Dear Members,

It’s been a few days, but I’m back with some important updates for you (sorry it’s so long).

**New Money Coming into Business Relief Programs**
We’ve talked a lot about the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) programs. They both ran out of money last week and Congress and the President have been negotiating extensions. The Senate & House have now passed a $484 Billion relief package that the President is expected to sign. This package provides an additional $310 Billion into PPP and $60 Billion into the EIDL program. While those numbers sound large, remember that $349 Billion was originally exhausted in less than 2 weeks in the first round of PPP.

**Bottom Line:** Act fast. Again, if you haven’t reached out, start by calling your banker. A lot has been written nationally about big businesses dominating. But I can tell you that I know many local small businesses who received funding in round 1. If you missed out, this is another chance for both programs. Remember both non-profits (501c3’s) and self-employed/1099 contractors are eligible for these programs.

I don’t yet know if there will be further tweaks to the program, but we will watch and alert you if/when we see them. For now, here are some important links regarding these programs:

- US Chamber PPP Overview Guide
- US Treasury Cares Act Page
- US Treasury PPP Program Fact Sheet
- US Treasury PPP FAQ’s (continues to be updated)
- US Treasury Interim Ruling (that addresses self-employed/1099)
- Borrower Application

- US Chamber EIDL Overview Guide
- SBA EIDL Info Page

**Learn More:** The US Chamber is hosting a 5th Town Hall Meeting tomorrow (Friday) at Noon to talk about this new infusion of money into both programs. I typically have been watching these and they have some good info included. [Sign up here.](#)

**Unemployment Updates**
As we have heard today, until things start to open back up the unemployment numbers continue to increase – and we are all aware of how overwhelmed Ohio’s unemployment system has been. They are instituting a new call in system next week by last name to try to help people get through better. You can see the system here, please share with any affected employees. Also, don’t forget to give them the mass layoffs number contained here to speed up their claims.

**Expanded Unemployment:** The CARES Act expanded unemployment to cover self-employed, and 1099 contractors. As I have shared before, the State is building a whole new system to handle that – but they have the application process online and ready for people to using- TOMORROW (Friday). The claims will not be processed until Mid-May but if you are in this group – or know people who are – I would highly
recommend going ahead and getting registered and applying now to ‘reserve your spot’ in line. Click here to read the release, here are the FAQ’s for expanded eligibility, and here is the website to apply.

As a reminder, these two pages have a ton of good information when it comes to unemployment:

FAQ’s for Employees
FAQ’s for Employers/Businesses

Reopening
The Governor said that on Monday they will be unveiling their plan for Ohio to begin reopening on May 1st. I know we all have a ton of questions surrounding what specifically will be included in that. This afternoon I participated on a call with the Lt. Governor and the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, and I listen to the daily press conferences. They talked about doing this in 3 phases (no timelines mentioned):

1. With businesses who have a controlled setting and can provide the mandated safeguards (still to be determined).
2. With businesses that have a mixed environment of people coming in and out and again providing the mandated safeguards.
3. Large events and places with large crowds.

He has said repeatedly that work from home can and should still be utilized where possible. He also pointed to three areas that will be key to this: distance, disinfectant, and masks. He also hit on things such as regular cleaning of hi-touch areas, and erecting barriers where maintaining the 6ft. distance was impossible.

Right now, that’s information for you to start to ponder for your own business. It seems that we will have much more detail on Monday. We are all eager to hear more.

Business Best Practices
While we wait for more detail from the State, we have started to get more information from businesses who have been open during this time. Here are a few resources that may be helpful to you:

- The US Chamber is also leading a conversation series called “Path Forward” every Monday & Thursday afternoons on a variety of topics dealing with reopening (testing, childcare, PPE, etc). Past events have been recorded, and you can sign up to participate in future events here. Jessica Gribben on our team has been taking the lead on listening to these and sharing resources.
- Magnet in Cleveland recently held a webinar with Swagelok, a multi-national company who has been dealing with coronavirus in other countries much earlier. They shared a wealth of information including policies and procedures. This folder has a recording of that actual webinar as well as those other documents.

MUCH more to come on this, but I thought you might find some of these resources helpful as you think, plan, and adjust during this time. We’re still planning to tap some of our local businesses for more discussion on these topics next week.

