



Howard County

Internal Memorandum

Subject: Testimony for Budget Amendment 2021

To: Lonnie R. Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer

From: Rafiu O. Ighile 
Director of Finance

Date: December 23, 2020

Governor Hogan has announced a new economic relief program to provide direct assistance to hotels across Maryland which have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as additional funds for restaurants out of the Restaurant Relief Fund. As such, Howard County has been notified that the Maryland Department of Commerce (Department) is granting State grant funds of \$1,625,891 for hotels in the County and an additional \$1,503,611 for restaurants. These funds must be disbursed to these businesses by no later than March 31, 2021, hence the reason for requesting emergency legislation. The grants can be used by the restaurants for working capital such as rent, payroll, and job training, purchase of equipment and services to expand outdoor dining such as tents, heaters, warmers, and carts, infrastructure improvements, such as HVAC system upgrades, technology to support carryout and delivery, purchase of PPE and disposable food containers or utensils, and sanitation services. The details regarding how the hotel funds may be used have not been received yet from the State.

cc: Jennifer Sager