

On Thursday, December 10th Governor Hogan, joined by Commerce Secretary Kelly Schulz and Housing and Community Development Secretary Ken Holt, announced additional State health and economic relief initiatives. No additional restrictions were announced by the Governor. However, please note that individual County Executives (Anne Arundel, Prince George's and Montgomery Counties and Baltimore City) have announced additional restrictions.

The Governor announced that, in addition to this \$500 million previously provided in economic relief funds, the State will forgive the \$75 million in emergency loans provided under the Department of Commerce in March to businesses. The State will convert these loans to grants.

The Governor also issued an Executive Order - "*Protecting Maryland Businesses from Sudden Increases in Unemployment Taxes*" to prevent small businesses from facing major increases in their unemployment taxes by excluding the 2020 fiscal year from the calculation. It prevents Maryland's contributory employers from having their experience rating negatively impacted because they had to lay off or furlough employees due to the economic impact of COVID.

Additional State funding will be provided to address affordable housing and stimulate job creation:

- \$25 million in tax credits will be provided for affordable housing projects which will result in 2000 additional affordable housing units.
- \$12 million will be provided to the Rental Housing Works Program which will incentive new projects and additional jobs.

Governor Hogan encouraged the local jurisdictions to match the State relief revenues and to use their federal CARES funds before the end of the year.

In addition to the business relief efforts outlined above, the Governor also announced that the State would be investing in health and community support programs.

- \$94 million in grants and investments will be made to enhance the State's commitment to address the prevention and treatment of diabetes which including \$86.3 million in HSCRC grants and \$6.6 million from CareFirst who will be working with the Local Health Improvement Coalitions (LHIC) to address economic barriers to diabetes care.
- \$10 million will be provided to a variety of law enforcement services, youth services, and victim services to enhance prevention and support of these populations through existing and newly created community programs.

[Press Release](#)

[Department of Labor Statement on the Executive Order:](#)