



To: Fulton County Board of Commissioners
From: Christopher Brown, Executive Director
Date: April 4, 2026
Re: Establishing a Fulton County Cannabis Community Reinvestment Fund and Cannabis Community Reinvestment Advisory Committee

Commissioner For The People,

I'm writing to respectfully request your leadership in drafting and installing a *Fulton County Cannabis Community Reinvestment Advisory Committee* and creating a dedicated *Cannabis Community Reinvestment Fund* to receive and steward public and private dollars for community benefit. Recent federal action reclassifying marijuana, coupled with Fulton County's opportunity to accelerate research and development, makes this the right moment for the County to formalize an accountable reinvestment framework.

As a medical cannabis state, Fulton County is already home to patients, providers, health systems, universities, entrepreneurs, and community organizations positioned to lead on responsible public policy and evidence-based implementation. A county-level advisory committee and fund would provide the structure to: (1) coordinate local strategy, (2) attract philanthropic and institutional investment, and (3) ensure that benefits are measured, transparent, and community-centered.

Why Fulton County should act now

1) Reclassification and enforcement shifts require local readiness.

When marijuana enforcement and penalties shift at the state level, counties must be prepared to update procedures, align stakeholders, track outcomes, and communicate clearly with the public. A standing advisory committee is the mechanism to do that work in an organized, nonpartisan manner.

2) Research and development can be a Fulton County signature opportunity.

Fulton County can lead Georgia in building a local pipeline for cannabis-related public health research, workforce training, and entrepreneurship, without waiting on broader statewide changes. A reinvestment fund can support pilot programs, data collection, prevention, and evaluation, turning policy change into measurable community outcomes.

3) Georgia’s medical cannabis framework already includes regulated providers and state-required costs.

Licensed medical cannabis operators in Georgia are subject to state regulation and required fees and assessments under state law. Fulton County can complement the state framework by establishing a local reinvestment structure that can receive **grants, contributions, donations, and other lawful revenues**, and then deploy those resources toward public benefit priorities.

4) Communities most impacted should see the first benefits.

Regardless of one’s position on broader legalization, there is shared agreement that public policy should reduce harm and expand opportunity. A reinvestment strategy can prioritize neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by past enforcement through job pathways, reentry support, youth programs, behavioral health, housing stability, and small business development.

What we are requesting

I respectfully request that your office sponsor (or co-sponsor) an effort to:

1. **Create the Fulton County Cannabis Community Reinvestment Fund** as a dedicated account capable of receiving and disbursing funds (public, philanthropic, corporate, and grant dollars) with clear controls, auditing, and reporting requirements.
2. **Establish a Cannabis Community Reinvestment Advisory Committee** to oversee research, recommend investments, and publish outcome measures, ensuring transparency and accountability.
3. **Direct County staff to propose an implementation plan** that includes governance, conflict-of-interest standards, community engagement, and a first-year pilot slate of investments.

Suggested committee composition

To ensure credibility and effectiveness, the advisory body should include representation across: public health and healthcare; behavioral health and prevention; universities/HBCUs; workforce development; community-based organizations; legal/justice stakeholders; youth and family services; small business/entrepreneurship; and regulated industry participation as appropriate, under strict ethics rules.

CARE for Georgia does **not** need to be named on the fund itself. Our preferred role is to support the County as a research-and-policy partner, helping convene stakeholders, identify best practices, and develop recommendations grounded in data and community voice.

If you are open, we would welcome a brief meeting with your staff to share a draft framework, proposed committee charter language, and sample reporting metrics Fulton County can use to show measurable impact within the first 6–12 months.

Respectfully,



Christopher Brown
Executive Director, CARE for Georgia
404.849.6721 | cbrown@carefor.ga.org | carefor.ga.org

**DON'T STOP HERE
KEEP STROLLING.**



THERE IS MORE!!



Below is a list of organizations that are appropriate and credible for the Cannabis Community Reinvestment Advisory Committee.

Public Health, Medicine & Research

These entities give the committee scientific legitimacy and public-health grounding.

- Morehouse School of Medicine
- Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University
- Grady Health System
- Fulton County Board of Health
- Georgia Department of Public Health

Why do you matter?

Health Equity, Trauma, Substance Use Education, Data Integrity, and Outcomes Evaluation.

Education, Workforce & HBCU Partners

These partners connect reinvestment to jobs, credentials, and pipelines.

- Atlanta University Center Consortium
- Morehouse College
- Spelman College
- Clark Atlanta University
- Atlanta Technical College
- Georgia State University
- WorkSource Atlanta
- Atlanta Workforce Development Agency

Why do you matter?

Credentials, Reentry Training, Apprenticeships, Evaluation Capacity.

Criminal Justice, Legal Aid & Restorative Justice

These organizations anchor repair, expungement, and diversion.

- Southern Center for Human Rights
- Georgia Justice Project
- ACLU of Georgia
- Atlanta Legal Aid Society
- Fulton County Public Defender's Office
- Fulton County Solicitor-General

Expungement, Diversion Programs, Due Process Advocate, Harm Reduction.

Housing, Community Development & Anti-Displacement

These partners ensure reinvestment stabilizes communities.

- Atlanta Housing Authority
- Fulton County Housing and Community Development
- Invest Atlanta
- Atlanta Land Trust
- Westside Future Fund

Why do you matter?

Prevent Displacement, Align Economic Growth with Equity.

Economic Development, Small Business & Cooperatives

These entities translate reinvestment into ownership and wealth.

- Atlanta Black Chambers
- Georgia Minority Supplier Development Council
- Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs
- Reinvestment Fund
- Cooperation Jackson

Why do you matter?

Microgrants, Cooperatives, Capital Access, Entrepreneurship.

Faith, Civic & Community Leadership

Essential for trust, legitimacy, and outreach.

- Interdenominational Theological Center
- Concerned Black Clergy of Metro Atlanta
- NAACP Atlanta Branch
- Urban League of Greater Atlanta
- Neighborhood Planning Units

Why do you matter?

Community Buy-in, Legitimacy, Outreach, Moral Authority.

Philanthropic & Grant-Making Partners (Non-Voting or Advisory)

These groups increase fundability and scale.

- Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation
- Robert W. Woodruff Foundation
- Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta
- Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Ford Foundation

Why do you matter?

Strategic Alignment, Sustainability, Evaluation Standards.

Recommended Committee Composition

15–21 members total

- 3–4 Public Health / Research
- 3 Workforce / Education
- 3 Legal / Justice
- 3 Community / Faith
- 2 Economic Development
- 2 Housing / Stabilization
- 1 CARE Research Seat
- 1 At-large impacted community representative