

Dear Members,

It's been a while since I have sent out one of my lengthy updates – but there is a lot happening, so it is time. Read on for important opportunities and things you should know:

Richland County COVID-19 Small Business Emergency Relief Grant Fund – ROUND 2

Thanks to a fresh infusion of funds from the Richland County Commissioners, tomorrow morning – Wednesday, October 28, 2020 – at 9am we're opening a 2nd Round of grants for businesses in Richland County – we have \$675,000 currently. **We've made some changes** from the first round, here are the highlights:

- Businesses can have 40 FTE's or less (part-time count as a ½ employee)
- Businesses can have up to \$4M in 2019 revenues
- Businesses must have been *in operation on February 28, 2020* or prior
- We *removed* the real estate restriction, the pass-through restriction, the 'main income' for sole proprietors' restriction and others.
- *Certain types of non-profits* qualify (501c4, 501c6, 501c7, 501c19, 501c23)
 - Note: 501c3 non-profits – we are doing a separate grant round for you which will launch very soon.
- If your business received funding in Round 1, you are not eligible to apply in Round 2.

The maximum grant amounts are \$7,500 (for 2-40 FTE's) and \$2,500 (for less than 2 FTE's). There are other eligibility requirements and exclusions, please [read the full grant guidelines](#).

The application and full grant guidelines can be [found here on our website](#). Applications open at 9:00am tomorrow – Wednesday, October 28th and will be taken through 11:59PM on Thursday, November 5, 2020.

This Round is currently being funded with dollars from the CARES Act being given by [Richland County](#). You can read [the full press release](#) here. We are in talks with additional entities so additional funds may be given and we'll keep you apprised of that.

We are holding 5 grant informational sessions via Zoom OR you can [watch the recorded version here](#):

- Tomorrow, Wednesday, October 28th at 2pm – [Register here](#)
- Thursday, October 29th at 9am – [Register here](#)
- Friday, October 20th at 2pm – [Register here](#)
- Monday, November 2nd at 1pm – [Register here](#)
- Wednesday, November 4th at 10am – [Register here](#)

This is not a first come, first served grant, all eligible applications will be scored. In the event of a tie in scoring, an earlier application would get a slight edge. So, you don't have to drop everything this morning to apply, but I would also recommend not waiting until the last minute if possible.

The grants will be announced on Monday, November 16th. It is important to note that we do expect to receive more applications than we can fund. If, however, additional money becomes available we will go to the next highest scoring group of businesses to award funding.

If you have questions about the grants, please use this email address: grants@richlandareachamber.com or call our office and we'll be happy to assist you.

State of Ohio Launches Small Business Grant Program

The State of Ohio last week announced a \$125 million dollar program to offer assistance to small businesses with 25 or less employees. The grants are for \$10,000 per business and here is more about eligibility:

- The business must be a for-profit entity with no more than 25 Ohio employees as of Jan. 1, 2020.
- The business must also have a physical location in Ohio and earn at least 90% of annual revenue based on activities performed in and taxable to Ohio.
- The business must have been in continuous operation since Jan. 1, 2020, except for interruptions required by COVID-19 public health orders and have the ability to continue operations as a going concern.

The grant portal will be online and applications open next Monday, November 2nd 2020. [This webpage has more information](#) and is where I would expect the application to be posted. Here is a [two-page flyer](#) that tells you how the money can be spent.

>>>>Are you eligible if you have received other grants? I believe that you could also receive funding through this program even if your business qualified for the PPP or our local grant – but because the funding source is the same for all of those programs, you cannot claim the same expenses as the others. And of course, these grants will show as taxable income as the rules are currently written.

State of Ohio Launches Bar & Restaurant Fund

The State also announced last week a \$37.5 million dollar program to provide support to the hard-hit bar & restaurant industry. You must apply to receive assistance, but if you are holding one of 30 different liquor control permit types – and you meet the requirements below – you would qualify for \$2,500 per location with a valid permit.

- These permit holders need to have had an active on-premise permit as of close-of-business October 23, 2020.
- The business does not have to be currently open but must have an active liquor license. You can check the status of your liquor permit [here](#). If it's active, it will be listed as "issued."
- After applying, a licensee will receive \$2,500 per unique business location.

The application period opens next Monday, November 2nd. Here is a [one-page flyer](#) with more details. Keep an eye on [this page for the application](#).

State of Ohio Launches Home Relief Grant

If you know someone who is struggling to pay their rent, mortgage, water and/or sewer bills during this time, the State also announced a \$50 million dollar program in conjunction with the Community Action Commissions across the state. Here is [a webpage with information](#) on the program. The missed payments must be between April 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020 to be eligible. Also, the eligibility requirement is at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines. Our area is covered by the [Community Action Commission of Erie, Huron & Richland County](#).

Restaurant Week & Small Business Saturday

We're also recruiting food & beverage establishments to participate in our first [Richland County Restaurant Week](#) from November 15 – 21st. [Click here to learn more](#) about how your business can participate. [Sponsorships](#) are also available.

It's also time to [sign up for Small Business Saturday](#). If you have a small business that wants to participate on Saturday, November 28th, you can download the form here. If you would like more information login to our online Zoom info session tomorrow (Wednesday, October 28th) at 7pm - [Register here](#).

Final Thoughts

It has been a minute since I have shared my thoughts on where we are at. To be honest, I'm not even sure what to share. I'll simply say this:

Our team is wholly focused – perhaps even more than ever before – on how we can help your business **survive** and **thrive**, how we can help our community find the **opportunity** in adversity, and how we can continue to **move things forward**. It's an honor to serve in this role for you.

Onward,
Jodie

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Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development