

PRESS RELEASE

County Commissioners Launch Small Business CARES Act Grants *New program aimed at helping businesses hit by pandemic*

Wapakoneta, OH (July 23, 2020) – Auglaize County Commissioners have launched ReSTART AUGLAIZE COUNTY – a new \$100,000 grant program targeted at helping small businesses impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. It will award up to \$10,000 to small businesses who qualify for the program.

“The Coronavirus has impacted our local economy and some of the hardest hit businesses are our small businesses,” said John Bergman, President of the Auglaize County Commissioners. “The funding from the CARES Act and Ohio House Bill 481 is allowing us to focus on providing assistance to our small businesses so that we can help positively impact our local economy.”

Auglaize County received nearly \$590,000 in funding from the CARES Act and Ohio House Bill 481 for necessary expenditures incurred due to COVID-19. Eligible expenditures include payroll expenses for employees who are “substantially dedicated” to responding to COVID-19, actions to ensure compliance with public health measures and a provision of economic support to the community.

“I encourage all of our small business owners to apply immediately so that their application may be considered,” said Commissioner Douglas Spencer. “These businesses sacrificed to protect the health of our citizens and now it’s our turn to help them.”

To qualify for the grant program, businesses must:

- Be locally owned and operated in Auglaize County
- Demonstrate a negative impact and revenue loss of 10% or more as a result of COVID-19
- Have fewer than 50 full-time equivalent employees
- Be current on all state, federal and local taxes
- Annual gross receipts of less than \$2,000,000

“Small businesses are a key part of our local economy,” said Commissioner Don Regula. “They provide employment opportunities for many of our citizens and add quality to our communities.”

Small business grant applications are available starting July 24, 2020 and must be submitted by August 14, 2020. The application is available on-line at www2.auglaizecounty.org. There is the potential for more funding once this first round is completed.

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