



BOARD of COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

406 Justice Drive, Lebanon, Ohio 45036 | Phone: (513) 695-1250

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Candace Miller, Commissioners' Aide
Phone: (513)695-1253

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 28, 2020

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVES THE USE OF CARES ACT FUNDING FOR A SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM

WARREN COUNTY, OHIO – Today, the Warren County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) approved the creation of the Warren County CARES Act Grant Program to address the negative economic impacts of COVID-19 response on the community. Warren County has received approximately \$2.4 million to date with an additional amount anticipated to be received from the Federally funded Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Of these dollars, the BOCC plans to use \$1,095,000 to fund this new grant program with three areas of focus: Small Business Assistance, Non-profits, and Childcare. Each classification will receive an allocated \$350,000 to be dispersed through small grants and used only according to the established guidelines put forward by the Treasury and those which will be outlined in the program's grant agreement.

Commissioner Jones stated, "Small businesses, including non-profits and childcare facilities, are the fabric that make Warren County and all communities strong. As they continue to work through Ohio's reopening and the costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the goal of the Warren County Board of County Commissioners is to offset some of their expenses through the creation of this grant program."

The BOCC is partnering with the Warren County Small Business Development Alliance (SBDA) to act as its program administrator. The SBDA has been working closely with businesses in the community throughout the pandemic and has the capability to administer these funds quickly and equitably.

"The Warren County Small Business Development Alliance works diligently to provide services which are essential for small businesses to grow and thrive in Warren County. I commend the Board of County Commissioners for creating this new grant program which will provide much needed aid to various

organizations still struggling due to the pandemic,” said Matt Schnipke who is President of the Warren County Small Business Development Alliance.

The application submission period will open at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 1, 2020 and close at 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, October 31, 2020. Grants will be reviewed by the SBDA and awarded based on the application’s eligibility requirements. Those that wish to apply may visit www.co.warren.oh.us to view eligibility requirements and necessary documents for application submission. For more information about this program please contact the Warren County Cares Act Grant Program information inbox at wccaresgrant@co.warren.oh.us.

An additional \$25,000 has been set aside for volunteer-based non-profits. The BOCC recognizes that while there is no payroll expense, these organizations still have operational expenditures such as mortgage or rent payments, utilities, etc. and have also experienced hardships from COVID-19 response. A separate application process has been designed for these entities and grants will be awarded at the discretion of the BOCC.

About the Warren County Board of County Commissioners

The Warren County Board of Commissioners is the legislative and executive body of county government. As the governing body, the Board is fiscally responsible for taxpayer dollars and for provision of services as required by state and federal law or mandated by the public. The Board works, through community partnership, to conscientiously protect and enhance the health, safety and quality of life of all Warren County residents, businesses and communities in a respectful, efficient and fiscally responsible way that addresses the needs today and invests in tomorrow.

About the Warren County Small Business Development Alliance

The Warren County Small Business Development Alliance (“SBDA”) helps entrepreneurs realize their dream of business ownership through its Small Business Development Center (“SBDC”). SBDC certified advisors help businesses remain competitive in an ever-changing global economy by providing access to free one-on-one counseling, no/low-cost class training, and events. Focus areas include: Marketing, Financial Management, Human Resources, Technology and Cyber Security, International Trade and 12 Steps to Starting a New Ohio Business.

The SBDA is a local SBA resource partner connection. For more information, please visit www.warrencountysbdc.org.

###