



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

Upcoming Events



New Partnership to Expand Availability of PPP Loans in Baltimore

The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) and the Neighborhood Impact Investment Fund (NIIF) have entered into a partnership with Opportunity Fund to expand the availability of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) forgivable loans to Baltimore's small businesses, sole-proprietors, and independent contractors.

Opportunity Fund is the nation's largest non-profit, small business micro-lender, with a 25-year track record of financing underserved small businesses, focusing on entrepreneurs of color and low-to-moderate income borrowers. With capital from NIIF and application assistance from BDC and our community partners, Opportunity Fund is now offering PPP support to eligible businesses in Baltimore.

If your business is located in Baltimore City and did NOT receive a PPP loan in 2020, you can now apply for a first PPP loan through Opportunity Fund's online application portal by clicking [HERE](#).

While all small businesses are encouraged to apply, Opportunity Fund is focused on providing PPP access to the smallest businesses, especially sole proprietors, those without banking relationships, and those who missed out on the first round of PPP.

In the first round, Opportunity Fund issued over 1,000 PPP loans with an average loan size of less than \$15,000, and they work with all their borrowers to help them qualify for full loan forgiveness. Opportunity Fund does not have a minimum PPP loan amount.

If your business received a PPP loan previously and you are interested in a "second draw" loan, it will likely be easiest to apply for more funds through your original lender. However, if your original lender is not accepting second draw applications or you prefer to apply with Opportunity Fund, you may apply at the same application portal.

The last day to submit an application is March 31, 2021, but time is of the essence and Opportunity Fund recommends applying by mid-March to allow for processing time. They will be reviewing applications as soon as they are complete and submitted. You may also contact Opportunity Fund by email at pppteam@opportunityfund.org or call (866)714-1626.

Applicants can request technical assistance, including language assistance, from BDC and community partners at <https://www.baltimoretogether.com/technical-assistance-form>.

Paycheck Protection Program Now Extended to May31!

The [U.S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#), in consultation with the Treasury Department, announced today that the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) will re-open the week of January 11 for new borrowers and certain existing PPP borrowers. To promote access to capital, initially only community financial institutions will be able to make First Draw PPP Loans on Monday, January 11, and Second Draw PPP Loans on Wednesday, January 13. The PPP will open to all participating lenders shortly thereafter. Updated PPP guidance outlining Program changes to enhance its effectiveness and accessibility was released on January 6 in accordance with the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Non-Profits, and Venues Act.

LEDC's PPP application portal is now live! You can access it here:
<https://www.ledcmetro.org/sbapp>

To view participating lenders, click [here](#)

The new guidance released includes:

- [PPP Guidance from SBA Administrator Carranza on Accessing Capital for Minority, Underserved, Veteran, and Women-owned Business Concerns](#);
- [Interim Final Rule on Paycheck Protection Program as Amended by Economic Aid Act](#); and
- [Interim Final Rule on Second Draw PPP Loans](#).

For more information on SBA's assistance to small businesses, visit sba.gov/ppp or treasury.gov/cares.

BGE Energizing Small Business Grants Program

On January 20, BGE will launch its Energizing Small Business Grants Program as part of its \$15 million pledge to assist small businesses with COVID-19 relief and recovery. This is a component of BGE's comprehensive Customer Relief and Energy Infrastructure Investment Plan, designed to help the state's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through the [BGE Energizing Small Business Grants Program](#), eligible businesses located in BGE's service area will have three opportunities to apply for grants of up to \$20,000:

- Round 1: January 20 - March 3, 2021
- Round 2: May 5 - June 16, 2021
- Round 3: September 1 - October 13, 2021

To be eligible, a business must have between two and 25 employees, less than \$7 million in annual revenue, a demonstrated need for support, a strong plan for moving forward, and be in good standing with the state of Maryland.

For more information contact Allyson Black, Manager, State Affairs and Economic Development, BGE Allyson.Black@bge.com 410.269.5286

Entrepreneurship Matters: Zoom Webinar hosted by Johns Hopkins University, Johns Hopkins Health System, HpokinsLocal, and Mayor's Office of Small, Minority and Women Business
Thursday, April 8, 2021
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Please join us as up and coming and established entrepreneurs share their stories.

Moderator:

Alicia Wilson, Vice President - Office of Economic Development for the Johns Hopkins University and Johns Hopkins Health System

Entrepreneurs:

Sunni Gilliam, Teavolve Cafe
Brittany Wight, Wight Tea Company

Zoom Webinar: <https://jh.zoom.us/join>
Zoom Webinar ID: 933 9455 1261
Streaming Live on Facebook at JHConnects

Economic Update
Key Resources & Relief for Maryland hosted by Baltimore City Chamber of Commerce and the Maryland Office of the Comptroller
Small and Minority Business Policy
Thursday, April 8, 2021
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Join this event to participate in a discussion with Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot. With all the economic stimulus that's available and Peter Franchot running for Governor, this is a must attend for any business owner in Maryland. Get your questions answered about what Maryland is doing for business owners!

