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Pandemic-Related Business Assistance, July 2021

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The COVID-19 disease has resulted in a worldwide pandemic. Over 177 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported globally, with more than 3.8 million of those cases resulting in death. The United States reported over 34 million confirmed cases during the pandemic with over 600,000 deaths. The COVID-19 public health crisis has resulted in widespread government response including event cancellations and prohibitions, stay-at-homes orders, the closure of nonessential businesses, and more. In Ohio, Governor Mike DeWine declared a state of emergency on 3/9/2020 immediately following the first case reported in the state. On 3/13/2020, President Donald Trump declared the pandemic a national emergency. On 3/27/2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law; a \$2.2 trillion federal economic stimulus bill meant to respond to the social and economic upheaval the disease has caused. The CARES Act is the largest stimulus package passed in the United States to date. On 12/27/2020, the Consolidated Appropriations Act was passed, providing \$900 billion in stimulus relief for the pandemic. Another 1.4 trillion in spending helped plan the 2021 federal fiscal year. On 3/11/2021, the American Rescue Plan was passed providing an additional \$1.9 trillion in economic stimulus to further aid the country through the ongoing pandemic.

I. BUSINESS & NONPROFIT SUPPORT

The pandemic has caused an unprecedented increase in unemployment, the closing or suspension of operations for many businesses, a drastic reduction in the capacity to produce many goods and services, and a significant reduction of disposable household income. To assist with these economic emergencies, federal, state, and local governments have passed legislation to aid households and businesses, including some programs for nonprofits. The following tables illustrate a timeline of various programs developed on the federal, state, and local levels (Cuyahoga County and Cleveland) initiated after the pandemic started. This brief groups the actions of all levels of government into four categories: general business support, small business support, industry-specific support, and unemployment benefits for individuals. The subsequent sections offer a summary of each program and a link to their full description. The timeline covers a period of time from March 2020 to June 2021 and shows which programs continue beyond September 2021.

Business/Nonprofit Support																									
2020/2021	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	→					
National/ Federal	CARES Act: Enacted 3/27/2020 Employee Retention Credit - Expired 1/1/2021											Consolidated Appropriations Act extended credit until 7/1/2021					American Rescue Plan extended credit until 12/31/2021								
	CARES Act: Enacted 3/27/2020 Payroll Tax Deferral- Expired 12/31/2020																								
	Families First Coronavirus Response Act : Enacted 4/2/2020 - Expired 12/31/20											Consolidated Appropriations Act extended through 3/14/2021			American Rescue Plan Act extended this act until 9/30/2021										
	Federal Employees' Compensation Act Claims: Enacted 3/21/2020 - continuing																								
State of Ohio	Workers' Compensation Insurance Premium Deferments : Enacted 3/13/2020 - Expired 9/1/2020																								
	SharedWork Ohio : Enacted 5/17/2017 - Continuing																								
	Emergency Investment Fund : Enacted 5/8/2020 - Expired 6/30/2020					Nonprofit Relief Grant : Enacted 11/27/2020 - Expired																			
Cuyahoga County and the City of Cleveland	Cuyahoga County Additional Paid Leave : Enacted 3/11/2020 - Expired 12/19/2020										Ordinance Extended to 6/30/2021														
	ReStartCLE Restoration Working Capital Program : Enacted 4/5/2020 - Expired 6/11/2021																								

FEDERAL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Employee Retention Credit - A refundable tax credit intended to keep employees on a business's payroll. The amount of the credit is 50% of wages paid after 3/12/2020 and before 1/1/2021, up to \$10,000. The **Consolidated Appropriations Act** extended this credit until 7/1/2021, increased the percentage to 75%, and increased the limit to \$10,000 per calendar quarter. The **American Rescue Plan Act** further extended the credit to 12/31/2021, decreased the percentage to 70% of wages paid, and retained the limit of \$10,000 per calendar quarter.

Payroll Tax Deferral - A tax deferral that **allows** businesses to delay payment of the employer's share of the Social Security tax. Half of the unpaid tax should be paid by the end of 2021 and the rest by the end of 2022. This is intended to enhance cash flow to maintain business operations as usual.

