



# The State of Maryland

## Executive Department

EXECUTIVE ORDER  
01.01.2024.11

Establishing Temporary Economic and Financial Relief Programs for  
Workers and Businesses Impacted by the Francis Scott Key Bridge Collapse  
and Disruption of Operations to the Port of Baltimore

- WHEREAS, On March 26, 2024, a cargo ship collided with the Francis Scott Key Bridge ("Key Bridge") in Baltimore and resulted in the collapse of the Key Bridge;
- WHEREAS, On March 26, 2024, a State of Emergency was proclaimed via Executive Order 01.01.2024.09 to respond to the collapse of the Key Bridge;
- WHEREAS, The collapse of the Key Bridge resulted in a significant amount of debris that has obstructed navigable waters and commercial shipping lanes and resulted in the suspension of vessel traffic into the Port of Baltimore;
- WHEREAS, The Port of Baltimore plays a vital role in the economic and financial health of the State of Maryland, yielding an annual economic impact of \$70 billion, directly employing more than 8,000 workers, and supporting thousands of businesses and economic activity within the Baltimore metropolitan region and across the State of Maryland;
- WHEREAS, The suspension of vessel traffic into the Port of Baltimore has caused and will continue to cause significant economic and financial injury to workers and businesses who depend on the operations of the Port of Baltimore for their income and livelihood;
- WHEREAS, The United States Small Business Administration has issued an Administrative Disaster Declaration, recognizing the significant economic injury to small businesses in the State of Maryland as a result of this disaster; and
- WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the State of Maryland to provide economic and financial relief to workers and businesses impacted by the disruption of operations to the Port of Baltimore.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WES MOORE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

A. Use of State Funds.

1. \$25,000,000 shall be made available from the Revenue Stabilization Account to be used for temporary economic and financial relief to workers and businesses impacted by the disruption of operations to the Port of Baltimore.
2. Any budget amendment proposing the transfer of funds from the Revenue Stabilization Account to fund the temporary economic and financial relief programs outlined herein shall be provided to the General Assembly's Legislative Policy Committee for a 7-day review period as provided by Senate Bill 1188 of 2024 and/or House Bill 1526 of 2024 (the Maryland Protecting Opportunities and Regional Trade ("PORT") Act). Any unspent funds from the Revenue Stabilization Account shall revert back to the Account.
3. To the extent practicable, agencies shall evaluate and pursue federal programs and funding sources that may supplant, supplement, and support the temporary economic and financial relief programs established under this Executive Order.
4. The Secretary of Commerce shall identify funds within the Department of Commerce to support temporary economic and financial relief programs for eligible businesses impacted by the disruption of operations to the Port of Baltimore.
5. The Secretary of Labor shall identify funds within the Department of Labor to support eligible businesses and workers impacted by the disruption of operations to the Port of Baltimore and encourage businesses operating in the vicinity of the Port to retain workers.
6. The Secretary of Housing and Community Development shall identify funds within the Department of Housing and Community Development to support temporary economic and financial relief programs for eligible businesses and workers impacted by the disruption of operations to the Port of Baltimore.
7. The Secretary of Budget and Management shall direct Executive Departments and Agencies under the control of the Governor to identify unencumbered, discretionary funds within existing budgets that may be utilized and repurposed to support the temporary economic and financial relief programs established under this Executive Order.

8. If at any time, federal funds become available for any purpose for which a program is established under this Executive Order, the federal funds shall, to the extent permissible, supplant any funds used for the programs established under this Executive Order, including funds made available from the Revenue Stabilization Account.

B. Establishment of the Port of Baltimore Emergency Business Assistance Program.

1. Following the enactment of the PORT Act, the Department of Commerce shall establish the Port of Baltimore Emergency Business Assistance Program ("Business Assistance Program").
2. The Secretary of Commerce shall allocate \$15,000,000 from existing Department of Commerce funds towards this program. Any Department of Commerce funds unused for the purposes of the Business Assistance Program shall revert back to the original program within the Department of Commerce.
3. The Business Assistance Program shall provide grants of no more than \$100,000 to eligible businesses, as defined in the PORT Act, and whose operations or shipments:
  - a. rely on the use of or access to the Port; and
  - b. are hindered or halted entirely due to the reduced operations of the Port of Baltimore.
4. In addition, eligible businesses must demonstrate economic and financial injury resulting from the disruption to the operations to the Port of Baltimore through:
  - a. reduction in business revenue and activity; or
  - b. increased costs to business operations.
5. Recipients of grants through this program shall attest to their intent to continue operations at the Port of Baltimore, to the fullest extent practicable, upon the resumption of full operations at the Port of Baltimore.
6. The Business Assistance Program shall terminate no later than one year following the rescission of the State of Emergency declared through Executive Order 01.01.2024.09, or any subsequent amendment, extension, revision or modification to Executive Order 01.01.2024.09, or when all available funds are exhausted, whichever is sooner.

C. Establishment of the Port of Baltimore Worker Retention Program and the Port of Baltimore Worker Support Program.

1. Following enactment of the PORT Act, the Secretary of Labor shall establish the Port of Baltimore Worker Retention Program ("Worker Retention Program") and the Port of Baltimore Worker Support Program ("Worker Support Program").

