



## Press Release-

April 1, 2014

The Somerset County Economic Development Commission has hired Project Manager, Dee Savarese, who will assist with Hurricane Sandy Economic Recovery efforts. In her role, she will help local businesses identify needs and obtain assistance to recover from storm damage. The hurricane economic recovery efforts will help aid the revitalization of the community and foster business retention and expansion. In all, there is approximately \$1 million dollars earmarked specifically for these activities.

*"Somerset County and the EDC have worked patiently with the State to meet all requirements imposed by the federal government for this funding and are ready to implement activities to assist businesses in their recovery efforts," said Cindy Stone, Director of the Office of Community Programs, at the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development.*

Businesses in Somerset County that were negatively impacted by Hurricane Sandy may now begin applying for financial assistance received by Somerset County through the State of Maryland's Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program. This assistance is available for the entire County, especially those areas significantly impacted such as Crisfield, Fairmount, Deal Island and other waterfront areas.

*"These much needed funds will certainly provide a boost to our commercial watermen and businesses alike" said Ralph Taylor, Somerset County Administrator.*

Assistance will include grants for watermen with commercial fishing licenses for equipment loss, façade improvements to building's exterior, and loans for working capital / equipment or inventory loss, interior renovations to businesses as well. It is important to note that assistance will be available to those who qualify under economic requirements as imposed by the Hurricane Sandy Economic Recovery Program.

*"Collaborative efforts with the public and private sector is what enhances the local business communities and encourages economic growth / revitalization" said Danny Thompson, Executive Director of the Somerset County Economic Development Commission.*

For those businesses that are not eligible for the Hurricane Sandy Economic Recovery Program, information about other possible assistance from various organizations will be provided.

To learn more about the funding availability and requirements, please contact:

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# HURRICANE SANDY ECONOMIC RECOVERY