

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Key Bridge Business Recovery Program Launched to Support Local Enterprises

**BELTSVILLE, MD, April 1, 2025** -- The Capital Region Minority Supplier Development Council has launched an initiative aimed at empowering and fostering economic resilience for businesses affected by the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge. The **Key Bridge Business Recovery Program** is part of Governor Wes Moore's Maryland Tough, Baltimore Strong program to address the economic challenges that businesses face in the aftermath of this tragic incident. Funded by the Baltimore Community Foundation, CRMSDC will oversee a two-year project to support 100 small businesses within a 5–10-mile radius of the iconic Key Bridge. Communities in Baltimore City, Southeast Baltimore County, and Northern Anne Arundel County are included in the project.

### Supporting Local Business Growth

The Key Bridge Business Recovery Program aims to tackle the critical challenges that small business owners face in the region. By providing access to capital, expert training, and networking opportunities, the program strives to establish a foundation for quicker recovery from revenue losses, supply chain disruptions, and other obstacles, guiding these businesses toward long-term success.

**“Small businesses are the backbone of our local economy, and the Key Bridge Business Recovery Program represents a direct investment in their future,”** said Sharon R. Pinder, President and CEO of CRMSDC. **“Through this initiative, we provide not only resources but also foster a collaborative community where businesses can learn, grow, and thrive together.”**

### Comprehensive Support Framework

The program offers a comprehensive support framework, including access to capital, expert-led training, technical assistance, and peer-to-peer learning. A dedicated support team will assess each business's specific needs and provide tailored resources and development opportunities such as workshops and mentoring. Businesses will also be connected to financing options to help sustain operations and drive long-term growth.

### Join the Program

Applications open April 7, 2025. Eligible businesses within the targeted area are encouraged to apply and take advantage of this opportunity to rebuild more strongly.

To learn more or apply, visit [crmsdc.org/keybridge](https://crmsdc.org/keybridge) and complete the client intake and assessment forms. For questions, contact Renee Sandford at 301-788-9901 or email [keybridge@crmsdc.org](mailto:keybridge@crmsdc.org).

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**The Capital Region Minority Supplier Development Council (CRMSDC) ([www.crmsdc.org](http://www.crmsdc.org))** was established in 1972. It is one of 23 regional affiliates of the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC). CRMSDC's mission is to certify, connect, develop, and advocate for minority-owned businesses and connect them to its corporate member's supply chains across the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Northern Virginia. CRMSDC is the operator of the U.S. Department of Commerce Virginia MBDA Business Center and Capital Readiness Program.

The Washington Business Journal has recognized The Capital Region Minority Supplier Development Council (ranked #11) as one of the Top 30 Largest Business Advocacy Groups in Greater Washington, DC region.

**CRMSDC is committed to fostering economic development and creating opportunities for growth for all small businesses in local communities.**