

Hotel, Motel, and Bed and Breakfast Grants, Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority and Fund, Department of Commerce

\$10.0 Million (T00F00.23)

Purpose: Recovery Now Funding

The Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority and Fund shall provide funding to local governments for grants up to \$25,000 to hotels and motels (except casino hotels) or bed-and-breakfast inns categorized as North American Industrial Classification Codes 721110 and 721191, respectively. If the establishment is part of a multiple-location franchise, it must be owned by a local franchisee. Lastly, the recipient businesses must demonstrate a need for assistance. Priority shall be given to businesses that have not received prior funding from the Authority.

March 10, 2021 - Program Highlights and Plans to Allocate Remaining Balance:

- Distribute through counties: Can use the same prior implementation process. Intention is to send new grant agreements on March 24th, 2021, to local elected officials notifying them of the additional funds for their individual programs.
- Run the numbers for a comparison of distribution of a pro-rata model of previous awarded grants or population. (See below)
- We are currently in the process of developing program requirements and grant agreements between Commerce and the local jurisdictions.
- Commerce 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. Commerce has sent out the first alert of the program on Wednesday, March 3, to over 30,000 businesses, business groups, community organizations, advocacy groups, economic development professionals, and elected officials.

March 10, 2021 - Programmatic and/or Implementation Issues:

- Ensure local jurisdictions prioritize applicants who have not received State/MEDAAF funding.
- Some counties have not completed distribution of previously released funds. These funds must be allocated prior to receiving this grant program's funding.

March 10, 2021 - Distribution of Funds:

- As of March 3rd, 2021, twenty-two jurisdictions have returned their signed grant agreement and eighteen jurisdictions have received their funds under our previous program. There are two jurisdictions that have not expended State funds that were provided in the Fall. As previously mentioned, we will begin to distribute grant modifications on March 24, 2021.