



Port of Baltimore Worker Retention Program / Worker Support Program Interaction FAQs for Grant Recipients

1. What is the Port of Baltimore Worker Support Program?

The Port of Baltimore Worker Support Program (“Worker Support Program”) issues temporary weekly payments to eligible Port workers experiencing a reduction in pay as a result of reduced operations at the Port. Only workers who are experiencing a reduction in pay compared to pre-March 26th levels are eligible for a Worker Support Program payment.

2. My business received a Worker Retention Program grant. I have workers who also received Worker Support Program payments. Does this jeopardize my businesses’ Worker Retention Program grant?

Not necessarily. Since these two programs are not meant to provide duplicative payments, the Department is cross-checking Worker Support Program (WSP) applications against Worker Retention Program (WRP) grant recipients. Just because some of your workers have applied for WSP does not necessarily jeopardize a WRP grant. However, the Department will check to confirm that WRP companies are fulfilling the requirements of the grant, including retaining workers who benefit from grant funding for at least 60 days after the reduction of operations of the Port, at the same hours, pay rate, and benefits as before the reduction of operations, to the extent practicable.

3. If my business received a Worker Retention Program grant, does this make my workers ineligible for Worker Support Program payments?

Maybe. Workers may be ineligible for additional WSP payment if the business they work for received a WRP grant and the worker has been identified by the business as benefitting from WRP grant funds. Under the WRP, Port businesses that receive grants agree to provide workers the same hours, rates of pay, and benefits that were in effect before the Port reduced operations. Only workers experiencing reduced pay compared to pre-March 26th levels are eligible for a WSP payment.



4. I am confused by the “Confirmation of Workers Retained” email I received. How do I complete this form?

A “*Confirmation of Workers Retained Notice*” is used to help verify the eligibility of workers to receive Worker Support Payments. As a recipient of a Worker Retention Program grant, businesses are required to respond to requests for additional information which includes this notice.

For each worker listed, please complete the following for each week listed on the form:

- If the listed worker was kept on at hours, pay, and benefits at the same rate they received prior to March 26th, please check the box for each worker listed for each week in which this applies.
- If the worker is receiving less than the rate of hours, pay, and benefits they would have received prior to March 26th, do not check their name and indicate the reason why in the “Notes” section. For example, if they are not able to earn overtime hours because work has not returned to pre-March 26th levels, please indicate this. There may be extenuating circumstances that apply, checking these boxes does not mean an employer will automatically be disqualified for or lose their grant.

5. What constitutes "reduced hours?"

We understand that pay and hours can fluctuate even when the Port of Baltimore is fully operational. Please make a good faith estimate when identifying if a worker's current pay, hours, and benefits are less than they were before March 26th.