Suppling PPE For Businesses
Can you sell vital supplies? As we work towards the reopening of businesses, we are getting questions about who can source different supplies such as masks, gloves, thermometers, sanitizer and more. If
your business can supply any of those things, please take this short survey. We’ll compile results and share them with our business community ASAP. Please, let us help promote local businesses as resources – if you can sell these, take the survey!

**Mental Health Resources**

While much of our talk has been about coronavirus, this crisis is absolutely impacting our mental health & wellbeing. From worry about our lives to our livelihood, I know that we have all been under tremendous strain. While we may be separated from each other, it’s important to remember that we are not alone in this fight. It is not always easy to talk about. On a very personal note, I will share that I have struggled with my own mental health in the past (don’t worry, I am watching it closely now). I encourage you to reach out for help when you need it, and we have some great local resources here. Remember **this great photo** that captures them all.

- Crisis Help Line: 419-522-4357 (HELP) - This is a 24-hour crisis helpline but it is also how people can access the Catalyst services. So, if at any time of the day they are feeling they are ready to address any Mental Health or Substance Use concerns, Catalyst staff are here to help them navigate that process from the comfort of their own home.
- The Warm Line: 419-522-5300
- The Crisis Text Line Text “4HOPE” to 741741.
- Children & Family Assistance – 567-333-8455 – to help families through this crisis (staffed by Family Life Counseling & Psychiatric Services, but open to all)

Additionally, many local providers have changed their protocols now and can offer tele-health and video appointments to assist you while staying home.

**Quick Hits**

- We have another **health care update** from OhioHealth Mansfield & Shelby President Vinson Yates here.
- **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](https://www.census.gov/) will determine millions of dollars for this community, and the number of congressional representatives we have in the State. We’re currently showing 56.2% in Richland County. By City: Mansfield (50.9%), Shelby (56.6%), Ontario (60.5%), Lexington (65.3%), Bellville (58.7%). It matters to our community, please respond!
- **Dinner & A Show** - 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 4 weeks. Saturday night, we invite you to pick up dinner from [The Vault Wine Bar](https://www.thvaultwinebar.com/) and tune in at 8:00pm for a great performance by Ricky Mitchell. [Click for more info](https://www.destinationmansfield.com/).

#InThisTogetherOhio

Though I haven’t been out and about much, when I am, I love seeing the signs in the windows of our local businesses encouraging the community. Today I want to highlight a few that have added messages of hope to their windows – [Bankz Salon & Spa](https://bankzsalonspa.com/), [Staker Dental](https://stakerdental.com/), [McCready Interiors/Norwalk Furniture](https://mccreadyinteriors.com/).
Have you done something fun to encourage folks? Shoot me a photo and I’d love to highlight you on social media!

**Final Thoughts**

We’re restless – I am, I suspect you are – everywhere around us you can almost feel it in the air. It feels like it’s been 20 years since this all started. Do you remember your first thoughts about this? Watching it come, I remember being worried about cancelling the Business Expo – now I am wondering how long it will be to host any in-person event (and much bigger problems). I remember being worried about a litany of other things that now – with 5 weeks of perspective – seem small.

Life is changing at a pace most of us have never experienced. It feels sad to think of what we have lost, and overwhelming to stare into the unknown future. I know you feel this, too. So, what do we have then? Well, we have each other. Someone once asked me if I could give a TED Talk, what would the topic be? I responded, “how building healthy relationships could change the world.”

While this may be a marathon and not a sprint, the fact is that it will end. Our community was just recovering from the Great Recession, gaining momentum, and now this. I don’t want to cede all that gained ground. To get through it, we are going to have to dig deep and work together in new ways. So do we all have to agree on everything? No, that’s not only impossible, but also sort of unhealthy, as spirited debate is at the heart of the great American experiment. But it means that we reach out to others, we have the tough conversations, we empathize with others, we lead.

We have quite a journey ahead – one that none of us can walk alone. To close, I lean on my favorite epic series once again.

> “But it does not seem that I can trust anyone,’ said Frodo.  
> Sam looked at him unhappily. ‘It all depends on what you want,’ put in Merry. ‘You can trust us to stick with you through thick and thin--to the bitter end. And you can trust us to keep any secret of yours--closer than you keep it yourself. But you cannot trust us to let you face trouble alone, and go off without a word. We are your friends, Frodo.”  
> — J.R.R. Tolkien, The Fellowship of the Ring

Remember, you’re not facing trouble alone. We will get through this. 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!