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PRESS RELEASE

County Commissioners Launch Round 2 of Small Businesses/Non-Profit Organizations/Agricultural Businesses CARES Act Grants

Program aimed at helping businesses and non-profits hit by pandemic

JEFFERSON, OH (October 23, 2020) – Ashtabula County Commissioners have launched Round 2 of ReSTART ASHTABULA COUNTY - a \$500,000 grant program targeted at helping small businesses and non-profit organizations impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. It will award up to \$10,000 to small businesses who qualify for the program and requests from non-profit organizations will be considered on a case by case basis.

“The pandemic has certainly had a significant impact on our small businesses and nonprofit organizations here in Ashtabula County and it has negatively affected our local economy,” said Casey Kozlowski, President of the Ashtabula County Commissioners. “With this second round of grants it is our desire to help many more in our community that need assistance to get through this time.”

Ashtabula County Commissioners received nearly \$5.1 million in funding from the CARES Act and Ohio House Bill 481 for necessary expenditures incurred due to COVID-19. Eligible expenditures include medical expenses, payroll expenses for employees who are “substantially dedicated” to responding to COVID-19, actions to facilitate compliance with public health measures, expenses reasonably necessary to the function of government, and a provision of economic support to the community.

“I encourage our small business owners, members of our agricultural community and our many non-profits to apply immediately so they can get the help they need to recover from this pandemic,” said Commissioner Kathryn Whittington. “So many in our community have sacrificed to protect the health of our citizens and now it’s our turn to help them.”

To qualify for the grant program, small businesses and agricultural businesses must:

- Be locally owned and operated in Ashtabula County and been in operation prior to February 15, 2020
- Demonstrate a negative impact and revenue loss of 15% or more as a result of COVID-19
- Have more at least one but fewer than 25 full-time equivalent employees
- Be current on all state, federal and local taxes
- Annual gross receipts of less than \$2,000,000

To qualify for the grant program, non-profit organizations must:

- Have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic that began March 15, 2020. The impacts may include loss of employees, loss of revenue, and/or necessary PPE purchases or capital improvements required to meet new health guidelines as a result of the pandemic.
- Be located in Ashtabula County and had to be in operation prior to February 15, 2020.
- Have fewer than fifty (50) full-time equivalent employees as of March 15, 2020.
- Annual gross receipts of organization must be less than \$2,000,000.

“Small businesses and the many non-profit organizations in Ashtabula County are the backbone of our local economy and make a positive impact in the community that we call home,” said Commissioner J.P. Ducro IV. “They add vibrancy and culture to our communities and provide employment opportunities for many of our citizens.”

Small business grant applications are available starting October 23, 2020 and must be submitted by November 30, 2020. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. The application is available on-line at www.ashtabulacounty.us/RESTART

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