

Press Release- April 11, 2022: The application period is open for the Virginia's 2022 Seafood Processors Pandemic Response and Safety Block Grant Program:

The open application period for the Virginia 2022 Seafood Processors Pandemic Response and Safety Block Grant Program begins today, April 11, 2022 and will continue through May 27, 2022. Applications can be submitted online at <https://mrc.virginia.gov/Notices/2021/VMRC-COVID-19-DISASTER-RELIEF.shtm>.

This program is intended to help defray costs incurred by seafood processing facilities and processing vessels preparing for, preventing exposure to, and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. This program is funded by the Pandemic Assistance provided in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. Expected beneficiaries include seafood processing facilities and vessels, including at-sea processors or dealers. Processor is defined as the owner, operator, dealer, or agent responsible for any activity that changes the physical condition of a fisheries resource suitable for human consumption, retail sale, industrial uses, or long-term storage, including cooking, canning, smoking, salting, drying, shucking, filleting, freezing, or rendering into meal or oil. Any owner, operator, dealer, or agent exclusively gutting, gilling, heading, or icing seafood without performing any of the above activities is not considered a processor. Activities eligible for reimbursement include workplace safety measures, market pivots, retrofitting facilities, transportation, worker housing, and medical activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For additional questions, please contact the VMRC at covid19relief@mrc.virginia.gov or by calling 757.247.2200, option 5.