



LARRY HOGAN
Governor

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
Lieutenant Governor

DAVID R. BRINKLEY
Secretary

MARC L. NICOLE
Deputy Secretary

March 24, 2021

The Honorable Bill Ferguson
President of the Senate
H-107 State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker of the House
H-101 State House
State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Dear President Ferguson and Speaker Jones:

Pursuant to Chapter 39 of the Acts of 2021 (The RELIEF Act of 2021), the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is required to prepare a bi-weekly report on the 33 programs funded through the Recovery Now Fund. Appendix 1 provides a listing of all the programs and a summary of the activity that has been undertaken by the relevant agency in the last two weeks on each program.

The Department of Budget and Management would like to share a couple of funding highlights since the enactment of the legislation:

- In just over a month since the enactment of the RELIEF Act, state agencies have awarded almost \$90 million in funding to individuals, businesses, non-profit organizations, and local governments.
- In the same period more than \$34 million of the state funding has been expended.
- DBM estimates that agencies will award more than \$70 million in additional funding during the next two weeks.

DBM is also pleased to announce the creation of the Recovery Now website. The website, which can be found at: <http://dbm.maryland.gov/Pages/recoverynow.aspx>, will provide a summary of all thirty-three programs supported through the Recovery Now fund and the most current update on agency efforts to assist need Marylanders. DBM continues to work with the Department of Information Technology to build out the website to provide additional information, including detail about the number of recipients (individuals or businesses) served by the funding. Where possible this information will be provided at the zip code or county level.

45 Calvert Street • Annapolis, MD 21401-1907

Tel: 410-260-7041 • Fax: 410-974-2585 • Toll Free: 1-800-705-3493 • TTY Users: Call via Maryland Relay

<http://dbm.maryland.gov>

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The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
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If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact my Deputy Secretary, Marc Nicole, at 410-260-7042.

Sincerely,


David R. Brinkley
Secretary

cc: Amelia Chassé Alcivar, Chief of Staff, Governor's Office
Keiffer Mitchell, Senior Counselor & Chief Legislative Office, Governor's Office
Alexandra M. Hughes, Chief of Staff, Maryland House of Delegates
Yaakov E. Weissmann, Chief of Staff, Maryland State Senate
Victoria L. Gruber, Executive Director, Department of Legislative Services
David Romans, Coordinator, Fiscal & Policy Analysis, Department of Legislative Services
Marc Nicole, Deputy Secretary, DBM

APPENDIX I

RECOVERY NOW MARCH 24, 2021 PROGRAM SUMMARIES

Commerce:

Arts Council Grants:

- The Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) released an application for grant funding on March 5, 2021, with a deadline of April 1, 2021. It held a virtual question and answer session on March 10, 2021 that included 145 potential recipients. As of March 17, 2021, 370 applications had been submitted and over 600 more were in draft status. Application review began on March 22 and all funding decisions will be made after the April 1, 2021, deadline.

Hotel, Motel, and Bed and Breakfast Grants:

- Commerce reached out to the counties on March 16, 2021, alerting them of the programs and funds that would be distributed. Grant agreements are to be sent out on March 24, 2021. As with other programs it is administering, it reached out online and through alerts to 30,000 potential participant entities and groups/associations to inform them of all its programs.

Local Commuter Bus Assistance Grants:

- After working with the Maryland Transit Administration to develop a plan for distribution, Commerce has drafted notifications to eligible recipients and has drafted grant agreements for the six eligible companies. Both will be sent the week of March 22, 2021. As with other programs it is administering, it reached out online and through alerts to 30,000 potential participant entities and groups/associations to inform them of all its programs.

Maryland Small, Minority, and Women-Owned Business Account

- Commerce continues its outreach campaign, posting requirements online on March 15, 2021, and sending out its second alert of the program to over 30,000 businesses, business groups, community organizations, advocacy groups, economic development professionals, and elected officials on March 16, 2021. Each of the eight fund managers has been allocated \$1,250,000 to make loans.

Non-Sales and Use Tax Grants:

- Commerce is currently building out an application for the program, which will be internally administered. It is also currently working through eligibility requirements and funding priorities based on regions and NAICS codes. Commerce has decided to open the program up to businesses that have 20 or fewer employees in concurrence with the federal government's changes to the Payroll Protection Program. As with its other programs, Commerce continues its outreach campaign, posting requirements online on March 15, 2021, and sending out its second alert of the program to over 30,000 businesses, business groups, community organizations, advocacy groups, economic development professionals, and elected officials on March 16, 2021. It will accept applications from March 30, 2021, to April 6, 2021.

