

MEMBER NEWS

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Need relief from costs related to COVID-19 business interruptions?

Preble County's Small Business Relief Program may be able to help you bridge your immediate financial needs.

Application period begins TOMORROW, Wednesday, July 29

Small businesses needing relief from COVID-19-related expenses can now apply for grant funding through the Preble County Small Business Relief Program. Applications will be accepted beginning Wednesday, July 29.

The Preble County Small Business Relief Program is offering grants of \$1,000-10,000 to small businesses in the county affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eligible small businesses can apply for up to \$10,000 in grant funds to be used for the reimbursement of eligible expenses. The program is being funded with money Preble County received through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act — a \$2 trillion economic stimulus bill Congress passed in March.

To be eligible for grant funding, businesses must have 50 or fewer employees or 1099 workers as of March 22, 2020; must have less than \$1 million in gross revenue/receipts on an annual basis and must have experienced a decrease in gross revenue of 35 percent or more compared to March 1-April 30, 2019 revenue, due to COVID-19. To receive funding, a business also must be a business entity in Preble County which has been in operation since at least January 2019.

Ineligible businesses include banks, savings and loans or credit unions; e-commerce-only companies, liquor/wine stores, vaping stores, tobacco stores and cannabis dispensaries.

Eligible expenses include mortgage costs, rent or lease costs, utility expenses, salaries, wages or compensation paid to employees or 1099 workers; materials and supplies related to interruption of the business caused by required closures and personal protective equipment or other COVID-19 related costs.

Sole proprietors can use grant funding as income replacement by providing documentation on lost revenue, so long as no unemployment benefits are being received or are expected to be received by the applicant.

Ineligible expenses include cost of vehicles or equipment leased or purchased after March 23, except if the purchase of equipment is to comply with Responsible RestartOhio; mortgage, rent or lease costs for businesses located or operated out of a personal residence; personal, non-business expenses of businesses or their owners; new construction costs not related to COVID-19, and any tax, license or fee obligations payable to any governmental entity.

Applications will be accepted from 9 a.m. Wednesday, July 29 through 4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28. Applications can be submitted via email to caresact@prebco.org or dropped off at the Preble County Courthouse, 101 E. Main St., Eaton, during regular office hours, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. (Do not mail applications.) For complete details about the Preble County Small Business Relief Program or to request an application, visit www.prebco.org or email caresact@prebco.org.

Details regarding a separate application process for individuals needing relief for mortgage, rent, lease or utility expenses are set to be released soon.

Upcoming deadline:

Take part in the 2020 Wage & Benefit Survey @ chamberwagesurvey.com

The West-Central Ohio Chambers "Wage, Salary & Benefits Survey" is a cooperative effort of the area chambers in the counties of Auglaize, Darke, Mercer, Miami, Preble, and Shelby and the Human Resources Association of Western Ohio. This cooperative effort of neighboring chambers not only promotes a closer relationship amongst the chambers, but more importantly offers the advantage of sharing our resources to provide better programming and resource information for our members.

This is a survey, conducted every 1-2 years, which provides businesses and organizations in West Central Ohio with valuable information about what is happening with employee wages and benefits in order to stay competitive. While this is a survey sponsored by the Preble County Chamber of Commerce, it is open to ALL businesses and organizations, large and small, in the West Central Ohio region, regardless of Chamber affiliation. Results are free to those who fully participate.

The survey will close on Friday, July 31. Survey results are expected to be available in September 2020. The results will be distributed free of charge to those who participate and complete this survey. Chamber member businesses which do not participate will have to purchase the survey results at \$50/copy. Non-member costs will be \$100. All completed forms are confidential. Please take the time to fully complete the survey...your input is critically important, and your participation can go a long way in providing the type of comparative data you need to manage your organization more effectively.

If you prefer, a hard copy of the survey is available [HERE](#) to help you collect data before entering it online. Visit chamberwagesurvey.com to participate in the survey, or for those who have participated in years past, watch for an email invite in your inbox. Please complete the survey by **Friday, July 31**. Thank you for your input, and we look forward to including your company's data in the survey!

Upcoming events

REGISTER TODAY!

SPECIAL ZOOM MEETING, WEDNESDAY, AUG. 5: Recovery Amped 3 opportunities to attend! Looking for a tool to help keep track of employee illness? Join us for one of three sessions presented by Recovery Amped. Recovery Amped was created in 2019 to help address mental health and substance abuse disorders, but is now an essential tool to virus tracking during the global pandemic, helpful in not only possibly saving lives, but also keeping the economy open. **This software automates the entire symptoms tracking and contact tracing process.** The software is built to help employers be more informed, make better decisions, and help predict the spread of COVID-19 or any other future outbreak in the workplace. Intrigued? Attend one of three sessions on Wednesday, Aug. 5, giving you the opportunity to find a time which fits your schedule! Zoom links will be sent upon registration. [Register for the 9 a.m. session HERE](#) [Register for the 11:30 a.m. session HERE](#). [Register for the 4:30 p.m. session HERE](#).

State of the Nation & More, Thursday, Aug. 6! Join us for this special two-for-one Breakfast Event, where U.S. Congressman Warren Davidson will discuss the State of the Nation, and stay for an introduction to the two new directors of the Preble County Historical Society and a tour! Enjoy a "takeout" breakfast in the outdoors at the Preble County Historical Society Amphitheater... attendees are welcome to bring lawn chairs or blankets. Registration is limited to ensure social distancing requirements. In case of inclement weather, the event will be moved into the PCHS Exhibit Hall (first 35 registered.)

Sponsored by Reid Health. Register online [HERE](#).

Find additional resources & information @ WWW.PREBLECOUNTYOHIO.COM