

GCP Advocacy: COVID-19 Daily Update



April 1, 2020 – 10:15 AM

Please note resources and updates are evolving rapidly.

Resources

- On Tuesday afternoon, GCP advocacy received information from the U.S. Department of Treasury via NE Ohio Congressional delegation members regarding the Paycheck Protection Program. For your reference, [GCP has posted guidelines and borrower applications here](#) and included links below to the appropriate U.S. Treasury website.

Starting April 3, 2020, small businesses and sole proprietorships can apply.

Starting April 10, 2020, independent contractors and self-employed individuals can apply.

We encourage you to apply as quickly as you can because there is a funding cap.

- For a top-line overview of the program [CLICK HERE](#)
- If you're a lender, more information can be found [HERE](#)
- If you're a borrower, more information can be found [HERE](#)
- The application for borrowers can be found [HERE](#)
- The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has provided additional guidance regarding the \$10,000 forgivable loan advance in accordance with the CARES Act. To be eligible for the \$10,000 forgivable loan advance, businesses need to complete the new application that launched March 30 even if they have already completed one of the prior versions of the application or if the business has already been declined for a loan. If you wish to apply for the advance on your EIDL, please visit www.SBA.gov/Disaster to fill out a new, streamlined application.
- After the passage of the CARES Act, Americans will see some relief in the form of Economic Impact Payments. For more information, [CLICK HERE](#).
- As the Greater Cleveland Partnership and Council of Smaller Enterprises work with policymakers, we want to be prepared with your feedback to ensure our advocacy efforts are aligned with our members' needs. [See here for more information.](#)

State Updates

- On Tuesday, the Ohio Department of Health reported fifty-five deaths from COVID-19 and 2,199 people were confirmed to have the virus in Ohio.
- The Ohio Department of Health issued an [order](#) to track where ventilators are and how many are in Ohio. Inventory is to be reported online at Coronavirus.Ohio.Gov/VentInventory no later than **5:00 p.m.** each Wednesday beginning **April 1, 2020** until further notice. The order impacts manufacturers, producers, wholesalers, transporters, distributors, retailers, physicians, clinics, hospitals, medical facilities, and any other entity in the supply chain.

- Ohio recently received a shipment of personal protective equipment from the federal Strategic National Stockpile, but state Department of Health Director Dr. Amy Acton said it's [not nearly enough](#).
- Lt. Governor Jon Husted reported Ohio's unemployment compensation call center will have increased capacity. He also reiterated that unemployment benefits will be back dated to the date a person is eligible. The Ohio Department of Jobs & Family Services (ODJFS) is saying it has paid more than 95,000 claimants a total of nearly \$40 million thus far.
- On Tuesday, Ohio Department of Jobs & Family Services (ODJFS) spokesperson Bret Crow relayed the following on the \$2 trillion stimulus bill that passed Congress and was signed by the President on March 27, saying it creates the following three federal programs for Americans who lost their jobs as a result of COVID-19:
 - **The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance** (PUA) program will provide up to 39 weeks of benefits to self-employed workers, 1099 tax filers and some other individuals previously ineligible for unemployment compensation. The benefit amount will be like traditional unemployment benefits, plus an additional \$600 per week. The program's effective date is Jan. 27 through Dec. 31.
 - **The Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation** (FPUC) program will provide an additional \$600 per week to existing benefit amounts for those in both the "regular" unemployment program and the PUA program. The average unemployment benefit in Ohio is currently about \$380 a week. The FPUC program began on March 29, and benefits will be retroactive to that date.
 - **The Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation** (PEUC) program will provide up to 13 weeks of additional benefits for Ohioans who exhaust their maximum 26 weeks of unemployment benefits. This program also began on March 29.

The programs above are new. ODJFS is waiting for further guidance from the U.S. Department of Labor. Retroactive benefits will be provided.

