



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](#).
- Visit the Athens City-County Health Department [COVID page](#) for frequently updated information.
- Additional State of Ohio Requirements & Guidelines
 - [Responsible Restart Ohio for Latest Orders and Updated Requirements from Governor Dewine](#)
 - [Restaurants/Bars Ohio Department of Health Guidelines](#)
 - [Ohio Department of Health Restaurants/Bars Best Practices](#)
 - [Consumer and Retail Services Guidelines](#)
 - [Ohio Restaurant Promise](#)
 - [Ohio Travel Association Updates & Resources](#)
 - [Ohio Dine Safe Order](#)
 - [Ohio Channel](#) for Live Daily Press Conferences with Governor Dewine and Team (Facebook)

RELIEF

- [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\)](#) - authorizes up to \$349 billion in forgivable loans to small businesses to pay their employees during the COVID-19 crisis. Visit <http://www.sba.gov> for a list of SBA lenders.
- 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 Economic Injury Disaster Loan \(EIDL\)](#). This program is offered by the US Treasury and provides small businesses with working capital loans of up to \$2 million that can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing.



- 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
- Email dan@ruralaction.org to see if you qualify for Rural Action's emergency relief fund for small businesses, farmers and community based organizations.
- 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](#).
- JobsOhio Workforce Retention Loan – This is a program for existing JobsOhio client businesses only. It gives forgivable, six-month interest-free loans to companies who would use the loan to retain their workforce (would act as a credit line for payroll). If you think you may be eligible, reach out to the ACEDC (contact below).

REBOUND

- 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.
- 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](#)
- Complete the Impacts of COVID-19 on Athens County Businesses Survey to help inform greatest areas of need for recovery:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10Xtwg6khz6FLXPVb9WAYeyqnbvkXHTitZoFsLjR7em0/edit>
- 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.
 - **Athens County Economic Development Council**
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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.*