



Athens County Resource Guide for Businesses Impacted by COVID-19

The Athens County Economic Development Council, Athens Area Chamber of Commerce and Athens County Convention & Visitors Bureau created this resource guide to help area businesses navigate through financial challenges they may be facing as a direct result of the COVID-19 virus pandemic. We will update as new assistance programs and resources become available at the local, state and federal levels. This document categorizes assistance into three priority focus areas: **1) Resources, 2) Relief, 3) Rebound.**

RESOURCES

- Visit the [OhioSE COVID-19 resource website](#) for a list of programs and resources made available to businesses.
- Review the US Department of Homeland Security's list of "[Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers](#)," which identifies businesses permitted to maintain a normal work schedule.
- Review the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce's [COVID-19 Toolkit](#), which is updated as more information and news is received from state and local authorities.
- Visit the [Ohio Department of Health](#) for frequent COVID-19 updates.
- Frequently check the Ohio Travel Association's [resource and information page](#) and Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association's [response page](#).
- Check the Athens County Convention & Visitors Bureau for [canceled community events](#).

RELIEF

- Reach out to your bank/lender to find out what types of programs or accommodations they may be able to offer you (e.g. flexible terms, deferred interest only payments, etc.)
- Visit unemployment.ohio.gov to file for unemployment and email UCTech@jfs.ohio.gov with any questions.
- Learn about the [SharedWork Ohio](#) program, which allows workers to remain employed and employers to retain their staff during times of reduced business activity.
- Apply to the [SBA Disaster Loan Assistance program](#). Your local [Small Business Development Center](#) can assist you with your application.
- Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation is allowing businesses to forgo payments in March, April and May, and to defer payments until June 1. Learn more at www.bwc.ohio.gov
- The Lt. Governor issued an order for employers to pay for employees' health insurance during the state's shutdown due to COVID-19. Employers will have a two-month grace period to pay insurance premiums to their insurance providers. Details can be found [HERE](#).



REBOUND

- Report all layoffs with effective dates to [Ohio Department of Jobs & Family Services](#); this is vital since it will determine the amount of funding secured to assist dislocated workers.
- Stay updated on changes to Athens city and county services as a result of COVID-19. Review the [Mayor's update from 3/17/2020](#)
- Reach out to the [ACEDC](#), [Chamber](#) or [ACCVB](#) offices at any time to share and discuss your business challenges. We will do our best to assist and point you in the right direction.
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**Please note: many of these entities are working on reduced capacities and are overwhelmed by a significant increase in callers/website users. Please be patient with them as they try to assist you.*