



Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



COVID-19 Business Relief Programs

March 2020

In the early days of the pandemic, Commerce established three emergency relief programs:

- **Maryland Small Business COVID-19 Emergency Relief Grant Fund**
- **Maryland Small Business COVID-19 Emergency Relief Loan Fund**
- **Maryland COVID-19 Emergency Relief Manufacturing Fund**

Maryland Small Business COVID-19 Emergency Relief Grant Fund

- \$145 million total (replenished twice in 2020).
- Provided grants of up to \$10,000 to small businesses and nonprofits.
- Recipients needed 50 or fewer employees, at least one W2 employee (other than the owner), a valid UI number, and must be in good standing with SDAT.
- 17,876 applications received between March 23 and April 6, 2020.
- 14,286 grants issued to approved businesses.

Maryland Small Business COVID-19 Emergency Relief Loan Fund

- \$75 million was put into program in March 2020.
- Provided loans of up to \$50,000 to small businesses.
- 8,603 applications received between March 23 and April 6, 2020.
- 1,654 loans issued to approved businesses.
- Loans were converted to grants in early 2021; businesses who had already begun repayment received refunds.

Geographic and Industry Breakdown

County Breakdown of Funded Grants

Note: Qualified Private Establishments refers to establishments that are privately-owned and employed between 1 and 49 employees in the first quarter of 2020.

County	Number of Funded Grants	Sum of Grants Funded	Percent of Total Grants Funded	Percent of All Qualified Private Establishments
Allegany	152	\$1,462,743	1.00%	13.10%
Anne Arundel	1,659	\$16,413,752	11.60%	14.10%
Baltimore City	1,416	\$13,952,037	9.90%	14.40%
Baltimore	2,239	\$22,114,713	15.70%	14.00%
Calvert	172	\$1,694,414	1.20%	12.10%
Caroline	29	\$284,000	0.20%	5.60%
Carroll	452	\$4,454,753	3.20%	12.60%
Cecil	119	\$1,186,999	0.80%	8.10%
Charles	272	\$2,672,919	1.90%	12.40%
Dorchester	51	\$503,100	0.40%	9.10%
Frederick	750	\$7,385,561	5.20%	14.80%
Garrett	93	\$917,254	0.70%	12.90%
Harford	600	\$5,883,791	4.20%	13.40%
Howard	1,017	\$10,044,607	7.10%	13.40%
Kent	65	\$637,074	0.50%	11.60%
Montgomery	2,646	\$26,211,611	18.60%	10.70%
Prince George's	1,270	\$12,499,951	8.90%	10.70%
Queen Anne's	144	\$1,407,038	1.00%	12.50%
Somerset	26	\$260,000	0.20%	7.60%
St. Mary's	171	\$1,705,103	1.20%	10.10%
Talbot	167	\$1,640,898	1.20%	13.70%
Washington	284	\$2,784,342	2.00%	10.50%
Wicomico	206	\$2,043,826	1.40%	10.30%
Worcester	282	\$2,794,775	2.00%	16.70%
Out-of-State	4	\$40,000	0.00%	0.00%
Total	14,286	\$140,995,261	100%	11.00%

Geographic and Industry Breakdown

County Breakdown of Funded Loans

Note: Qualified Private Establishments refers to establishments that are privately-owned and employed between 1 and 49 employees in the first quarter of 2020.