Families First Coronavirus Response Act - The act requires employers to provide their employees with paid sick leave or family and medical leave for instances related to COVID-19. The **Consolidated Appropriations Act** extended this act until 3/14/2021. The **American Rescue Plan** further extended this act through 9/30/2021.

Federal Employees' Compensation Act - The act entitles all federal employees who develop COVID-19 while performing their work duties to workers' compensation coverage. If their job is considered high-risk, the program will automatically consider their contracting of the virus as work-related. If the job is considered low risk, the employee must provide a factual statement and any evidence linking the exposure to their work. The American Rescue Plan continues this act, including federal employees who contracted COVID-19 and carried out duties that led to contact with patients, members of the public, or co-workers, or included risk of exposure during the covered period before the diagnosis.

STATE BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Workers' Compensation Insurance Premium Deferments - To assist business in navigating the pandemic, Ohio's Bureau of Workers' Compensation deferred insurance premium installment payments between March and August of 2020.

SharedWork Ohio - This layoff aversion program allows workers to remain employed during times of reduced business. Under the program, the employer reduces employee hours uniformly. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services then provides unemployment benefits equal to their lost time. This is a pre-existing program. SharedWork Ohio has committed to responding to all applications within a week of submission during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Emergency Investment Fund - The fund was available to all nonprofit organizations serving the state. Nonprofits can receive up to \$50,000 by submitting a letter of request to the Ohio Housing Finance Agency. \$250,000 was available.

Nonprofit Relief Grant - The grant is given out to nonprofits that provide critical social support to individuals, families, and high-risk communities. To receive a grant, a nonprofit's services must have been reduced due to COVID-19. \$25,000,000 was available.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY AND THE CITY OF CLEVELAND BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Additional Paid Leave (Cuyahoga County) - The ordinance gives Cuyahoga County employees 80 hours of paid emergency leave if they have exhausted their sick leave.

ReStartCLE Restoration Working Capital Program - The program provides loans to businesses to assist with specific costs including rent or mortgage payments, payroll, utilities, etc. Businesses with over 30 employees can receive up to \$100,000. All other businesses can receive up to \$25,000. \$5.5 million was available.

II. SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

The Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) has had a monumental impact on small businesses. From the initial stay-at-home orders and lockdowns taking effect between February and April 2020, the population of active business owners in the U.S. decreased by over 3 million, or by 22%.¹ This drop is the largest on record. 43% of small businesses were temporarily closed and had significant reductions in their number of employees.¹ More recently quarterly job creation has increased by 40% by February 2021, after a lose of over 15 million net jobs in the private sector.² The following timeline displays how the federal government, the State of Ohio, Cuyahoga County, and the City of Cleveland have been and continue to support small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Small Business Support																				
2020/2021	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	→
National/ Federal	CARES Act: Enacted 4/10/2020 <u>Payment Protection Program</u> - Expired 12/1/2021											Consolidated Appropriations Act: Enacted 1/11/2021		American Rescue Plan Act: Enacted 3/11/2021 expanded program to include non-profit, tax-exempt organizations. Applications closed 5/31/2021 but funding continues until Expended						
	CARES Act: Enacted 3/27/2020 - <u>Economic Injury Disaster Loans</u> - Expired 12/31/2020										Consolidated Appropriations Act Extended program until 12/31/2021 with the American Rescue Plan Act expanding funding									
	CARES Act: Enacted 3/27/2020 - <u>Express Bridge Loans</u> - Expires 3/13/2021											Consolidated Appropriations Act extended this program until 10/1/2021								
	CARES Act: Enacted 3/27/2020 - <u>SBA Debt Relief</u> - Expired 9/27/2020											Consolidated Appropriation Act: 1st Payment on 2/1/2021 Additional Debt Relief- Expires 9/30/2021								
State of Ohio	Appalachian Growth Capital Loan Program: Enacted 6/4/2020 - Available until funds are Expended																			
	Ohio Minority Micro-Enterprise Grant Program: Enacted 6/4/2020 - Application							Small Business Relief Grant: Enacted 11/2/2020 - Expires When Funds are Expended												
	Commercial Property, Rent Evictions and Foreclosures: Enacted 4/1/2020 Expired				New Business Relief Grants: Enacted 5/17/2020 New Business Relief Grants - Expires when funds are Expended															
Cuyahoga County and the City of Cleveland	Small Business Stabilization Fund - Round One: 4/17/2020-4/23/2020; Round Two: 5/8/2020-5/15/2020; Round three: 11/23/2020-12/3/2020																			
	ReStartCLE: Enacted 5/1/2020 Emergency Working Capital Program Loan (Expires 1/1/2022) Emergency Working Capital Program Loan- Specifically Impacted Businesses (Expires 1/1/2022)																			
	Greater Cleveland COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund: Established 3/18/2020 - Phase 1 ended 7/17/2020								Greater Cleveland COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund Phase II: Established 3/18/2020 - Ends 9/1/2021											

