State University Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins, and Interim CEO Maryland Nonprofits Carmen Marshall.**

View the full agenda and speakers' bios [here](#).

Access all photos to the event [here](#).

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