**Expenditures for Excess CARES Act Funds**

These are the recommendations from the Amplify Task force.

1. A minimum of $5,000 inFinancial assistance to firms not qualifiying for PPP, Payroll Protection Program
2. Stae Purchasing of PPE (personal Protective equipment) supplies be done through state purchasing and center would work collaboratively with agencies to distribute
3. Cleaning, sanitation via fogging and other methods to be provided at state cost to any business facilities where persons have tested positive,

**The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA),** a part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, is the lead Federal Government provider servicinng America’s growing minority business enterprise (MBE) community, regardless of size.Through the the MBDA Business Center, MBEs are better equipped to create jobs, contribute to local economies, bring innovative technologies to the global marketplace. Through a cooperative agreement with MBDA, the MBDA Business Center — Columbia, SC

promotes the growth and expansion of South Carolina’s minority-owned businesses.

Its services and strategies are designed to increase capital and contracting

opportunities for its clients/customers, as well as help create new jobs in South

Carolina’s communities.

**The MBDA Business Center Cares Act Program** SC Cares Program initiated assistance to small and minority firms, in March 2020, in the wake of the Governors of South Carolina and North Carolina issuing disaster and executive orders, shuttering the economies. Both demand and interest in CARES programs of all types and its financial assistance programs to businesses via the PPP and EIDL were very high. There were over 170 contacts/inquires received. A total of 112 PPP applications were completed, for a total dollar value of $6,921, 526, (Six million, nine-hundred twenty-one, Five hundred twenty-six).

To assess the total number and type of impacts on small and minority businesses in the Carolinas, this project created three things:

1. The Amplify Task Force, of the Carolinas is a volunteer-driven initiative that conceptualizes, promotes, represents, and advocates for minority economic development during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond as well as to examine impact, strategies and recommendations to help minority business rebound and rise;
	1. An interactive, real-time website <https://www.mbdacovid19project.com/>
	2. A comprehensive business survey designed to determine how distressed, rural and urban areas are coping. This survey has been distributed directly to all small and minority firms in the MBDA Business Center database, as well as to industry, public, larger businesses and specialists in economic development who form the Amplify task force.