County	Number of Funded Loans	Sum of Loans Funded	Percent of Total Loans Funded	Percent of All Qualified Private Establishments
Allegany	14	\$578,300	0.80%	1.20%
Anne Arundel	242	\$11,069,130	14.70%	2.10%
Baltimore City	175	\$8,013,384	10.60%	1.80%
Baltimore	246	\$10,972,135	14.60%	1.50%
Calvert	21	\$980,000	1.30%	1.50%
Caroline	7	\$289,000	0.40%	1.40%
Carroll	54	\$2,440,850	3.20%	1.50%
Cecil	10	\$455,000	0.60%	0.70%
Charles	22	\$1,025,000	1.40%	1.00%
Dorchester	12	\$573,000	0.80%	2.20%
Frederick	84	\$3,784,700	5.00%	1.70%
Garrett	8	\$395,000	0.50%	1.10%
Harford	76	\$3,376,765	4.50%	1.70%
Howard	141	\$6,485,878	8.60%	1.90%
Kent	5	\$137,000	0.20%	0.90%
Montgomery	250	\$11,708,726	15.60%	1.00%
Prince George's	145	\$6,575,405	8.70%	1.20%
Queen Anne's	16	\$757,352	1.00%	1.40%
Somerset	3	\$150,000	0.20%	0.90%
St. Mary's	18	\$843,385	1.10%	1.10%
Talbot	19	\$867,000	1.20%	1.60%
Washington	28	\$1,148,357	1.50%	1.00%
Wicomico	24	\$1,054,345	1.40%	1.20%
Worcester	34	\$1,588,700	2.10%	2.00%
Out of State	0	\$0	0.00%	0.00%
Total	1,654	\$75,268,411	100%	1.30%

Geographic and Industry Breakdown

Industry Breakdown of Funded Grants as of February 12, 2021

2-Digit NAICS	Industry	Number of Funded Grants	Sum of Funded Grants	Percent of All Funded Grants	Percent of Businesses in NAICS, 2019
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	71	\$695,017	0.5%	0.40%
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	6	\$60,000	0.0%	0.10%
22	Utilities	13	\$130,000	0.1%	0.10%
23	Construction	1,017	\$10,098,697	7.2%	9.70%
31-33	Manufacturing	568	\$5,609,347	4.0%	2.40%
42	Wholesale Trade	236	\$2,326,983	1.7%	5.80%
44-45	Retail Trade	1,395	\$13,758,046	9.8%	10.60%
48-49	Transportation and Warehousing	209	\$2,064,413	1.5%	2.40%
51	Information	159	\$1,571,044	1.1%	1.60%
52	Finance and Insurance	207	\$2,054,601	1.5%	4.90%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	352	\$3,479,638	2.5%	4.10%
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	1,508	\$14,759,647	10.5%	17.90%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	5	\$50,000	0.0%	0.40%
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	586	\$5,735,818	4.1%	7.30%
61	Educational Services	386	\$3,763,007	2.7%	1.80%
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	2,349	\$23,312,295	16.5%	10.60%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	558	\$5,500,866	3.9%	1.50%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	2,250	\$22,347,075	15.8%	7.30%
81	Other Services	1,716	\$16,877,438	12.0%	11.20%
92	Public Administration	20	\$196,010	0.1%	0.00%
	Missing or Incorrect	675	\$6,605,318	4.7%	0.10%
	Total	14,286	\$140,995,261	100%	100%

Geographic and Industry Breakdown

Industry Breakdown of Funded Loans as of February 12, 2021

2-Digit NAICS	Industry	Number of Funded Loans	Sum of Funded Loans	Percent of All Funded Loans	Percent of Businesses in NAICS, 2019
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	9	\$431,000	0.6%	0.40%
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	1	\$50,000	0.1%	0.10%
22	Utilities	2	\$100,000	0.1%	0.10%
23	Construction	159	\$7,399,182	9.8%	9.70%
31-33	Manufacturing	88	\$4,037,225	5.4%	2.40%
42	Wholesale Trade	37	\$1,715,752	2.3%	5.80%
44-45	Retail Trade	156	\$6,990,530	9.3%	10.60%
48-49	Transportation and Warehousing	36	\$1,679,900	2.2%	2.40%
51	Information	28	\$1,316,750	1.7%	1.60%
52	Finance and Insurance	31	\$1,315,783	1.7%	4.90%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	55	\$2,600,100	3.5%	4.10%
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	153	\$7,007,199	9.3%	17.90%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	3	\$150,000	0.2%	0.40%
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	72	\$3,270,412	4.3%	7.30%
61	Educational Services	38	\$1,707,303	2.3%	1.80%
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	225	\$10,745,400	14.3%	10.60%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	56	\$2,622,300	3.5%	1.50%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	284	\$12,793,001	17.0%	7.30%
81	Other Services	155	\$6,503,405	8.6%	11.20%
92	Public Administration	0	\$0	0.0%	0.00%
	Missing or Incorrect	66	\$2,833,170	3.8%	0.10%
	Total	1,654	\$75,268,411	100%	100%

Maryland COVID-19 Emergency Relief Manufacturing Fund

- Commerce provided grants of up to \$100,000 to manufacturers to either ramp up or produce PPE and other critical needs items (e.g., face shields and ventilator parts).
- Half of the funding was paid up front, while the other half was paid upon completion of the deliverables.
- \$5 million put into the fund.
- 55 grants issued to approved businesses, totaling approximately \$4 million.

