

News Release



Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County Grants \$1.3 Million for Final Round of Small Business Grants

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO—Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro and County Council have approved sending an additional \$1.3 million in federal CARES Act funding to the COVID-19 Small Business Emergency Relief Grant Program. The Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce will use the funding to provide grants to more than 300 small businesses.

“I am incredibly proud of my staff and the team at the Greater Akron Chamber for their hard work to get this program up and running. In a matter of weeks, we provided vital funds to hundreds of small businesses in need of assistance. Today, we have helped hundreds more,” said Executive Shapiro.

Businesses receiving the final round of grants will include 244 applicants that were eligible, but did not receive funding in the first two rounds due to lack of financial resources. The Greater Akron Chamber has also identified 60-75 applicants that were initially identified as ineligible, but after follow-up and clarification have been deemed eligible. Through two rounds of funding, thousands of businesses applied for a grant and with the additional funding approved by County Council on June 29, every eligible business will receive a grant.

Since April, the County and Greater Akron Chamber have awarded nearly \$8 million in grants to more than 1,800 small businesses throughout Summit County. Initial funding for the program was provided by Summit County, the City of Akron, JumpStart and Key Bank. Additional funding was provided by the Burton D. Morgan Foundation, private donors, the cities of Barberton, Cuyahoga Falls, Fairlawn, Green, Norton and Tallmadge, Copley Township, Coventry Township, Bath Township and the Village of Mogadore.

“When we first got together in March to discuss how we could help our small businesses, we hoped to raise enough funds to assist a few hundred businesses. Three months and millions of dollars later, I think we can all be proud of the work we have done to keep small businesses afloat through this difficult time,” said Steve Millard, President and CEO of the Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce.

Originally open to businesses employing 3-25 employees, the program was expanded after the first round to include to all businesses with up to 30 employees that have 50% or more of their employees living in Summit County. These businesses were eligible for grants of up to \$5,000. Eligibility was also expanded to allow single employee sole proprietors to apply for grants of up to \$2,000.

For more information about the Summit County COVID-19 Small Business Emergency Relief Grant Program, please visit <https://gaccovid19.org/grantprogram/>.

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