Dear Members,

As we look ahead to things reopening, I’d like to continue to share some important resources for you:

**PPP & EIDL Funding Needs Replenishment**
Today we heard from the Treasury that the Paycheck Protection Program and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) funds have been completely emptied. We joined the US Chamber and many other business associations calling on Congress to recapitalize these two essential small business support programs. Here is our letter, and we encourage you to send a note to our federal delegation to support replenishment as well: Senator Portman, Senator Brown, Congressman Balderson, and Congressman Gibbs.

**Save Small Business Fund & Campaign Started**
I’m glad to share another new resource that the US Chamber Foundation just announced - the Save Small Business Fund, a grantmaking initiative funded by contributions from corporate and philanthropic partners. This will provide $5,000 in short-term relief to employers across the United States through one-time supplemental cash grants for businesses that have between three and 20 employees and operate in an economically vulnerable community. The grant application will go live on Monday, April 20 at 12:00 PM PT/3:00 PM ET. To learn more about the Save Small Business Fund and to apply for a grant, visit savesmallbusiness.com. On that website, you can enter your email address to get a reminder of when the grants open.

**More Info on Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Expansion**
This week we have received more information on the expanded unemployment that will cover self-employed and 1099 contractors. Unfortunately, the timeline for payment is still mid-May (benefits will be backdated based on eligibility). The additional $600/week will be available on this plan as well. The State has launched a new website here which has important information on this, and by the end of next week they will have an application live for people to reserve their spot ‘in line.’

Remember, if you have employees that are laid off, they should be using the mass layoffs number in this memo to speed up their process.

**Resources for Parents & Students**
Richland County Mental Health & Recovery Services shares Family Life Counseling and Psychiatric Services is staffing a Children and Family Assistance Line: 567-333-8455. This line will be to support parents who have become defacto teachers, youth that are having a hard time adapting to not seeing their peers, parent/child conflicts, parent emotional issues with being out of work, etc. This line will be available 8am to 11pm 7 days a week. It is available to ALL Residents and not limited to just Family Life Clients.

This is being added to the already existing: Crisis Help Line: 419-522-4357 (HELP), The Warm Line: 419-522-5300, the Crisis Text Line Text “4HOPE” to 741741. This adds an additional option and specific supports for family issues. The line is live as of 8am 4/14/2020. Here is a great photo that has all those numbers. Please share with your employees.

**Quick Hits**
- **Update from local healthcare** – Avita Health System CEO Jerry Morasko shares this letter of update.
• **OSHA Guidance on Recording Cases** – We continue to see more guidance coming down from federal agencies. This week [OSHA gave some indication](#) on how they were looking at this.

• **National Town Hall** – The US Chamber is holding the 4th in a series of national town halls, to help businesses navigate the CARES Act. Even though the program is paused for now, these have been very informational. It’s TOMORROW (Friday) at noon – [RSVP here](#).

• **Additional Guidance for PPP** – Again, though the program is paused for now, it’s good to be ready if new money is released. This week the [Treasury Department](#) released new information on this:
  - Guidance for self-employed & 1099 contractors – including how to calculate potential loan amounts.
  - Guidance on how forgiveness works – this is actually a great overview of the whole program.
  - Updated FAQ’s

• **Help for Independent Contractors**: The [US Chamber released another great guide](#) to help independent contractors navigate the funding options available. Note: this was released just before both programs ran out of funding but can be helpful to be ready if they are recapitalized.

• **Support our local non-profits** – One of the tough parts of this crisis is the sheer amount of needs. Our business community is struggling, and so are our partners in the non-profit community. The [Richland County Foundation has relaunched the Richland Gives platform](#) to provide a way for these groups to get support at a time they need it most. I know that everyone is not able to give right now, but as you are able, I know that our non-profits would appreciate you!

• **Did you vote?** Don’t forget! [Download your absentee ballot request form](#). You must mail that in to get a ballot. Once you have your ballot, you can either mail it in or drop it in the secure box behind the Board of Elections at 1495 W. Longview Ave. Ballots must be received by April 28th.

• **Don’t forget the Census!** The [2020 Census](#) will determine millions of dollars for this community, and the number of congressional representatives we have in the State. We’re currently showing 53.3% in Richland County. By City: Mansfield (48.3%), Shelby (50.5%), Ontario (58.9%), Lexington (58.7%), Bellville (57.3%). It matters to our community, please respond!

#InThisTogetherOhio

We miss you. All of you. We really do. We had Chamber Member Allison Pence Art do some fun designs on our windows as a show of support and solidarity for our community. She braved these frigid spring temperatures (seriously, spring – where did you go?) to create. When you drive by the Chamber, I hope you feel encouraged.

#RichlandCountySTRONG

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Dinner & A Show Launches Friday
We’ve teamed with our friends at Destination Mansfield and Downtown Mansfield and some great local restaurants and musicians to host a virtual series of shows over the next 5 weeks. Tomorrow night, we invite you to pick up dinner from Hudson & Essex and tune in at 6:00pm for the show. Click for more info.

**Final Thoughts**

Today the Governor announced May 1st as a day when things will start to reopen in Ohio. I expect that we will soon be getting a flood of information on what that means and what will be expected of businesses.

The law enforcement community often uses the phrase “protect & serve” and from what we are hearing from the national and state levels, it seems that might be a motto that businesses will be embracing as well. Protecting each other to start serving our customers again. Some of you have been doing it all along, and we want to learn from you. We’re working on more programming to help facilitate that as well as pass along other resources that are created.

A board member reminded me this week that this will be a marathon, not a sprint. Just as we have all along, we stand committed to helping you navigate this next phase. I’ve never been more convinced that when we work together, we are #RichlandCountySTRONG!

Onward!

Jodie

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

PS – We have been widening our email list. If this is the first email you’ve received – Welcome! [Here is a link to our past emails](#) and other great resources to help your business!