Maryland COVID-19 Emergency Relief Grant Fund for 501(c)6 Nonprofits

- In August 2020, Commerce established this program using \$1 million of CARES Act funding.
- This was targeted at organizations that might not have qualified for earlier relief, including:
 - non-profit or community-based organizations;
 - industry associations; business leagues; destination marketing organizations; and local or regional economic development entities.
- \$475,000 in grants were issued to 48 organizations.

Maryland State Arts Council Grants

- The Maryland State Arts Council began accepting applications for emergency relief grants in May 2020.
- From May 2020 - April 2021, MSAC offered four rounds of emergency grant funding and an additional fifth round to roster artists.
- Grants totaling \$12,126,824 across 1,645 grants were distributed throughout all 23 Maryland counties and Baltimore City to arts organizations, independent artists, county arts agencies, and Arts & Entertainment Districts.

Restaurant and Hotel Relief Funding in 2020

- Commerce provided funds to local jurisdictions to support restaurants and hotels.
- Each county and Baltimore City received funds in proportion to the number of restaurants.
- Hotel funds were distributed based on hotel sales tax.
- \$80 million total for restaurants; \$50 million for hotels.
- These funds ensured more geographic equity.

Restaurant Funding

County	Average Establishments, 2019	\$50 million distributed by Establishments	\$30 Million Distributed by Establishments	Total Aid Package
Allegany County	150	\$649,548	\$389,729	\$1,039,276
Anne Arundel County	1,157	\$5,019,627	\$3,011,776	\$8,031,404
Baltimore County	1,633	\$7,081,047	\$4,248,628	\$11,329,675
Calvert County	149	\$646,295	\$387,777	\$1,034,071
Caroline County	33	\$144,223	\$86,534	\$230,758
Carroll County	277	\$1,201,501	\$720,900	\$1,922,401
Cecil County	153	\$663,645	\$398,187	\$1,061,832
Charles County	254	\$1,099,568	\$659,741	\$1,759,309
Dorchester County	54	\$233,143	\$139,886	\$373,029
Frederick County	473	\$2,052,745	\$1,231,647	\$3,284,391
Garrett County	74	\$319,894	\$191,936	\$511,831
Harford County	406	\$1,758,876	\$1,055,325	\$2,814,201
Howard County	578	\$2,506,018	\$1,503,611	\$4,009,629
Kent County	55	\$238,565	\$143,139	\$381,704
Montgomery County	1,898	\$8,230,497	\$4,938,298	\$13,168,796
Prince George's County	1,408	\$6,105,099	\$3,663,059	\$9,768,158
Queen Anne's County	102	\$443,514	\$266,109	\$709,623
St. Mary's County	180	\$779,674	\$467,805	\$1,247,479
Somerset County	26	\$113,861	\$68,316	\$182,177
Talbot County	123	\$531,350	\$318,810	\$850,159
Washington County	312	\$1,352,231	\$811,338	\$2,163,569
Wicomico County	194	\$840,400	\$504,240	\$1,344,640
Worcester County	327	\$1,417,294	\$850,376	\$2,267,670
Baltimore City	1,515	\$6,571,385	\$3,942,831	\$10,514,216
Total	11,527	\$50,000,000	\$30,000,000	\$80,000,000

