



Port of Baltimore Worker Retention Program



The Port of Baltimore Worker Retention Program provides grants to businesses and other eligible entities that the reduced operations at the Port have negatively impacted due to the Francis Scott Key bridge collapse. The goal of the program is to minimize or eliminate the need for layoffs by enabling impacted businesses to retain their employees until the Port fully reopens.

What is the Port of Baltimore Worker Retention Program?

The Port of Baltimore Worker Retention Program provides grants for eligible businesses and other eligible entities that have lost revenue and work due to the reduction of Port operations to keep workers on the job and avert layoffs.

Who is eligible for the program?

Eligible applicants are Maryland-based small businesses with fewer than 500 Maryland workers, labor unions, trade associations, or companies that contract with or are members of a trade association who rely on access to the private and public marine terminals at the Port, and whose activities are hindered or halted entirely due to reduced Port operations.

Examples include organizations that are:

- ◀ Located directly on the Port of Baltimore
- ◀ Rail
- ◀ Terminal operator
- ◀ Liquid storage terminal operation
- ◀ Auto terminal operator
- ◀ Labor union
- ◀ "Roll on roll off" terminal operator
- ◀ Warehousing and logistics operation
- ◀ Manufacturer
- ◀ Any other type of organization that can reasonably demonstrate negative business impacts due to the temporary Port reductions

How much money can my business receive?

Eligible applicants can receive up to \$200,000 with a maximum expenditure of \$7,500 spent per worker.

What can funds be used for?

- ◀ Wages, including wages connected to the Maryland Work Sharing Unemployment Insurance Program
- ◀ Supportive services including transportation allowances, childcare or dependent care costs, housing costs, and mental health services
- ◀ Training to upskill employees to support business operations or Port cleanup/rebuilding
- ◀ Anything else deemed allowable by MD Labor

Does my business have to pay any of the money back?

Participating employers who use the money as prescribed do not have to return any funds, except in cases where a grantee receives an award from insurance or other claim related to the bridge collapse and reduction in Port operations. The PORT Act, the policy, and the grant agreement provide more details. If money is used for unallowable expenses, the state will need to be reimbursed for those costs.

How do I apply?

The application can be found here, and Labor will accept applications on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted.

For more information on this Grant Program, including a more in-depth FAQ and How to Apply

Visit <https://labor.maryland.gov/keybridgeresources/portworkerretention.shtml>



The Port of Baltimore Worker Retention Program total funds are \$12.5 million. Out of the total, \$2.5 million (20%) is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). \$10 million (80%) is funded via the PORT Act and Maryland's stabilization or rainy day fund.