



# Howard County

*Internal Memorandum*

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*Subject:* Testimony for Budget Amendment 2021

*To:* Lonnie R. Robbins  
Chief Administrative Officer

*From:* Rafiu O. Ighile   
Director of Finance

*Date:* April 19, 2021

Governor Hogan and the Maryland Department of Commerce (Department) are distributing additional funds to local jurisdictions as part of the economic relief program that was established to provide direct assistance to hotels, restaurants, and other businesses across Maryland which have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, Howard County has been notified that the Department is granting State grant funds of an additional \$1,203,576 for restaurants and \$547,080 for hotels in the County. These funds must be disbursed to these businesses by no later than June 30, 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. Hotels may spend the grant funds for normal operating costs such as rent, payroll, job training, taxes, debt service, or similar costs and for the purchase of PPE, sanitation devices, or other COVID-19 related costs. Additionally, \$27,354 is being distributed to assist businesses in establishing or expanding online sales and/or telework during COVID (after March 2020).

*cc:* Jennifer Sager