

# *Media Advisory*

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## **Maryland United for COVID Relief NOW Coalition to Hold Virtual News Conference**

*Senator Cardin, Comptroller Franchot, Montgomery  
County Council*

*President Hucker join community leaders, business  
owners, and local elected leaders in pushing for Maryland  
Stimulus*

**WHO:** Comptroller Peter Franchot

**WHAT:** Annapolis, MD via Zoom – Today, Dec. 23, at 12:30 p.m, Maryland elected and community leaders will launch a statewide effort to call on Gov. Larry Hogan to release additional funds for financial relief for Maryland's struggling families and small businesses.

The virtual event will feature remarks from people facing eviction and food insecurity; business owners facing possible permanent closure and layoffs; a federal update on the second stimulus package from Senator Ben Cardin; and more.

Speakers include:

- Comptroller Peter Franchot
- U.S. Senator Ben Cardin
- Willie Flowers, President, NAACP - Maryland Conference of Branches
- Aje Hill, CEO and President, [I Believe In Me, Inc.](#), Frederick

- Jen Vanli, tenant, resident of Gaithersburg, member of CASA
- Mike Dunn, President and CEO of Greater Salisbury Committee
- Brian Holtslander, Firefighter & Paramedic, Anne Arundel County Fire Department
- Eddie Wingrat, Owner of Flowers & Fancies, Owings Mills, Md.
- Lakeisa Battle, Southern Peach BBQ and Soul Food, Suitland, Md.
- Montgomery County Council President Tom Hucker
- Prince George's County Council Chair Calvin Hawkins
- Baltimore City Council President Nick Mosby
- Anne Arundel County Council President Sarah Lacey
- Frederick County Councilmember Kai Hagen

Last week, Congress removed much-needed funding to state and local governments from the bipartisan aid bill that was approved on Monday evening. In the spring, Maryland and local governments received \$2.3 billion from the Coronavirus Relief Fund through the *CARES Act*, which proved to be critical in assisting with budget shortfalls and expenditures related to jurisdictions' COVID-19 public health and economic initiatives.

Currently, the State of Maryland has more than \$1.5 billion in its reserves; \$586 million from its FY 2020 General Fund Balance and more than \$928 million in its Rainy Day Fund - a dedicated fund that state lawmakers and governors have diligently protected to help Maryland navigate economic recessions.

Presenters will underscore the severity of the economic crisis impacting Marylanders and small businesses and the need for Maryland to use any balance from its *CARES Act* funding and the State's reserves to supplement the stimulus package passed by Congress earlier this week.

**WHEN:** Today, December 23, 2020  
12:30 PM

**WHERE:** To attend the virtual LIVE press conference, visit the **Zoom Registration Link:**  
[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_6w0DBev6TO2r26rEu47T](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6w0DBev6TO2r26rEu47T)



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