Hotel Funding

County	FY2019 Sales Tax Revenue (111 & 901)	Percentage of Total Sales Tax Generate (111 & 901)	Allocation to Counties
Allegany	\$1,504,184	0.99%	\$495,591
Anne Arundel	\$15,402,013	10.15%	\$5,074,575
Baltimore County	\$10,713,700	7.06%	\$3,529,894
Baltimore City	\$24,320,849	16.03%	\$8,013,107
Calvert County	\$893,799	0.59%	\$294,484
Caroline County	\$57,283	0.04%	\$18,873
Carroll County	\$773,383	0.51%	\$254,810
Cecil County	\$810,631	0.53%	\$267,083
Charles County	\$1,215,777	0.80%	\$400,568
Dorchester County	\$2,123,963	1.40%	\$699,792
Frederick	\$2,528,880	1.67%	\$833,202
Garrett	\$2,825,519	1.86%	\$930,937
Harford County	\$3,053,236	2.01%	\$1,005,964
Howard County	\$4,934,796	3.25%	\$1,625,891
Kent County	\$329,734	0.22%	\$108,639
Montgomery County	\$18,916,972	12.47%	\$6,232,666
Prince George's County	\$34,694,206	22.86%	\$11,430,867
Queen Anne's County	\$582,264	0.38%	\$191,841
Somerset County	\$103,152	0.07%	\$33,986
St. Mary's County	\$1,125,586	0.74%	\$370,852
Talbot County	\$1,622,219	1.07%	\$534,480
Washington County	\$1,764,811	1.16%	\$581,461
Wicomico County	\$1,723,354	1.14%	\$567,802
Worcester County	\$19,736,358	13.01%	\$6,502,633
Total	\$151,756,669		\$50,000,000

Tourism Support

- Commerce also provided \$2 million to county tourism offices.

The RELIEF Act of 2021

Small Business COVID-19 RELIEF Grant Program

- \$10 million for \$9,000 grants for businesses that primarily do not collect sales & use tax.
- E.g., medical offices, hair salons, and professional and personal services.
- Recipients needed between 1 and 20 employees, at least one W2 employee (and a valid UI number), and must be in good standing with SDAT.
- Legislation required disadvantaged businesses to be prioritized; called for geographic diversity among grantees.

Small Business COVID-19 RELIEF Grant Program

- Commerce marketed the program to numerous organizations across the state in weeks leading up to program launch.
- Commerce accepted applications from March 30 to April 6; then from April 30 to May 24.
- 1,800 applications received.
- 1,068 checks have been issued.

Small Business COVID-19 RELIEF Grant Program

County	Population (Thousands)	Number of Awarded Grants	Sum of Awarded Grants	Percent of Total Awarded Grants
Allegany	69	4	\$35,000	0.35%
Anne Arundel	587	114	\$1,014,051	10.14%
Baltimore City	576	84	\$741,687	7.42%
Baltimore	826	109	\$971,051	9.71%
Calvert	93	13	\$115,913	1.16%
Caroline	34	5	\$42,000	0.42%
Carroll	169	29	\$243,364	2.43%
Cecil	103	3	\$27,000	0.27%
Charles	167	23	\$206,000	2.06%
Dorchester	32	6	\$54,000	0.54%
Frederick	269	52	\$459,000	4.59%
Garrett	29	3	\$27,000	0.27%
Harford	259	37	\$321,000	3.21%
Howard	332	68	\$607,395	6.07%
Kent	19	3	\$27,000	0.27%
Montgomery	1,055	293	\$2,581,342	25.81%
Prince George's	909	163	\$1,433,898	14.34%
Queen Anne's	51	17	\$151,500	1.52%
Somerset	26	1	\$9,000	0.09%
St. Mary's	115	14	\$126,000	1.26%
Talbot	37	8	\$69,000	0.69%
Washington	152	35	\$312,400	3.12%
Wicomico	105	37	\$327,499	3.27%
Worcester	53	11	\$97,500	0.98%
Total	6.1 million	1,131	\$10,000,000	100.00%

Restaurant and Hotel Funding in 2021

- The RELIEF Act provided \$22 million for grants of up to \$12,000 for restaurants and \$10 million for grants of up to \$25,000 for hotels.
- Each county and Baltimore City received funds in proportion to their population.

Online Sales and Telework Grants

- The RELIEF Act provided \$500,000 for grants to businesses to help set up online sales and expand telework opportunities.
- Each county and Baltimore City received funds in proportion to their population.

