

Restart Auglaize County 2.0 COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program

Auglaize County Commissioners have created a small business relief grant program called ReSTART AUGLAIZE COUNTY 2.0 to provide financial aid to small businesses that have sustained economic hardships as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible entities can received up to \$10,000 in assistance (this a cumulative total amount from funding rounds).

To qualify, applicants should meet the following criteria:

1. Business must have been impacted by the State-mandated closures that began March 15, 2020 due to COVID-19. The impacts may include loss of employees or revenue. Revenue must have declined by 10% or more as a result of COVID-19 since March 15, 2020.
2. Business must be located in Auglaize County and had to be in operation prior to March 1, 2020.
3. Business must have less than fifty (50) full-time equivalent employees as of March 15, 2020.
4. Annual gross receipts of the business must be less than \$2,000,000.
5. A business is not eligible to apply if it primarily operates as one of the following:
 - a. Adult entertainment establishment
 - b. Bank, savings and loan or credit union
 - c. E-commerce only company
 - d. Liquor/wine store
 - e. Vaping store
 - f. Tobacco store
 - g. Cannabis dispensary
 - h. Franchised business not locally owned and independently operated
6. Businesses must be in good standing with local, state, and federal jurisdictions with respect to taxes.

Eligible Assistance

If the applicant has experienced expenses directly attributable to the COVID-19 crisis, the following may be eligible for grant assistance:

- Lease or Mortgage Assistance: if the applicant applies for lease or mortgage assistance, proof of a lease or commercial mortgage with the monthly amount due shall be provided by the applicant.
- Operational Expenses Assistance: Examples of operational expenses include, but are not limited to: advertising and marketing, supplies, maintenance and repairs, payroll, and utilities.
- Unforeseen Expenses: Examples of unforeseen expenses included, but are not limited to: The development of new solutions to problems presented during the COVID-19 crisis, and the purchase of safety supplies such as masks, hand sanitizer, safety barriers, signage, and items to enforce physical distancing.

Application Process

Applicants are required to complete the application that is available at www2.auglaizecounty.org. The application and required documentation can either be returned to the Board of County Commissioners' office at 201 S. Blackhoof Street, Room 201, Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895 or emailed to commissioners@auglaizecounty.org. Applications will be accepted starting September 3, 2020 and must be submitted by September 14, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. All applications will be reviewed. Grants will be awarded until the grant funding is exhausted. Prior to the final approval of a grant application, additional information or documentation may be requested.

Grant Review Criteria

A committee will review each application and determine successful applicants. To be awarded funding, applications will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- Determined to have filed a complete application with any additional information or documentation requested. (5 points)
- Determined to be a qualifying business and meets the established guidelines and rules. (5 points)
- Substantiated the most critical need for grant assistance based on loss of revenues and/or loss of employees. (10 points)
- Determined that the awarded grant will have a direct impact on sustaining the company. (10 points)
- Demonstrated economic and community benefits the business creates for Auglaize County. (5 points)
- Amount of other financial assistance received by applicant from other COVID-19 financial assistance programs. (5 points)
- Any other criteria as determined by the committee.

Grant Funds Distribution

Once a decision has been made, you will be contacted. All funds will be distributed via checks made out in the business's legal name.

Grant Reporting Requirements

If awarded, all grant funding distributed as part of this program must be spent and reported within 90 days of the date of distribution. Grant funds can be used to reimburse eligible expenses incurred from March 23, 2020 through 90 calendar days from receipt of grant funds. At the end of the grant term, the business shall submit an itemized list of all expenditures along with all supporting documentation. Documentation shall be in the form of paid invoices and canceled checks, bank statements, or similar documentation showing payment of eligible expenses. If the business cannot properly substantiate its eligible expenses, the business will be required to repay the undocumented grant funds.