



LARRY HOGAN
Governor

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
Lieutenant Governor

DAVID R. BRINKLEY
Secretary

MARC L. NICOLE
Deputy Secretary

March 10, 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
100 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 from the last two weeks:

- The Comptroller processed \$1,000 payments to 27,181 individuals identified by the Department of Labor whose claim for unemployment benefits is pending a determination of eligibility and has been in adjudication for at least 30 days.
- DBM and the Comptroller's Office have processed the Disparity Grant Payments to Prince George's, Wicomico, and Dorchester counties. The funding, which totals \$5 million across the three counties, should be received in the next few days.

DBM is working with the Department of Information Technology to create a Recovery Now website. We are hopeful that this website will be operational prior to our next report submission of March 24, 2021. The website will include a summary page describing every program. This summary page will include information from each agency about where program funding stands. Information will also include 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.

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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
Marc Nicole, Deputy Secretary, DBM

APPENDIX I

RECOVERY NOW MARCH 10, 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. MSAC is currently developing outreach and marketing strategies and materials to ensure the program reaches as many businesses as possible with the goal of providing equitable distribution of these funds across a diverse group of business owners and regions.

Hotel, Motel, and Bed and Breakfast Grants:

- Commerce plans to use the same implementation process to award grants to local governments as previously used. As of March 3rd, 2021, twenty-two jurisdictions have returned their signed grant agreement and eighteen jurisdictions have received their funds under the previous program. There are two jurisdictions that have not expended State funds that were provided in the Fall. Commerce is developing allocation plans and will begin to distribute grant modifications on March 24, 2021.

Local Commuter Bus Assistance Grants:

- Commerce is working with the Maryland Transit Administration to develop a plan to allocate grant funds. Commerce is also in the process of creating an online application and eligibility criteria as well as developing outreach and marketing strategies.

Maryland Small, Minority, and Women-Owned Business Account

- Commerce began its outreach campaign on March 3, 2021. The funding will be distributed evenly among the 8 existing fund managers.

Non-Sales and Use Tax Grants:

- Commerce is currently building out an application for the program, which will be internally administered. Commerce 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.

On-Line Sales Framework Grants:

- As of March 3, Commerce has begun to determine program eligibility requirements, develop outreach and marketing materials and grant amounts for this program, which will be administered internally by department staff.

Restaurant Grants:

- Commerce plans to use the same implementation process to award grants to local governments as previously used. As of March 3rd, 2021, twenty-four jurisdictions have returned their signed grant agreement and twenty-one jurisdictions have received their funds from prior emergency relief funding for restaurants. Commerce is developing allocation plans and will begin to distribute grant modifications on March 24, 2021.

Small Business Marketing Grants:

- Commerce began its outreach campaign on March 3, 2021. The department is reviewing alternative allocation scenarios.

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. The counties should be receiving their funding within the next few days.

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:

- Relief Now awards have been determined based on the proportionate funding through DHCD's Maryland Strong Economic Recovery Initiative: Main Streets. All funds shall be distributed to the awardees 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 jurisdiction's 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). Distribution reporting will be provided after funds are dispersed and agreements are executed.

Temporary Disability Assistance Program:

- As of February 27, 2021, 9,739 recipients received a monthly benefit increase of \$100 and, as of March 4, 2021, 94 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:

- The Judiciary submitted the grant to the Maryland Legal Services Corporation (MLSC) on March 9, 2021. MLSC will provide detail on how the funds are expended.

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 is 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, Maryland Urban Farmer Relief Grants, Local Food Cold Storage Relief Grant Program, Maryland Livestock Processing Relief Grant Program, Maryland Wood Products Industry Equity Incentive Relief Fund, and the Maryland Market Money Program. As of March 5, 2021, no funds had yet been distributed, but three dozen applications had been received.

MCHRC:

DDA Provider Grants:

- The CHRC will issue an RFP later this Spring and grant awards will be issued before June 30, 2021. CHRC Commissioners will meet March 5 to begin a discussion of the parameters of the RFP.

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:

- MDH has drafted an application for providers to detail the fiscal impact the pandemic has had on their practice as well as the estimated funding needed. A stakeholder meeting has been scheduled for the week of March 9, 2021 for providers to be notified of funding opportunities and seek guidance around the application process. The application window will close on March 16, 2021.

Mobile Crisis and Stand-Alone Crisis Services:

- MDH will develop a request for proposal (RFP) to have the providers identify the areas of necessity. A stakeholder meeting will be scheduled for providers to be notified of funding opportunities and seek guidance around the application process. Application announcement and deadlines to soon be determined.

MDOT:

- MDOT has received two general fund transfers of \$10 million each to 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:

- In conjunction with the Maryland Military Department and Maryland State Firemen's Association leadership, MEMA developed a grant distribution process. The criteria and application form have been finalized and briefings on the fund, its purpose, the distribution process, and other detail was provided to local emergency managers. In addition, notifications have been sent to each county volunteer fire association president or presiding official. The applications will be sent to local emergency managers by the end of this week and are due back to MEMA not later than April 23, 2021.

MHEC:

Community Colleges:

- MHEC will be administering \$8,782,215 to the locally governed community colleges, with \$1,217,785 going directly to Baltimore City Community College. Applications for the funds were disseminated to the colleges on March 5, 2021 and are due back by March 12, 2021. Each college that receives funding will be responsible for expending the funds by June 30, 2021 and reporting to MHEC on the expenditures.

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 Service 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 its 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 in the next two weeks. It provides up to \$200,000 each to fund technology-based projects that help our 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.