RELIEF Act Funding

County	Population (2021)	MD Percentage	Restaurant Funding	Hotel Funding	Online Sales Funding
Allegany County	69,366	1.14%	\$251,597.99	\$114,362.72	\$5,718.14
Anne Arundel County	586,656	9.67%	\$2,127,864.80	\$967,211.27	\$48,360.56
Baltimore city	575,584	9.49%	\$2,087,705.46	\$948,957.03	\$47,447.85
Baltimore County	826,392	13.62%	\$2,997,413.21	\$1,362,460.55	\$68,123.03
Calvert County	93,445	1.54%	\$338,935.13	\$154,061.42	\$7,703.07
Caroline County	33,606	0.55%	\$121,892.60	\$55,405.73 (\$25,000 accepted)	\$2,770.29
Carroll County	168,807	2.78%	\$612,281.26	\$278,309.66	\$13,915.48
Cecil County	103,277	1.70%	\$374,596.86	\$170,271.30	\$8,513.56
Charles County	166,819	2.75%	\$605,070.57	\$275,032.08	\$13,751.60
Dorchester County	31,867	0.53%	\$115,585.06	\$52,538.66	\$2,626.93
Frederick County	268,755	4.43%	\$974,803.47	\$443,092.49	\$22,154.62
Garrett County	28,776	0.47%	\$104,373.67	\$47,442.58	\$2,372.13
Harford County	258,559	4.26%	\$937,821.47	\$426,282.49	\$21,314.12
Howard County	331,828	5.47%	\$1,203,576.06	\$547,080.03	\$27,354.00
Kent County	19,398	0.32%	\$70,358.65	\$31,981.20	\$1,599.06
Montgomery County	1,055,110	17.40%	\$3,826,998.12	\$1,739,544.59	\$86,977.25
Prince George's County	908,743	14.98%	\$3,296,109.20	\$1,498,231.46	\$74,911.57
Queen Anne's County	50,847	0.84%	\$184,427.57	\$83,830.71	\$4,191.54
Somerset County	25,636	0.42%	\$92,984.55	\$42,265.70	\$2,113.29
St. Mary's County	115,090	1.90%	\$417,443.88	\$189,747.22	\$9,487.36
Talbot County	37,395	0.62%	\$135,635.71	\$61,652.60	\$3,082.63
Washington County	151,835	2.50%	\$550,721.98	\$250,328.17	\$12,516.41
Wicomico County	104,739	1.73%	\$379,899.69	\$172,681.68	\$8,634.08
Worcester County	52,908	0.87%	\$191,903.04	\$87,228.66	\$4,361.43
Statewide	6,065,438	-	\$22,000,000.00	\$9,944,594.27	\$500,000.00

Other Relief Act Provisions

- \$5 million to MSAC for additional grants to artists, arts organizations, county arts agencies and A&E District managers:
 - 839 grants to 659 individuals and 180 organizations.
- \$10 million in additional funds for the SMWOBA (or VLT) program.
- \$8 million for commuter/shuttle bus services; grants issued to six companies.
- \$1 million to the Maryland Tourism Development Board to support small business tourism marketing.

Verifying Our Applications

- Confirmed valid UI and FEIN against state, federal data.
- Required applicants provide evidence of financial loss.
- Required proof of good standing.
- Required proof of W2 employees.
- Required applicant be an industry that does not primarily engage in activities subject to the sales & use tax.
- Reviewed and removed all duplicate applications.

Did Commerce Encounter Fraud?

- Commerce identified three businesses, one in 2020 and two in 2021, that appeared to have submitted falsified documentation. These businesses did not receive funds.
- We are not aware of any fraudulent payments made through our programs.
- If fraud is discovered in the future, we would work with the Office of the Attorney General to recoup the funds and pursue legal action if necessary.

Duplicate Checks

- Processing errors did lead to 56 businesses receiving duplicate checks and 4 receiving overpayments.
- Most checks have either been returned or cancelled OR businesses have agreed to repay the funds.
- These were new programs, set up very quickly, to service a much larger number of businesses than our ordinary programs.
- We essentially had to build the initial programs as they were operating.



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE