

# Are you a small business in need of assistance because of COVID-19? The Maryland Department of Labor is here to help!

Governor Larry Hogan and the Department of Labor (Labor) are excited to announce a new \$20,000,000 investment in the COVID-19 Layoff Aversion Fund, which is designed to support businesses undergoing economic stresses due to the pandemic by preventing or minimizing the duration of unemployment resulting from layoffs. This funding source is a quick deployable benefit and customizable to the specific needs of your business. Labor is accepting grant applications from small businesses beginning October 28th through 30 days after the State of Emergency ends or until all funds are obligated. Awards will be distributed on a rolling, first come, first served basis.

## How can it help me?

- Providing funds to cover the cost of purchasing remote access (ex. computers, printers, etc.) equipment to allow employees to work remotely from home versus being laid off;
- Providing funds to cover the cost of purchasing software or programs that an employee would need to use from home;
- Supporting businesses that take advantage of the Work Share Unemployment Insurance Program (<https://www.labor.maryland.gov/employment/worksharing/>) by supplementing the employee's income and benefits;
- Providing funds to cover the costs of cleaning/sanitization services so that small businesses are able to keep employees at work on site, but only if a frequent deep cleaning to prevent exposure occurred;
- Paying for liability insurance for restaurants that convert to delivery while under emergency circumstances;
- Providing funds for training or professional development opportunities for employees to avoid layoffs; and
- Adopting other creative approaches and strategies to reduce or eliminate the need for layoffs in the small business community.

## How much money is available to help my business?

- Your business may be eligible to receive up to \$50,000.
- Payment is provided to your business as a reimbursement or as an advance payment.

## How do I know if I am eligible and how do I apply?

Please see our policy guidelines for eligibility requirements and download the application. Submit a completed application to: [LaborCOVID19.Layoffaversion2@maryland.gov](mailto:LaborCOVID19.Layoffaversion2@maryland.gov). Labor staff will process applications within five business days of receipt. Upon approval and receipt of signed contract, payment will be expedited.

## For More Information...

Visit the Maryland Business Express website at <https://businessexpress.maryland.gov/coronavirus> or contact the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning at [LaborCOVID19.Layoffaversion2@maryland.gov](mailto:LaborCOVID19.Layoffaversion2@maryland.gov).