On-Line Sales Framework Grants:

- Commerce determined that the grant would be best administered directly through the counties and Baltimore City, and reached out on March 16, 2021, alerting them of the programs and funds that would be distributed. Grant agreements are to be sent out on March 24, 2021. As with other programs it is administering, it reached out online and through alerts to 30,000 potential participant entities and groups/associations.

Restaurant Grants:

- Commerce reached out to the counties on March 16, 2021, alerting them of the programs and funds that would be distributed. Grant agreements are to be sent out on March 24, 2021. As with other programs it is administering, it reached out online and through alerts to 30,000 potential participant entities and groups/associations to inform them of all its programs.

Small Business Marketing Grants:

- Commerce continues its outreach campaign, posting requirements online on March 15, 2021, and sending out its second alert of the program to over 30,000 businesses, business groups, community organizations, advocacy groups, economic development professionals, and elected officials on March 16, 2021. Funds will be distributed via the Maryland Tourism Development grant program that is in place. New grant guidelines and agreements are in development.

DBM:

Disparity Grants:

- DBM has worked with the Comptroller's Office to process the transfer of the \$5 million to Prince George's, Wicomico and Dorchester counties. On March 4, 2021, DBM initiated the transfer of funds and on March 9, 2021, direct vouchers were issued.

DHCD:

Live Entertainment Venues Grants:

- DHCD will open an application round in March to accept applications from both for profit and non-profit live entertainment venues and promoters of live performances. Applications will include the amount and source of any COVID relief funds received to date.

Main Street Program:

- Recovery Now awards have been determined based on the proportionate funding through DHCD's Maryland Strong Economic Recovery Initiative: Main Streets. All funds shall be awarded by March 31, 2021.

Non-Profit Assistance Grants:

- Funds shall be distributed to the respective county economic development offices based on the population of the counties and Baltimore City. Each awardee shall utilize its own local grant program to distribute funds and shall prioritize non-profits not already receiving DHCD's Nonprofit Recovery Initiative funding.

Rural Broadband:

- Projects either in progress or those who have recently applied have been selected for funding, freeing capital dollars to fund additional applications in FY21. Projects were selected based on location and the ability to be completed by June 30, 2021.

30-Day Emergency Housing:

- Allocation recommendations will be made within two weeks and applications will be solicited from eligible applicants by early April. Eligible uses for the grants will be emergency shelters, motel/hotel vouchers or leasing, security deposits, current month's rent, and possibly, future rent (30 days at a time). Allocations will be made through established continuum of care agencies, based on a formula that considers each jurisdictions' risk of homelessness and eviction. The formula will be finalized in early April.

DHS:

Foodbank Grants:

- DHS received approval on March 4, 2021 to release the RELIEF Act allocations to the Capital Area Food Bank (\$3,237,776) and the Maryland Food Bank (\$6,762,224). DHS staff are working with the food banks to execute the grant agreements for disbursement of funding no later than March 25, 2021. Distribution reporting will be provided after funds are dispersed and agreements are executed.

Temporary Disability Assistance Program:

- As of March 16, 2021, 10,773 recipients received a monthly benefit increase of \$100 (\$2.1 million in total) and, as of March 18, 2021, 95 percent of all eligible cases have been reopened. Those cases were recipients who were denied payments on or after July 1, 2020, for reasons other than a determination of a Supplemental Security Income claim.

Judiciary:

Maryland Legal Services Corporation Grant:

- Maryland Legal Services Corporation (MLSC) received \$3 million in funding on March 18, 2021. Pursuant to guidance received from the Department of Legislative Services through the Administrative Office of the Courts, MLSC reports that they will hold the funds for deployment beginning July 1, 2021, which will allow consideration of ongoing eviction moratoria and pending legislation. Prior to deployment, MLSC will convene stakeholders to plan for the most efficient and effective use of funds.

Labor:

Augment Staffing:

- Labor is currently assessing its staffing needs while also evaluating whether existing contracts can be expanded using these funds.

Local Workforce Development Boards:

- On March 1, 2021, local workforce development areas were notified of the amount of the funding they would receive under the RELIEF Act, per the “WIOA Title 1 Adult” formula, and were sent application templates accordingly. These applications, which include detailed plans on how allocated funds would be spent, are due back to Labor by April 1, 2021.

Market Work-Sharing Programs:

- Labor has an existing contract with Maryland Public Television from a federal grant for Workshare marketing and advertising but is currently reviewing the criteria set forth in the bill to ensure that all criteria are met by this current contract.

