

April 17, 2020 – 9:00 AM

Please note resources and updates are evolving rapidly.

Resources

- The Federal Reserve on Thursday announced that its Paycheck Protection Program Liquidity Facility is fully operational and available to provide liquidity to eligible financial institutions, which will help support small businesses.
 - Additional information on the facility, which is managed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis on behalf of the Federal Reserve System, can be found here.
- Treasury launched a Main Street Business Lending program and a Municipal Liquidity Facility to support the flow of credit to American workers, businesses, States, counties, and cities impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. The Municipal Liquidity Facility (MLF) will provide up to \$500 billion in direct financing to states, counties, and cities to help ensure they have the funds necessary to provide essential services to citizens and respond to the coronavirus pandemic. More here. MLF term sheet and guidance can be found here.
- IFF and the Community Reinvestment Fund (CRF) have secured \$50 million in forgivable PPP loans for Midwest-based non-profit organizations. Ohio has been designated to receive \$20 million of the total \$50 million available. Information regarding the application process can be found here.
- Additional Information for Businesses:
 - Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers
 - Information for Communities, Schools, and Businesses
 - Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations – Community Facilities
 - SBA: COVID-19 Resources
 - DOL: Guidance for Preparing Workplaces for Coronavirus
 - DOL: OSHA Resources for Workers and Employers on COVID-19
 - WHO: Get Your Workplace Ready for COVID-19
 - CISA: Risk Management for COVID-19
 - EPA: Disinfectants for Use Against COVID-19
- The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is launching the Save Small Business Fund with Vistaprint to provide assistance to small business owners impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.
 - With contributions from corporate and philanthropic partners, the Chamber Foundation will distribute \$5,000 grants to small employers in the U.S. and its territories.
 - Grant applications will open on April 20, 2020. For information on eligibility, grant timeline, and more, visit savesmallbusiness.com.

State Updates

- The number of Ohioans who have died from coronavirus increased to 389 on Thursday, with 8,414 infections.

- Governor Mike DeWine said that, while coronavirus hospital admissions have been flat for a week, Ohio needs more data and a genuine decline in infections.
- Beginning May 1, 2020, the state will begin a phased-in reopening of the state economy.
 - The plan will be fact-driven over a long period of time to minimize the health risk to business owners, employees, and their customers.
 - In consultation with Dr. Amy Acton, Lt. Gov. Jon Husted is leading the Governor's board of economic advisors to identify best practices, many of which will be based on "essential" businesses that have been open. Several GCP members are represented on the team and the GCP Advocacy Team is offering key business feedback to high-ranking state officials.
 - The Governor also said workers and shoppers should embrace routine use of face masks, sanitizer, and social distancing.
- Governors JB Pritzker (IL), Gretchen Whitmer (MI), Mike DeWine (OH), Tony Evers (WI), Tim Walz (MN), Eric Holcomb (IN) and Andy Beshear (KY) Thursday announced that they will work in close coordination to reopen the economy in the Midwest region.
- Governor DeWine signed an order to waive the requirement for commercial vehicles to file an application for a single trip permit if they are transporting COVID-19 emergency relief supplies while traveling into or throughout Ohio. Read the order [here](#).
- Leaders praised Gov. Mike DeWine's coronavirus efforts to the House Economic Recovery Task Force Thursday, while also detailing how those measures have hurt businesses and charitable organizations and how restrictions should be lifted soon.
 - The group heard similar comments Wednesday.
 - The next meeting will be Friday at 12:30 p.m., livestreamed on the Ohio Channel. The list of scheduled witnesses includes Keith Lake, Ohio Chamber of Commerce vice president; Collin Castore, co-founder of Seventh Son Brewery; Kevin Wieging, president/owner of UltraSound Special Events Inc.; Tim Wolfe, owner of Patties and Pints; and Don Bowles, owner of Dreamcatcher Communications C103FM.

Federal Updates

- Republican and Democratic leaders remain steadfast in their positions on emergency funding.
 - Under the previously announced schedule, the Senate will not be in session again until Monday, April 20.
 - With new PPP loan approvals being suspended, the pressure will continue to build for House and Senate leaders to negotiate compromise legislation that can be passed by unanimous consent to replenish PPP and provide any additional funding.
- At a press conference on Thursday, the President presented his [guidelines](#) on the three phases of "Opening Up America Again". For more information on the guidelines, please go to www.WhiteHouse.gov/OpeningAmerica and see this [fact sheet](#).
 - Vice President Pence reinforced that the White House is giving the 50 states the running room to experiment with economic restarts "at a time and manner of their choosing."
 - The guidance includes no dates or deadlines, but Trump said if some Governors lift restrictions before the federal May 1 "stop the spread" period, he will view that as success.

- Additionally, the President convened two bipartisan dialogues with Members of the Opening Up America Again Congressional Group to discuss the next chapter of the COVID-19 recovery.
 - The following from Ohio are a part of the group:
 - Senator Rob Portman, *R-OH*
 - Representative Jim Jordan, *R-OH*
 - Representative Anthony Gonzalez, *R-OH*
 - Representative Marcia Fudge, *D-OH*
 - Representative Warren Davidson, *R-OH*
 - Representative Steve Chabot, *R-OH*

- The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued an alert listing safety tips employers can follow to help protect manufacturing workers from exposure to coronavirus.

- Patients who get financial help from drug companies to cover their copayments for prescription drugs could owe a bigger chunk of their costs under a proposed federal rule.
 - The annual rule, which sets a wide range of standards regarding benefits and payments for most health plans for next year, would allow employers and insurers to decide that drug companies’ assistance doesn’t count toward their members’ deductible or out-of-pocket maximum spending limits. Only payments made by patients themselves would factor into those calculations.
 - Want to learn more? [Click here.](#)

- This week, the Department of Health and Human Services announced a new contract for ventilator production rated under the Defense Production Act (DPA), to General Electric (GE), in partnership with Ford. GE’s contract, at a total contract price of \$336 million, is for 50,000 ventilators to be produced by July 13.

- The U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER) has been closely monitoring the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) since January 31. [This FAQ](#) was last updated on April 16, 2020.

- The U.S. Department of Education distributed \$388 million in funding to institutions of higher education in Ohio as part of its COVID-19 response. The higher education emergency relief fund was provided through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act recently signed into law.
 - Cleveland State University (CSU) reportedly received more than \$12 million.

- On Thursday, FEMA released the “Disaster Financial Management Guide” to support jurisdictions in establishing and implementing sound disaster financial management practices, which are critical for successful response and recovery. The guide takes an all-hazards approach and addresses a broad range of issues and contains concepts, principles and resources applicable to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic response environment.

- Crain’s Cleveland: Pandemic restrictions entangle employees with H-1B visas

Local Updates

- Ohio mayors Thursday said they may be forced to cut vital services such as police and fire protection due to the downturn in the economy and shutdown from the coronavirus pandemic if the federal government does not step in with help in the next round of stimulus.
 - Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter, a former state legislator, said his city does not have a rainy day fund and Parma is currently negotiating with the public employees unions to layoff 47 employees.
 - He said that they are very concerned that without a federal stimulus package they will have to make even tougher decisions.
 - Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley said the DeWine administration has been open to revenue sharing with cities.