



The Greater Ocean City, Maryland  
Chamber of Commerce

# Things You Need to Know This Week

## Member Notice

### **Biden Allowed Trump-Era Visa Restrictions to Expire**

As of midnight last night on March 31, President Biden allowed the Trump-era visa restrictions to expire. The policy barred those seeking to come to the U.S. under a number of visa categories from entering the country, arguing that the impact of COVID-19 on the economy required limiting foreign workers.

The next step is to call upon U.S. Consulates around the world to create safe ways to interview and issue visas to Exchange Visitors in a timely manner. This is great news for the future of BridgeUSA Exchange Programs.

[Link to full article in The Hill](#)

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### **Governor Hogan, President Ferguson, Speaker Jones Announce Bipartisan Agreement for American Rescue Plan Funding**

The State of Maryland expects to receive \$3.9 billion in federal funding through the American Rescue Plan Act. Important to note is that \$1.1 billion in federal funding will be dedicated to shoring up the state's Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund (UITF) to help stabilize unemployment insurance tax rates for businesses for calendar years 2022 and 2023.

### **[Read the full press release](#)**

Earlier this week prior to the announcement, the OC Chamber sent a letter to Governor Hogan, President Ferguson and Speaker Jones urging to allocate a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act funds to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund (UITF) in Maryland.

### **[Read the OC Chamber Letter Urging Maryland Leaders to Allocate Funds to UITF](#)**

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### **PPP Application Deadline Extended Two Months to May 31, 2021**

Legislation extending the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) was passed and will soon be signed into law. The bill extends the PPP application deadline by two months to May 31, 2021 and provides an additional 30 days after May 31, 2021 for the Small Business Administration (SBA) to process pending applications.

### **[Find More Details about PPP on SBA Website](#)**

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### **Maryland Department of Commerce Accepting Applications for Relief Act Programs Through April 6, 2021**

The Relief Act of 2021 includes more than \$1 billion in tax relief and economic stimulus for struggling families and small businesses who are suffering as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Maryland Department of Commerce expects to accept applications for new Relief Act funding through April 6, 2021. Funding is extremely limited and may ultimately result in approval on a first-come, first-served basis.

### **[Small Business COVID-19 RELIEF Grant Program](#)**

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## **SBA to Open Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Program on April 8**

The U.S. Small Business Administration is opening the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Program on April 8. [Sign up for alerts](#)

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## **Apply for the Agriculture and Rural Rebuild Challenge (ARR)**

The Agriculture and Rural Rebuild Challenge (ARR) was created to assist Maryland's rural and agricultural businesses that have been detrimentally impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic downturn. The ARR Challenge will specifically fund technology-empowered initiatives that will help our rural and agricultural businesses recover and rebuild from the current economic crisis. The ARR Challenge also encourages purposeful collaboration between rural businesses, research institutions and industry partners. The deadline to apply is April 30, 2021.

[Learn More and Apply for the ARR Challenge](#)

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Please contact the Chamber for additional information  
(410) 213-0144 | [mychamber@oceancity.org](mailto:mychamber@oceancity.org) | [www.oceancity.org](http://www.oceancity.org)