Pending UI Claim Payments:

- Labor sent a list on March 3, 2021 to the Comptroller's Office, which included the names of 27,181 claimants. The department also posted a message to the department's website explaining the grant to the public along with an accompanying link for more information about the RELIEF Act. The Comptroller's Office processed the \$1,000 checks on March 4, 2021.

MARBIDCO:

Rural and Agricultural Business Grants:

- MARBIDCO established six grant programs, and had conducted extensive outreach, to provide immediate pandemic adjustments and economic development assistance. Those programs are Maryland Shellfish Aquaculture Relief Grants (81 applications received, totaling \$123,500), Maryland Urban Farmer Relief Grants (10 applications received, totaling \$5,000), Local Food Cold Storage Relief Grant Program (15 applications received, totaling \$152,000), Maryland Livestock Processing Relief Grant Program (2 applications received, totaling \$200,000), Maryland Wood Products Industry Equity Incentive Relief Fund (8 applications received, totaling \$772,000), and the Maryland Market Money Program, for which the first disbursement of \$41,750 is expected the week of March 22. As of March 19, 2021, no funds had yet been distributed.

MCHRC:

DDA Provider Grants:

- The CHRC will issue an RFP shortly after a CHRC Commission meeting on March 31, 2021, and grant awards will be issued before June 30, 2021.

Health Zones:

- The CHRC plans to issue a competitive RFP during summer 2021, in accordance with the language of the RELIEF Act.

MDH:

Assistance 8-507 Providers:

- Seven applications were received by March 16, 2021, within which requests ranged from \$88,200 to \$4.5 million. MDH is reaching out to a potential eighth applicant to make sure they are aware of the opportunity. Distribution of awards is projected for release the week of April 5, 2021.

Mobile Crisis and Stand-Alone Crisis Services:

- Requests for proposals will be finalized by MDH the week of March 22, 2021, and a stakeholder engagement meeting will be held on March 26, 2021. The application deadline will be due April 2, 2021. Funds are expected to be released by the week of April 12, 2021.

MDOT:

- MDOT has received two general fund transfers of \$10 million each to provide operating budget relief for bus operations and state systems maintenance. The department will provide updates on the impact of those funds on their programs.

MEMA:

Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad Grants:

- To date, five (5) meetings have been held to develop the parameters/requirements for fire and EMS departments to apply. Applications were disseminated to each county fire/rescue association on March 10, 2021, with an April 23, 2021 deadline for completed applications. To date 16 companies have applied. Applications will be reviewed beginning March 28, 2021.

MHEC:

Baltimore City Community College:

- Of the \$10 million available for community colleges through Recovery Now, \$1,217,785 is going directly to Baltimore City Community College (BCCC). BCCC intends to use the funds to provide access to workforce training programs for up to 480 students in need of specific skills training and job placement support due to the pandemic. Sets of training programs in health-related, information technology/cybersecurity, and transportation professions will begin in April, May, and June 2021. All targeted programs will be completed in 12 to 16 weeks. Approximately \$18,000 will be used for screening (480 students), \$600,000 for healthcare training (240 students), \$240,000 for IT/cybersecurity training (120 students), and \$360,000 for transportation-related training (120 students).

Local Community Colleges:

- MHEC will be administering \$8,782,215 to the locally governed community colleges. Applications for the funds were disseminated to the colleges on March 5, 2021, and were received back March 12, 2021. MHEC processed the award packages and notified the colleges on March 19, 2021. Each college that receives funding will be responsible for expending the funds by June 30, 2021.

MSDE:

Juvenile Services Education:

- MSDE is purchasing updated technology for students and teachers to complement the existing classroom technology and facilitate more personalized learning. The Juvenile Services Education program is also building a new statewide virtual library to encourage reading for students and purchasing e-books for electronic readers that span the interests and needs of our student population.

PSC:

Utility Assistance:

- The Commission issued an order requesting information from utilities that is due back by April 9, 2021. The Commission will use this information to issue guidance regarding the distribution of funds to the Utilities and the manner in which the Utilities will allocate the funds to customers with eligible arrearages. The Commission will also establish reporting requirements to verify how the funds were applied.

TEDCO:

Rural and Agricultural Business Grants:

- TEDCO plans to launch The Agriculture and Rural Rebuild Challenge during the week of March 29. It provides up to \$200,000 each to fund technology-based projects that help rural and agricultural businesses recover, rebuild, and pivot from the COVID crisis. The Challenge specifically encourages increased collaboration between rural businesses, research institutions, and industry partners to help agricultural technology and other rural industry sectors better weather future economic crises.