

# BALTIMORE CITY COVID-19 SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE



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## Mayor's Covid-19 Small Business Task Force



Mayor Bernard C. "Jack" Young has established a COVID-19 Small Business Task Force, a public-private partnership, which is supported by the Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC). The purpose of this initiative is to provide assistance to small businesses with resources and guidelines to help businesses reopen once they are able to without compromising public health.

This task force is comprised mostly of stakeholders participating in Baltimore Together, which is an initiative to develop a comprehensive economic development strategy for Baltimore City and led by BDC. Baltimore Together is shaped by a wide range of stakeholders focused on coordinating and leveraging resources to support a common vision of inclusive economic growth, with specific goals, actions and metrics, which now includes challenges businesses are facing and will face as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

## \$5.5 Million Fund to Provide Assistance to Small Businesses

Mayor Bernard C. "Jack" Young and the City of Baltimore have created a \$5.5 million fund to provide financial assistance to small businesses and support initiatives to help businesses reopen, once it is safe to do so. The fund will be allocated in the following manner:

### Manufacturing and Procurement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

As an expansion of BDC and Made In Baltimore's initial grant program, \$500,000 will be allocated to provide grants to Baltimore makers and manufacturers producing PPE and for the city to purchase PPE from these manufacturers for our first responders.

### Neighborhood Business Reopening Initiative

BDC will oversee efforts to develop and implement designs to reconfigure public right of way and public spaces to maximize outdoor seating and other business needs to provide ways to create more social distancing in Main Streets, and Retail Business License Districts (RBDLs) and certain commercial districts. This \$1.5 million initiative may include the use of parklets, public information graphics & signage, and design elements to encourage people to patronize local businesses in a manner consistent with public health best practices.

### Small Business Assistance Fund

BDC will administer a \$3.5 million grant fund on behalf of Baltimore City to provide financial assistance to small business enterprises (SBE) in certain commercial areas. Businesses may apply for up to \$15,000 in grants for expenses such as rent, payroll and purchase of PPE that may be necessary as they plan to reopen. A portion of this fund will be set aside for businesses, which have been unable to qualify for federal aid. SBEs will be required to complete an application to request funding and provide necessary documentation. More information on how to apply will be available on [www.BaltimoreTogether.com](http://www.BaltimoreTogether.com) by May 4.