To view flier click [here](#)

To register, click [here](#)

**MBE/DBE/ACDBE/SBE Application Assistance Webinar hosted by Maryland
Department of Transportation (MDOT) Office of
Small and Minority Business Policy
Tuesday, April 6, 2021
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

MDOT's Office of Small, Minority and Business Policy conducts this free monthly webinar for firms interested in applying for certification as a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE) and/or Small Business Enterprise (SBE). Learn the benefits of certification, the application process, eligibility standards, as well as business development and marketing tips.

If you have any questions, please email mdotmbeoutreach@mdot.maryland.gov As soon as registration information is provided, it will be made available.

**2021 State of Downtown Baltimore, In Conversation With Richard Florida:
hosted by Downtown Partnership and
Gallagher, Evelius & Jones
Tuesday, April 13, 2021
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

Downtown Partnership President Shelonda Stokes will look back on the wins and losses that shaped 2020 and explore what post-pandemic recovery looks like for Downtown with renowned urbanist and thought leader on the sustainability of America's cities, **Richard Florida**. The event will also feature guest appearances by Mayor Brandon Scott, City Councilman Eric Costello, and more.

NETWORKING

Following the event, we're hosting a networking session, taking place in Zoom breakout rooms. Don't miss this opportunity to meet and interact with fellow business leaders.

AGENDA

8:30 – 8:35 AM | Virtual walk-in

8:35 - 8:40 AM | Opening remarks and introductions

8:40 – 8:45 AM | Review of 2021 State of Downtown Report

8:45 – 9:15 AM | Presentation: **Richard Florida**

9:15 – 9:25 AM | Q&A

9:15 – 9:25 AM | Closing remarks

9:30 – 10:00 AM | Networking. *After the program, all attendees will be able to enter and exit any of the Zoom Breakout Rooms at any time.*

ACCESSING THE EVENT

To register, click [here](#)

We will email you your log-in credentials on the evening before the event AND ALSO on the morning of the event.

If you have any questions, or if you are interested in sponsorship opportunities, please email us at jhoneycutt@dpob.org

MBE/DBE/ACDBE/SBE Application Assistance Webinar hosted by Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Office of Small and Minority Business Policy

**Tuesday, May 4, 2021
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

MDOT's Office of Small, Minority and Business Policy conducts this free monthly webinar for firms interested in applying for certification as a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE) and/or Small Business Enterprise (SBE). Learn the benefits of certification, the application process, eligibility standards, as well as business development and marketing tips.

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18th Annual Spring Breakfast Salute to COVID-19 Heroes/ Business Matchmaking Meetings

**Thursday, May 13, 2021 - Friday, May 14, 2021
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Join MWMCA to salute 10 leading corporate firms and government agencies that have demonstrated a continued commitment to assisting small, minority and women

owned firms during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, attendees can participate in Business Matchmaking Meetings and meet 50+ hosts representing prime construction, healthcare, utilities, education, government and more to learn how to do business with prime companies, government agencies and learn more information about Minority/Women-Owned Business Certifications.

To view flier, click [here](#)

To view the 2021 Honoree List, click [here](#)

For sponsorship application, click [here](#)

For sponsorship package, click [here](#)

For more information contact MWMCA by phone 443-759-8580 or email events@mwmca.org Use "Salute to COVID-19 Heroes" as the subject when contacting via email.

SAVE THE DATE!!!
66th Virtual Annual Meeting presented by the Greater Baltimore Committee
Thursday, May 18, 2021
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Join the Greater Baltimore Committee for its 66th Annual Meeting, the state's premier business event of the year.

- Celebrate the work of the GBC since the 2020 Annual Meeting.
- Learn about priorities and goals of the GBC for the remainder of the year.
- Hear from GBC President and CEO Donald Fry and GBC Board Chair Calvin Butler on the state of the GBC.

To register, click [here](#)

A personal, one-time link to join the livestream will be sent out via email to all registrants the evening of May 17.

(If you do not receive your link by 8 a.m., May 18, please contact Karen Parrish at karenp@gbc.org.)

**MBE/DBE/ACDBE/SBE Application Assistance Webinar hosted by Maryland
Department of Transportation (MDOT) Office of
Small and Minority Business Policy
Tuesday, June 1, 2021
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

MDOT's Office of Small, Minority and Business Policy conducts this free monthly webinar for firms interested in applying for certification as a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE) and/or Small Business Enterprise (SBE). Learn the benefits of certification, the application process, eligibility standards, as well as business development and marketing tips.

If you have any questions, please email mdotmbeoutreach@mdot.maryland.gov. As soon as registration information is provided, it will be made available.

**MBE/DBE/ACDBE/SBE Application Assistance Webinar hosted by Maryland
Department of Transportation (MDOT) Office of
Small and Minority Business Policy
Tuesday, June 1, 2021
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

MDOT's Office of Small, Minority and Business Policy conducts this free monthly webinar for firms interested in applying for certification as a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE) and/or Small Business Enterprise (SBE). Learn the benefits of certification, the application process, eligibility standards, as well as business development and marketing tips.

If you have any questions, please email mdotmbeoutreach@mdot.maryland.gov. As soon as registration information is provided, it will be made available.

Workshops

To view a list of the upcoming workshops and events hosted by the Small Business Resource Center, click [here](#)