2. The Worker Retention Program.

a. The Secretary of Labor shall dedicate \$1,500,000 in federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act ("WIOA") Rapid Response funds and \$1,000,000 in federal WIOA Governor's Reserve funds for the purpose of providing temporary and immediate financial relief to impacted workers through the Worker Retention Program.

b. \$10,000,000 of funds from the Revenue Stabilization Account identified in Section A.I of this Executive Order, shall be allocated towards the Worker Retention Program, in accordance with the process outlined in Section A.2 of this Executive Order.

c. The Worker Retention Program shall provide grants of no more than \$200,000 to eligible businesses, as defined in the PORT Act, who have demonstrated economic and financial injury and risk of layoffs to employees resulting from the disruption to the operations to the Port of Baltimore through:

1. reduction in business revenue and activity; or
- n. increased costs to business operations.

d. The Secretary of Labor shall establish guidelines for the Worker Retention Program including eligibility criteria and eligible uses of funds, rules of administration, and procedures.

e. The Worker Retention Program shall terminate no later than one year following the rescission of the State of Emergency declared through Executive Order 01.01.2024.09 or any subsequent amendment, extension, revision, or modification of Executive Order 01.01.2024.09, or when all available funds are exhausted, whichever is sooner.

3. The Port of Baltimore Worker Support Program ("Worker Support Program").
  - a. \$15,000,000 of funds from the Revenue Stabilization Account identified in Section A.1 of this Executive Order shall be allocated towards the Worker Support Program, in accordance with the process outlined in Section A.2 of this Executive Order.
  - b. The Worker Support Program shall make temporary support available to eligible workers impacted by the disruption of operations to the Port of Baltimore as defined by the PORT Act.
  - c. The Secretary of Labor shall establish all guidelines, rules of administration, and procedures for the Worker Support Program.
  - d. The Worker Support Program shall terminate no later than one year following the rescission of the State of Emergency declared through Executive Order 01.01.2024.09 or any subsequent amendment, extension, rev1s10n or• modification of Executive Order 01.01.2024.09, or when all available funds are exhausted, whichever is sooner.

D. Dedication of Funding for Certain Programs within the Department of Housing and Community Development.

1. The Secretary of Housing and Community Development shall dedicate up to \$15,000,000 of the Department of Housing and Community Development's Fiscal Year 2024 Neighborhood BusinessWorks program appropriations to provide low-interest loans for small businesses impacted by the Key Bridge collapse. Any unused funds shall revert back to the Neighborhood BusinessWorks program.
  - a. \$5,000,000 shall be utilized to provide grants not to exceed \$50,000 to eligible businesses with 500 or fewer employees who have demonstrated economic and financial injury resulting from the Key Bridge collapse.
  - b. Up to \$10,000,000 shall be utilized to provide loans not to exceed \$500,000 to eligible businesses with 500 or fewer employees who have demonstrated economic and financial injury resulting from the Key Bridge collapse.

- c. The Secretary of Housing and Community Development shall establish guidance including eligibility criteria and loan terms.
  - d. It being necessary to protect the public health, safety, or welfare, during the pendency of the State of Emergency declared by Executive Order 01.01.2024.09, or any subsequent amendment, extension, revision, or modification of Executive Order 01.01.2024.09, the Secretary of Housing and Community Development shall not have to obtain approval from a political subdivision as mandated under § 6-305(c)(2) of the Housing and Community Development Article to approve funding dedicated under this order.
2. The Secretary of Housing and Community Development shall set aside \$2,500,000 in the Fiscal Year 2025 State Revitalization Program funds for the Dundalk Renaissance Corporation and the Greater Baybrook Alliance to provide community development support for the two areas most proximate to the Key Bridge. Any unused funds shall revert back to the State Revitalization Program.

E. State Agencies Expanded Support for Impacted Workers, Businesses, and Temporary Relief Programs.

1. The Governor's Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs shall provide technical assistance and engage in marketing, educational and outreach efforts to businesses eligible to apply for the temporary relief programs established under this Executive Order.
2. The Department of Health shall engage in marketing, educational and outreach efforts to identify and amplify existing programs and services within the Department of Health for which impacted workers and businesses may be eligible.
3. The Department of Human Services shall engage in marketing, educational and outreach efforts to identify and amplify existing programs and services within the Department of Human Services for which impacted workers and businesses may be eligible.
4. The Maryland State Department of Education shall identify and amplify existing programs and services - including childcare programs - for which impacted workers and businesses may be eligible.
5. The Department of Service and Civic Innovation shall identify opportunities for Maryland Corps, the Service Year Option, and other programs under its purview to contribute to the recovery of the Greater Baltimore metropolitan region.

6. All Executive Branch units of government shall cooperate with the Department of Commerce, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Housing and Community Development by sharing information, expertise and staff resources to implement and execute the purpose of this Executive Order establishing temporary economic and financial relief programs for workers and businesses impacted by the Key Bridge collapse and the disruption of operations to the Port of Baltimore.
- F. If any provision of this Executive Order or its application to any person, entity, or circumstance is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions or applications of this Executive Order shall remain in effect to the extent possible without the invalid provision or application. To achieve this purpose, the provisions of this Executive Order are severable.

GIVEN Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, in the City of Baltimore, this 5th Day of April 2024.



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Wes Moore  
Governor

ATTEST:



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Susan C. Lee  
Secretary of State

