

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County Executive Shapiro and Council Approve \$6.5 Million of CARES Funding to Support Local Non-Profits

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO—On Monday, September 21, 2020, Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro and Summit County Council approved sending \$6.5 million in federal CARES Act funding to Akron Community Foundation (ACF) for the COVID-19 Non-Profit Emergency Relief Grant Program, a new partnership between the County and ACF. The program will assist non-profits that help provide for the basic needs of underserved County residents as well as non-profits that act as arts and cultural service providers. Grant awards will range from \$5,000 to \$50,000.

The program was developed after Executive Shapiro met with non-profit leaders who expressed concern about the long-lasting economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the demand for basic needs increases due to unemployment and workforce disruption, non-profits expect charitable giving and government funding for social services to fall, leading to a gap between the need for services and the ability to provide services.

“Non-profits in Summit County are essential to keeping our community strong. From providing food, clothing and shelter to job training and education opportunities, our local non-profits provide vital services to residents each and every day,” said Executive Shapiro. “Too many families, older adults and many others in need of assistance rely on non-profits. This program will help close the gap between need and available services.”

To help close this gap, the County will allocate \$5 million of the grant funds to non-profits entities that help to provide for basic needs and \$1.5 million to arts and cultural service providers. Basic need providers will be required to use not less than 50% of grant funds to provide direct services to clients and may use the remainder to offset the costs of business interruption caused by COVID-19.

“This program would not have come together without the hard work of County Council Vice President Elizabeth Walters and Synthomer Foundation President Theresa Carter,” said Executive Shapiro. “In collaboration with other community leaders, Elizabeth and Theresa identified the need

for non-profits grants and quickly developed a framework to offer them this critical financial assistance.”

“I am thankful for the support of Executive Shapiro and my fellow council members. Like businesses and individuals, non-profits are feeling the damaging effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. As more and more residents count on non-profits for services, these funds will go a long way in maintaining stability in Summit County,” said County Council Vice President Walters.

Non-profits seeking a grant will be evaluated on eligibility criteria that includes a demonstrated need as a result of increased demand or decrease in support resulting from COVID-19, community need for service, type, size and capacity of the organization, and amount of government or charitable funds already received as a result of COVID-19. Non-profits must be current on all applicable taxes such as property and unemployment taxes, and must track and report use of the grant funds. ACF will be the grantee to receive the funds, manage the application process, disperse funds, and meet documentation and audit requirements.

Those NOT eligible for this grant process include the following: Public, Private or Charter Schools; Colleges or Universities; Hospitals and Clinics; Any government/public service entity; Religious organizations (unless there is a 501c(3) entity established within the religious organization such as a food pantry).

Grant applications will be accepted beginning October 5 through October 19. Interested non-profits can apply www.akroncf.org/CARESinfo.

For more information, please email CARESinfo@akroncf.org or call 330-376-8522.

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