

## FACT SHEET

# Governor Moore's Executive Order on FSK/POB Economic Relief Programs

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### Economic Impact

The Port of Baltimore is one of the state's vital economic organs, yielding an annual economic impact of more than \$70 billion annually.<sup>1</sup> In addition, the Port is critical to the national economy and global supply chain. From global companies like Domino Sugars to small e-commerce businesses that depend on imports and exports that come through the Port, the economic impact of the Port of Baltimore cannot be overstated. Here at home, more than 20,000 jobs<sup>2</sup> are directly tied to the operations of the Port – from dock workers to truck drivers, warehouse workers, cargo logistics, and many others. There are over 900 businesses<sup>3</sup> that directly and indirectly have relationships with the Port.

### Executive Order Toplines

- Governor Moore is immediately authorizing the use of **\$60 million** to fund economic and financial relief programs for businesses and workers impacted by the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse and the disruption of operations to the Port of Baltimore. The Governor may increase the authorization of state funds depending on the economic conditions impacted by the recovery efforts to clear the commercial shipping channels and restoration of operations to the Port of Baltimore.
- The Governor's Executive Order directs **\$27.5 million** in assistance to support displaced workers and prevent layoffs and **\$32.5 million** in assistance to support businesses and communities impacted by the Key Bridge collapse and disruption to Port operations.
- Governor Moore's executive order establishes the temporary relief programs authorized in the PORT Act, which authorizes the Department of Commerce and the Department of Labor to establish temporary relief programs for impacted businesses and workers.
- In addition, Governor Moore is instructing other executive agencies to identify ways to supplement efforts by the relief programs that the Department of Commerce, Department of Labor, and Department of Housing and Community Development will be administering.

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<sup>1</sup> FY 2023 Port of Baltimore Annual Report.

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> Port of Baltimore Business Directory.

## What It Does

- Directs the Department of Commerce and the Department of Labor to formally establish the programs (e.g. **Port of Baltimore Emergency Business Assistance Program**, the **Port of Baltimore Worker Retention Program**, and the **Port of Baltimore Worker Support Program**) as identified by the PORT Act to allow the agencies to begin building the programs. The EO stipulates that the programs cannot be formalized until the enactment of the PORT Act.
  - **\$15 million** to provide grants up to \$100,000 to businesses directly impacted by the disruption of Port operations through the Department of Commerce;
  - **\$12.5 million** to provide grants up to \$200,000 to a Worker Retention Program to help directly impacted businesses at risk at laying off employees keep those workers on the job; and
  - **\$15 million** to provide support to Port workers who are not eligible for unemployment insurance benefits (e.g. truck drivers, warehouse workers who are independent contractors).
- Directs **\$15 million** in **Neighborhood BusinessWorks program** funds within the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide grants and low-interest loans to eligible businesses that have been impacted by a loss of revenue or an increase to costs relating to the Key Bridge collapse.
- Directs the Governor's Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs to provide technical assistance to impacted businesses seeking state and federal business assistance.
- Directs the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services to identify services and programs that may be deployed to support displaced workers and impacted businesses.
- Directs the Maryland State Department of Education to identify services and programs – including child care programs – that may be deployed to support displaced workers.
- Directs the Department of Service and Civic Innovation to identify opportunities for Maryland Corps, the Service Year Option Program, and other DSCI programs to contribute to the recovery of the Greater Baltimore region.

**Program Details**

Population	Relief Programs
<i>Businesses</i>	<p><b>DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>The Port of Baltimore Emergency Business Assistance Program</b> provides grants to eligible businesses, as defined in the PORT Act, and who rely on the use of or access to the Port and whose operations or shipments are hindered or halted entirely due to the redacted operations of the Port. In addition, eligible businesses must demonstrate economic and financial injury resulting from the disruption to the operations of the Port of Baltimore through (1) reduction in business revenue and activity or (2) increased costs to business operations. Eligible businesses may seek grants to businesses up to <b>\$100,000</b>. 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. <b>The Governor is authorizing up to <u>\$15 million</u> for this program.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &amp; COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>The Neighborhood BusinessWorks Program</b> will provide up to \$15 million for grants and loans.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The <b>Small Business Grants Program</b> will provide grants of no more than \$50,000 to eligible businesses (500 or fewer employees) that have been impacted by a loss of revenue or an increase to costs due to the Key Bridge collapse. <b>The Governor is authorizing up to \$5 million for this program.</b></li> <li>○ The <b>Business Loan Program</b> will provide loans of no more than \$500,000 to eligible businesses (500 or fewer employees) that have been impacted by a loss of revenue or an increase to costs from the Key Bridge collapse. <b>The Governor is authorizing up to \$10 million for this program.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Collectively, the Governor is authorizing up to <u>\$15 million</u> to fund these two programs.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Workers**

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

- **The Port of Baltimore Worker Retention Program** provides grants to eligible businesses, as defined by the PORT Act, who have demonstrated economic and financial injury and risk of layoffs to employees resulting from the disruption to the operations of the Port of Baltimore through (1) reduction in business revenue and activity and (2) increased costs to business operations. Eligible businesses may seek grants up to **\$200,000**. **The Governor is authorizing up to \$12.5 million to fund this program.**
- **The Port of Baltimore Worker Support Program** provides temporary support to eligible workers impacted by the disruption of operations to the Port of Baltimore as defined by the PORT Act. The program provides temporary financial support to workers who work regularly at the Port and are ineligible for unemployment insurance benefits, including independent contractors. **The Governor is authorizing up to \$15 million to fund this program.**