Dear Members,

I have more updates for you, read on...

**Governor Announces More Openings**
The Governor yesterday announced that the following places can open on June 10th (following the protocols of the Consumer/Retail/Service/Entertainment sector):

- Aquariums
- Art galleries
- Country clubs
- Ice skating rinks
- Indoor family entertainment centers
- Indoor sports facilities
- Laser tag facilities
- Movie theaters (indoor)
- Museums
- Playgrounds (outdoor)
- Public recreation centers
- Roller skating rinks
- Social clubs
- Trampoline parks
- Zoos

On Tuesday, hospitals were given the go ahead to start scheduling regular services and surgeries again. I had missed this in an earlier update I think, but in addition to Day Camps being allowed to reopen Residential Camps are also allowed to reopen (Protocols & Best Practices here). And here is a Protocols & Best Practices sheet for the outdoor visitation policy for Assisted Living & Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities. And today he announced that amusement parks, casinos racinos, and water parks may open on June 19th.

**New State Funding Programs**
On Tuesday, the Governor announced 3 new funding programs aimed at helping businesses. One of them is geographically targeted and we don’t qualify, but here are the other two:

- **Ohio PPE Retooling and Reshoring Grant** Program - Ohio businesses and nonprofit organizations need personal protective equipment, which remains in short supply. We are working to solve that issue through the ingenuity of Ohio companies and their employees. The Ohio PPE Retooling and Reshoring Grant Program provides funds to help businesses innovate and create solutions to the PPE shortage.
  - Small and medium-sized manufacturers that retool existing facilities to make PPE or reshore PPE production to Ohio are eligible. The funding provides up to $500,000 per facility.
  - Needed PPE: Surgical masks, Gowns, Gloves, Community masks, Face shields, Thermometers, Hand sanitizer, Cleaning and sanitizing products, Other products and solutions.
  - Guidelines & application available here
• **Ohio Minority Micro-Enterprise Grant Program** - Many Ohio small, minority- and women-owned businesses have been hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ohio Minority Micro-Enterprise Grant Program provides $10,000 in funding to help these companies through the current crisis and set them up for the future.
  - To be eligible, businesses must have been certified as a Minority Business Enterprise or woman-owned EDGE-certified business as of Feb. 29, 2020; have 10 or fewer employees and up to $500,000 in annual revenue; and have not received funding under the federal CARES Act.
  - To qualify, businesses must be current on all taxes and private or public loans. Grants will be awarded on first-come, first-served basis.
  - [Application available here](#).

**House & Senate Pass Changes to Paycheck Protection Program**
Many of you have shared the challenges you have had with the Paycheck Protection Program guidelines, earlier today the President signed into law changes for the program. [Here is a good overview](#) to breakdown what changed. Highlights of changes include:
- Changing the ratio of payroll to non-payroll expenses from 75%/25% to 60%/40%
- Extending the timeline to spend the money from 8 weeks to 24 weeks (cannot go past December 31, 2020)
- You can use the 24-week timeline to restore your pre-pandemic employment levels

I’ll share more as I get it, but we thank our Congressional delegation for listening to our calls for added flexibility for the program. If you’ve been waiting, there is still some money available. If your bank cannot do the loan for you, please reach out to me for a referral.

**The Chamber Office is Open**
Please forgive me, I keep meaning to add this to my emails. We actually reopened our office back on May 18th! We’re here M-F from 9:00 – 4:00pm during this time. Like many of you, our staff is facing childcare challenges, etc. so not all of us are here every day (though we are all working hard every day!). If you’re looking for someone particular, you should probably call ahead just to make sure they are there that day. 419-522-3211

**#RichlandCountySTRONG**
We kicked off our new month-long “Richland County STRONG” campaign earlier this week! Shout out to our Richland County Commissioners, and the Richland County Auditor for posing in this picture to support. Can you do me a favor? [Print this sign](#). Take a photo of you and your employees holding it. [Email the photo](#) and a 1-2 sentence update about your business...and we’ll promote your business on Facebook. Help US, help YOU!

Oh, and if you want one of our t-shirts to promote the campaign... [click here](#)!

**Final Thoughts**
Friends, we've been in this together since the start. But it’s also true that we’re not all having the same experience. I’ve talked a lot about empathy in these past two months, and I will continue to talk about it
because it’s vitally important. As a community leader, I know that I need to channel many traits. Some skills are more important at particular moments in time. But the ability to effectively use empathy to lead and relate to others is always important.

This week I’ve had multiple difficult, deep, and meaningful conversations with fellow leaders and friends. I believe I’m on a journey of lifelong learning and growing. I don’t have all the answers, and that seems especially true in the year 2020 and the challenges we are facing. Sometimes I need to stop and listen, and that’s what I’ve been doing lately. Listening.

We are living through momentous times together. It can be overwhelming at times. But I wholeheartedly believe in the power of collaboration to continue to propel our community forward.

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!