



**Development
Services Agency**

News Release

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor

Lydia L. Mihalik, Director

www.development.ohio.gov



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Ohioans Can Apply for Pandemic Relief Programs Starting Monday

The application period for pandemic relief programs announced by Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted opens at 10 a.m. Monday, November 2. These programs will help small businesses, bars and restaurants, and Ohioans affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. All three programs are funded through the federal CARES Act and will be administered by the Ohio Development Services Agency.

“At Development, we are focused on supporting businesses, communities, and Ohio families through this crisis,” said Lydia Mihalik, Director of the Development Services Agency. “Small businesses are an important part of the fabric of life in Ohio, and we want them to be with us in the years to come. We also want to ease the burdens of Ohio families. When our communities are strong and healthy, all Ohioans can succeed.”

The Small Business Relief Grant provides \$125 million for grants to small businesses with no more than 25 employees. The grant funding will help businesses pay for a variety of expenses, including mortgage or rent payments; utility payments; salaries, wages, or compensation for employees and contractors; business supplies or equipment; and other costs. Grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

To ensure the grants are spread throughout the state, \$500,000 will be set aside for businesses in each of Ohio's 88 counties. When a county's allocation is depleted, businesses in that county will be eligible to receive grants from the remaining funds in the overall grant program.

The administration has designated \$38.7 million for the Bar and Restaurant Assistance Fund for those permit holders who haven't been able to fully use their liquor permit. Businesses with an on-premise consumption permit through the Ohio Department of Commerce will be eligible to receive \$2,500 per unique business location. Businesses need to have an active on-premise permit as of close of business October 23, 2020.

“Bars, restaurants, and other locations where people go to gather have been substantially impacted by this pandemic,” said Sherry Maxfield, Director of the Department of Commerce. “This assistance fund gives them an opportunity to pay their rent, buy important supplies, or take care of other business-related expenses with minimal strings attached.”

The Development Services Agency also will allocate \$50 million to 47 Community Action Agencies to provide rent, mortgage, and water and/or sewer assistance to Ohioans in need. The Home Relief Grant will help eligible Ohioans pay outstanding rent, mortgage, and water and/or sewer utilities to avoid shutoff, foreclosure, or eviction.

Ohio households behind on their bills with an annual income at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines will be eligible for assistance. For a family of four, that is an annual income up to \$52,400.

For more information on each program, visit [BusinessHelp.Ohio.Gov](https://businesshelp.ohio.gov).

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