

PRESS RELEASE

**Huron County Commissioners Launch
“Huron County CARES Small Business Grant Program”**

New program aimed at helping businesses hit by pandemic

Huron County Commissioners, Joe Hintz, Terry Boose, and Bruce “Skip” Wilde have launched Huron County CARES Small Business Grant Program – and approved the use of \$100,000 of federal CARES Act funds to create a grant program targeted at helping small businesses impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. It will award grants from \$2,500, \$5,000, or \$10,000 to small businesses who qualify for the program.

To qualify for the grant program, businesses must:

- Businesses, including non-profits, locally owned and operated in Huron County.
- Demonstrate a negative impact and revenue loss of 30% or more as a result of COVID-19
- Be current on all state, federal and local taxes
- Annual gross receipts of less than \$2,000,000
- Businesses with less than 100 employees
- A business that has received federal assistance due to COVID including but not limited to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), and Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL), can apply for a grant through the Huron County COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program;
 - Requested funds **CANNOT** be used for the same expenses that the business previously received federal funding assistance.
 - If business is applying for a local community COVID grant, they may still apply for the county grant; however, requested funds **CANNOT** be used for the same expenses that the business received local grant funds to cover.

Small business grant applications are available starting August 24, 2020 and must be submitted by 4:00PM September 8, 2020. More detailed information and the application is available on-line at www.HCDC.net. There is the potential for more funding once this first round is completed.

All expenses must be related to the business interruption caused by COVID-19 and must comply with the program guidelines. Eligible expenses may include: mortgage costs; rent or lease costs; expenses for utilities; salaries, wages and compensation paid to employees; materials and supplies related to interruptions of the business caused by required closures; and personal protective equipment or other COVID-19 related costs such as expenses related to compliance with Responsible Restart Ohio.

Huron County Development Council will be administering the Huron County CARES Small Business Grant on behalf of the Huron County Commissioners. There will be a review committee that will be scoring the grant applications. All applicants will be notified of the status of their grant request. If approved, the grant recipient will receive an agreement that needs to be executed within seven (7) calendar days. Grant funds will be sent by check from the Huron County Treasurer’s Office.

Huron County Commissioners received nearly \$581,333.16 in funding from the CARES Act and Ohio House Bill 481 for necessary expenditure 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.

Questions regarding the Huron County CARES Small Business Grant Program can be directed to the Huron County Development Council (HCDC) at 419-663-4232 or via email at econdirector@hcdc.net.

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