- Husted also took an opportunity yesterday to highlight two orders related to insurance issued March 20. The first addressed a grace period for employers who cannot pay their premium; and, health insurers have been ordered to provide flexibility to maintain eligibility for health insurance. The second order he mentioned requires insurers to cover hospital bills from out-of-network providers as they would in-network care and to pay for COVID-19 testing. [Click here](#) for more information.
- Governor DeWine signaled the possible release of some correctional facility prisoners convicted of non-violent crimes, those that are at the end of their sentences or who may have a medical condition that puts them at higher risk of dying from COVID-19.
- The Governor is extending the work from home policy for state employees through at least May 1. About 18,000 state employees are teleworking currently.
- [JobsOhio](#) announced it has provided a \$2 million growth fund loan to Appalachian Growth Capital (AGC), which provides small business financing in the 32-Appalachian Counties of eastern and southern Ohio.

- Ohio's Bureau of Workers' Compensation announced that unpaid insurance premium installment amounts due for March, April, and May for the current policy year can be deferred until June 1, 2020. [Learn more here.](#)
- An updated K-12 school closure order effective through May 1, 2020, can be read [here.](#)
- Citing the coronavirus pandemic, the campaign backing a ballot issue to raise Ohio's minimum wage to \$13 has sued, asking a Franklin County Common Pleas Judge to relax the state's rules for qualifying for the ballot. "Raise the Wage Ohio" has been collecting signatures for a proposed amendment to raise Ohio's minimum wage, currently \$8.70 an hour, in increments until it reaches \$13 an hour in 2025. To make the November ballot, the group will need to collect 442,958 valid signatures by Wednesday, July 1.

Federal Updates

- The United States this morning reported at least 189,633 confirmed cases of the coronavirus, and 911 additional deaths in the last 24 hours.
- The President approved Ohio's request for a disaster designation, allowing Ohio to take advantage of emergency federal money.
- The President called for \$2 trillion in new public works programs, appearing to back an idea promoted by Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Federal policymakers in both parties also framed infrastructure as a strategy for creating jobs amid mass layoffs. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is skeptical of the House Democratic plan.
- In a letter to the President, Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown is suggesting extra money for workers at a variety of other "essential businesses," to compensate them for their dedication. He also said it should be "retroactive from the beginning of the public health emergency and last for its duration" and be made available to part-time workers and independent contractors, for hours worked and provided in their regular paychecks. The Senator is urging these provisions, what he's calling "[Pandemic Premium Pay](#)", to be included in the next coronavirus emergency stimulus and offer time and a half wages to doctors, nurses, grocery store workers, building cleaners, letter carriers, and transit workers.
- Ohio Senator Rob Portman is working to [lift tariffs](#) implemented by the administration on several Chinese-made packaging parts that Akron-based Gojo Industries uses in the pumps that dispense its Purell brand hand sanitizer – an item that is in heavy demand due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Transportation on Tuesday announced they'll lower fuel efficiency standards for passenger vehicles set during the Obama administration.
- Last week, the third coronavirus-related package was approved by Congress and the President signed the legislation. GCP crafted a short two-page summary of the legislation, which [can be found here.](#)
- USA.gov is cataloging all U.S. government activities related to coronavirus. From actions on health and safety to travel, immigration, and transportation to education, find pertinent

actions [here](#). Each Federal Agency has also established a dedicated coronavirus website, where you can find important information and guidance. They include: Health and Human Services ([HHS](#)), Centers of Medicare and Medicaid ([CMS](#)), Food and Drug Administration ([FDA](#)), Department of Education ([DoED](#)), Department of Agriculture ([USDA](#)), Small Business Administration ([SBA](#)), Department of Labor ([DOL](#)), Department of Homeland Security ([DHS](#)), Department of State ([DOS](#)), Department of Veterans Affairs ([VA](#)), Environmental Protection Agency ([EPA](#)), Department of Energy ([DOE](#)), Department of Commerce ([DOC](#)), Department of Justice ([DOJ](#)), Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)), Department of the Treasury ([USDT](#)), Office of the Director of National Intelligence ([ODNI](#)), and U.S. Election Assistance Commission ([EAC](#)).

Local Updates

- [According to News 5 Cleveland](#), Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish said he plans to spend another \$1 million to buy personal protective equipment to meet what he called a "tremendous need" during the COVID-19 pandemic. Budish said the latest authorization is in addition to the \$1 million announced last week. If you have personal protective equipment you would like to donate, the county's drop-off center is located at 2501 Harvard Avenue in Newburgh Heights. It's open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.