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New Maryland Business Express Nominated for National Technology Award
Vote Now for StateScoop 50 Awards' "State IT Innovation of the Year"

The new Maryland Business Express website has been nominated for State Scoop 50 Awards' "State IT Innovation of the Year," which recognizes technology that makes state government more efficient and effective. By combining information previously spread across many state agencies into this one site, Maryland Business Express has made it easier than ever for Marylanders to plan, start, manage, and grow their business. It also features a first-of-its-kind digital business assistant that is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, allowing business owners and entrepreneurs to interact with the state any time it is convenient for them.

Vote for Maryland Business Express to win State IT Innovation of the Year now!

Voting is unlimited, so you can vote as many times as you would like for Maryland Business Express before the deadline on April 10th.

The new Maryland Business Express was recently unveiled at Governor Larry Hogan's Southern Maryland Regional Cabinet Meeting by Director of the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT), Michael Higgs.

"Our Department is absolutely thrilled that the new Maryland Business Express has been nominated for StateScoop's 'State IT Innovation of the Year' award," said SDAT Director Michael Higgs. "This inter-agency collaboration is breaking down government silos and helping small businesses continue to thrive in Maryland."

In addition to being nominated for this award, the site has also received very positive feedback from Maryland business owners and other stakeholders across the country, including:

> "Thank you so much for this website!! I want to start a business but have recently been so depressed about finding information... But I've found more info here today than all over in the last month."

> "This is very helpful when we have customers that come in and don't know where to go to start their business. It's all in one place and makes it easy."

Through its partnership with NIC Maryland, SDAT has focused on making government services more accessible to Maryland businesses by increasing the number of services that are offered online. These initiatives have dramatically decreased processing times and have allowed customers to interact with government when it is convenient for them. In fact, more than 50 percent of documents are now filed online with 40 percent of those occurring outside of normal business hours, and 20 percent being done through a mobile device.

The new Maryland Business Express is continuing to increase access to government services while introducing many innovative features, earning it a nomination for StateScoop 50 Awards' State IT Innovation of the Year. SDAT's UCC Electronic Filing & Search portal won this award in 2016, and other online services have been recognized as "next-generation, best-of-breed digital government solutions."

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