

Dear Members,

I have several items for your attention today, please read on:

3 days left to apply - Richland County COVID-19 Nonprofit Grant Program

Thanks to support from our Richland County Commissioners, we're able to run a Nonprofit Grant Program for nonprofits in Richland County – we have \$500,000 to award. Some of the important eligibility criteria includes:

- Must be a 501c3 organization as recognized by the IRS and registered with the Ohio Secretary of State's office
- Have 40 FTE's or less (part-time count as a ½ employee)
- Have \$4M or less in 2019 operating revenues
- Must have been *in operation on February 28, 2020* or prior
- The principal place of operation, or headquarters, for the nonprofit must be located within Richland County. If located outside of Richland County, the organization must have a Richland County address, and must be providing services in Richland County to be considered.
- Nonprofits must fit into one of two program fund categories:
 - Nonprofit Relief Grant program – funding organizations meeting basic or important needs (see [grant guidelines](#) for full definitions)
 - Arts, Culture, and Attractions program – funding organizations with a mission in arts & culture, or that serves a local attraction. (see [grant guidelines](#) for full definitions)



The maximum grant amounts are \$7,500 (for organizations with 2019 operating revenues of \$100,000 - \$4,000,000) and \$2,500 (for organizations with 2019 operating revenues of less than \$100,000). 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 are open now through 11:59PM on Sunday, November 22, 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 have 1 more grant informational sessions via Zoom OR you can watch [the recorded version here](#):

- TODAY -Friday, November 20th at 11am – [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 30th. 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 Nonprofit Grant Funds

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) announced that it will provide up to \$25 million in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act grants to 501(c)(3) nonprofit agencies that serve low-income Ohioans and have been adversely impacted by the

COVID-19 pandemic. Nonprofits in the fields of health care, education, recreation, and/or cultural activities are not eligible. The grant award is based on the amount of unemployment charges and may be used to refund such charges that were incurred after March 15. The organization must be a reimbursing employer for unemployment compensation purposes. Grantees must disclose CARES Act amounts received from local governments. Program details and an online application are available on the ODJFS website at <https://jfs.ohio.gov/nonprofitgrants/>. The application deadline is November 27. Questions about the program should be directed to nonprofitrelief@jfs.ohio.gov.

State of Ohio Bar & Restaurant Fund – Still accepting applications

Just a reminder about the \$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.

Here is a [one-page flyer](#) with more details. You can visit [this page for the application](#).

State of Ohio Launches Small Business Grant Program

Also a reminder about the State's \$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.

[This webpage has more information](#) and is where the application can be found. 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.

Two Days Left on Restaurant Week – Eat Local – Dine-In or Take-Out



Next week – November 15 – 21st, we're hosting our Richland County Restaurant Week. We know our local bars and restaurants have been particularly hard hit by the impacts of the pandemic, here is a way to support them. [These participating restaurants](#) are offering Restaurant Week Specials – they are good for Dine-In or Take-Out so you can support them however you are most comfortable. I want to thank our Presenting Sponsor – [Medical Mutual](#), our Premier Sponsor – [City Grille](#), as well as all the other sponsors who have stepped up to help with this. Next week, let's try to Eat Local and support these restaurants!

Small Business Saturday – One Week Away!



Next Saturday – November 28th – it's Small Business Saturday. We have 50+ businesses from all over Richland County participating this year – and by visiting them you can have a chance to win some great prizes. This year we need to rally around our local small business community – and keeping as much of your holiday shopping local as possible is a great way to do that! [Click here](#) for a list of participating companies – and here is a great one-page flyer.

>>>Would you help us out by forwarding the flyer to your employees and friends so we can get as many people “Shopping Small” as possible?

Updates from the State

Since March, I have tried to pass along what has been shared from the State regarding orders and other important information. While my emails became *much* less frequent (and shorter?) for a while, things are starting to change again. That being said, a lot of what is being announced right now is being thoroughly covered in the media. I'm trying to keep my ears open for what might be specifically impacting business.

Much has been written about the curfew – officially called the “[Stay at Home Tonight Order](#)” ← that link takes you to the full order. Here is the link to a [‘fact sheet’](#) about it.

Here's the [full order on the updated Mask](#) requirement for retail – which I wrote about last week. Here's a [page with FAQ's](#) about this. [Here's a sign about it](#) for your door if you don't have one. I know there are a lot of opinions on this one, especially about shifting the responsibility to business to enforce. Until it changes, however, there are penalties at risk. At yesterday's press conference they noted that their compliance teams have been out in 50 counties so far. You will make your own decisions on what to do in your business, I just want to make sure you have all the details that you need for that.

Here's the [full order on the updated Mass Gathering](#) order.

Final Thoughts

Thanksgiving is less than one week away – which is absolutely crazy to me! It's likely to be a very different holiday for most of us – certainly it will be for me, no trip home to NY this year. It is easy to focus on what we have lost and what is different. This year will likely be one of the craziest ones all of us will ever live through. I know that for me it's been very tempting to keep focusing on the negative and the bad.

Earlier in the pandemic times I shared with you about my gratitude journal – writing down a few things each day for which I am thankful. Sometimes they are incredibly specific things, and sometimes they are extremely general because it was a tough day. The times that I have done this practice of showing gratitude, I find that it really does change my outlook.

So I've decided to dust it off – start showing gratitude again. This doesn't minimize the real and very serious issues that we are all facing. But it does help to put things in perspective. I've gone through great times of heartache and loss in my life, but I can almost always find something to be thankful for. I encourage you to do that to, whether or not you write it down.

So here we go – Friday, November 20, 2020, I'm thankful for:

- A community full of incredibly generous and kind people
- A community that is not letting loss define it, but choosing to move forward
- A community that has embraced this Upstate NY girl, and that now feels like home
- A job that inspires and challenges me every day
- An amazing family – even though they are too far away right now
- Today – another day to serve.

And I'm thankful for you, my friend. We've been on this long and winding journey together for 8 months now. I wish I could say that I know when it ends, but I know that it will. Thanks for walking alongside me. In case I don't have a chance to say it before next week – I wish you and your family a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Be well.

Onward,
Jodie

Jodie A. Perry, CCE, IOM, CCEO-AP
President & CEO
Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development