1 Fairlie, R. (2020). The impact of COVID-19 on small business owners: Evidence from the first three months after widespread social-distancing restrictions. *Journal of Economics & Management Strategy*, 29(4), 727-740. doi:<http://rave.ohiolink.edu/ejournals/article/373808>

2 Headd, B. and Williams, V. (2021). May 2021 Economic Bulletin. US Small Business Administration. <https://cdn.advocacy.sba.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/18100623/Spring-Econ-Bulletin.pdf>

FEDERAL SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Paycheck Protection Program - The \$320 billion program distributed loans designed to provide small businesses an incentive to keep their employees on the payroll. If the set employee retention criteria are met and funds are used eligibly, SBA will forgive the loan. The [Consolidated Appropriations Act](#) clarified that business expenses paid for using tax-free loans made under the CARES Act's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) are tax-deductible. The act also includes more than \$284 billion for additional PPP loans to small businesses. The [American Rescue Plan](#) expanded PPP eligibility to internet news publishers, certain tax-exempt groups listed under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, and larger nonprofit organizations. This act also includes \$7.25 billion in additional funding. While these funds will be available until expended, the program ended on May 31, 2021.

Economic Injury Disaster Loans - The \$20 billion program is offering financial relief to small businesses that are experiencing lower revenue due to the pandemic. The loans are intended to be used to meet financial obligations and operating costs that would have otherwise been met if the pandemic did not occur. The Consolidated Appropriations Act added \$20 billion in funding, extended the program to 12/31/2021, repealed the loan's advance deduction related to PPP loans, and modified the requirements for targeted businesses. The American Rescue Plan adds \$15 billion of funding to the emergency grant while retaining the program extension of 12/31/2021.

Express Bridge Loans - The program is intended for small businesses that already have a relationship with an SBA Express Lender. Those who do can access up to \$25,000 quickly to provide economic support due to a temporary loss of revenue. The loans are designed to bridge the gap between the Economic Injury Disaster Loan application and acceptance. The Consolidated Appropriations Act extends this program until 10/1/2021.

SBA Debt Relief - SBA made 6 automatic monthly payments for borrowers of the principal, interest, and fees for all current 7(a) and 504 loans, microloans, as well as loans disbursed before 9/27/2020. SBA also deferred all current Service Disaster Loans as of 3/1/2020 until 12/31/2020. An additional 6 months of monthly payments were enacted by the [Consolidated Appropriations Act](#).

Shuttered Venue Operators Grants - The \$15 billion program distributes relief to eligible businesses that operate live venues or are a part of the performance arts industries. The grants are intended to keep live venues afloat while the threat of the pandemic subsides. The American Rescue Plan added \$1.25 billion in additional relief to the program.

Community Navigator Program - The \$175 million program aims to increase awareness and participation in other relief programs for business owners lacking access. The program gives special attention to aiding socially and economically disadvantaged business owners. Organizations serving as navigators can receive between \$1 million and \$5 million in funding.

Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) - The \$28.6 billion fund provides aid to restaurants and other eligible businesses who have lost revenue due to pandemic-related reasons. Aid received is equal to revenue loss up to \$10 million per business and no more than \$5 million per physical location. Funding made available is not required to be repaid if funds are used no later than 3/11/2023. As of 6/15/2021, a [lawsuit](#) has halted payments made from this fund while litigation continues.

STATE SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Appalachian Growth Capital Loan Program - The program offers \$10 million in funding to small businesses in Ohio's Appalachian region who have been impacted by the pandemic. The funding is offered in loans through Appalachian Growth Capital LLC (a U.S. Treasury-Certified Community Development Financial Institution).

Ohio Minority Micro-Enterprise Grant Program - The program provided \$10,000 in funding to help small, minority- and women-owned businesses through the COVID-19 crisis as well as set them up for future success; \$5 million was available.

Small Business Relief Grant - This is a \$125 million grant fund intended to assist Ohio small businesses that have been impacted by the pandemic. The grant program was funded by the CARES Act. On 5/17/2021 Ohio added \$150 million dollars in grants of \$10,000 to unfunded requests made on or before 12/11/2020.

New Business Relief Grants - \$10 million in grants of \$10,000 was made available to new businesses that opened in Ohio after 1/1/2020. These grants targeted businesses who were not able to receive the Small Business Relief Grants during 2020.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY AND CLEVELAND SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Small Business Stabilization Fund - The fund provided both \$10,000 grants and \$10,000 loans for small business owners located in Cuyahoga County. It is funded by the CARES Act and designed to assist these businesses in getting through the pandemic. There have been three rounds of this funding so far.

ReStartCLE Emergency Working Capital Program Loan - The loan program provides up to \$10,000 to Cleveland businesses to use for operating costs, such as utilities, payroll, and rent incurred during the month of March or after. There are no fees, interest, or payments due until 1/1/2022. The interest is 1% after the 1st of January 2022; \$3 million is available.

ReStartCLE Emergency Working Capital Program Loan-Specially Impacted Businesses - The loan program provides up to \$20,000 to Cleveland restaurants, personal care businesses, and storefront retail to use for operating costs such as utilities, payroll, and rent incurred during the month of March or after. Up to half of the loan is forgivable if the costs are associated with the purchases of PPE. There are no fees, interest, or payments due until 1/1/2022. The interest is 1% after the 1st of January 2022. \$2 million is available.

ReStartCLE - Safe Operations Grant - The grant program awards up to \$10,000 to assist with costs incurred to operate safely during the pandemic. Costs can include working capital or equipment required to conduct business safely.

Greater Cleveland COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund - The fund was established to complement the work of public health officials and expand local nonprofits' ability to address all impacts of the pandemic as quickly as possible. The first phase granted more than \$8.6 million to almost 160 local nonprofits. Phase II prioritizes limiting the spread of the disease, meeting basic human needs, PPE distribution, and housing challenges. Nearly \$2.6 million has already been given out in Phase II.

Debt Relief for Existing City Loans – Loans funded from City resources are deferred until 7/1/2021.

III. INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC BUSINESS SUPPORT

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on many industries. According to S&P Global Market Intelligence’s analysis, the top five industries most affected by the pandemic are those encompassing the businesses of airlines, leisure facilities, oil and gas drilling, auto manufacturing, and restaurants.³ The following timeline displays how the federal government, the State of Ohio, Cuyahoga County, and the City of Cleveland have been and continue to support specific industries during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Industry-Specific Business Support																																		
2020/2021	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	→														
National/ Federal	CARES Act: Enacted 3/27/2020 - Aviation Industry Payroll Support Program - Last Payment was 10/16/2020										Consolidated Appropriations Act: Enacted 12/27/2020 - Expired 3/31/2021		American Rescue Plan Act: Enacted 3/11/2021 - Expires 9/30/2021																					
	National Interest Exemption for Contractors: Enacted 3/17/2020 - Expired 6/17/2020					American Rescue Plan Act: Enacted 3/11/2021 - Urbanized Area Formula Grant - Expires 9/30/2021										American Rescue Plan Act: Enacted 3/11/2021 - Capital Investment Grant Program - Continuing																		
	Flexibilities for Mine Operators: Enacted 3/13/2020 - Expires at end of emergency declaration																																	
	CARES Act: Enacted 3/27/2020 - Agriculture: Coronavirus Food Assistance Program - Expired 8/28/2020										American Rescue Plan Act: Enacted 3/11/2021 - Airport Rescue Grant - Expires 9/30/2021																							
	Registration and Listing Assistance for Non-Traditional Manufacturers of Hand Sanitizer and Related COVID-19 Drugs: Enacted 3/27/2020 - Expired 4/30/2020					American Rescue Plan Act: Enacted 3/11/2021 - Aviation Manufacturing Jobs Protection Program - Expires 6/30/2021										American Rescue Plan Act: Enacted 3/11/2020 - Formula Grants for Rural Areas - Expires 9/30/2023					American Rescue Plan Act: Enacted 3/11/2020 - Food Supply Chain and Agriculture Pandemic Response - Expires when funds are Expended					American Rescue Plan Act: Enacted 3/11/2020 - USDA Loan Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers - Expires when funds are Expended					American Rescue Plan Act: Enacted 3/11/2020 - USDA Assistance and Support for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers, Ranchers, Forest Landowners, and Operators - Expires when Expended			
State of Ohio	Liquor Buyback for Bar and Restaurants: Purchases between 2/27/2020 and 3/17/2020			Ohio PPE Retooling and Reshoring Grant Program for Manufacturers: Enacted 6/4/2020- Application Closed and Funds Expended					Bar and Restaurant Assistance Fund: Enacted 11/2/2020 - Applications Closed 12/30/2020 but funding continues until Expended																									
	ODOT Essential Goods Weight Limit Waiver for Hauler's: Enacted 3/21/2020 - Expires at the End of Ohio's Emergency Declaration																																	
	Deadline Extension- Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation Board: Enacted 3/14/2020 - Expired 9/10/2020								Entertainment Venues Grant: Enacted 5/17/2020 - More details to be published at a later date																									
	Regulatory Relief for Intrastate Operation of Commercial Motor Vehicles Transporting Relief Supplies: Enacted 3/3/2020 - Expired 3/27/2020					Lodging Industry Grants: Enacted 5/17/2020 - More details to be published at a later date															Local Fairs Grant: Enacted 5/17/2020 - Expires when funds are Expended													
Cuyahoga County and the City of Cleveland	Cuyahoga CARES for Artists and Small Performing Arts Businesses: Enacted 11/10/2020 - Application were due on 11/22/2020 (one-time funding)										ReStartCLE Winter Restaurant Operations Support Grant: Enacted 11/11/2020 - Applications due on 11/30/2020 (one-time funding)																							

FEDERAL INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Airport Rescue Grant - The 8 million grant program offers economic assistance to eligible U.S. airports to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the pandemic.

Aviation Manufacturing Jobs Protection Program - The \$3 billion program provides funds to help pay up to half of compensation costs for certain employees. The funding covers up to six months of compensation in return for commitments to avoid involuntary furloughs or layoffs during the period.

³Haydon, D., & Kumar, N. (2020, September 21). Industries most and least impacted by COVID-19 from a probability of default perspective

– September 2020 update.

Aviation Industry Payroll Support Program - The program provides payroll support to passenger air carriers, cargo air carriers, and certain contractors for the continuation of payment of employee wages, salaries, and benefits. A total of up to \$25 billion was available for passenger air carriers; \$4 billion for cargo air carriers; and \$3 billion for certain contractors under the CARES Act. The Consolidated Appropriations Act provided a total of up to \$15 billion for passenger air carriers and \$1 billion for contractors and was available until the end of March 2020. The American Rescue Plan provides an additional \$14 billion for passenger air carriers and \$1 billion for contractors, extending funding available through 9/30/2021 or longer for some recipients.

National Interest Exemption for Contractors - Due to the impact of the novel coronavirus, the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs issued a temporary exemption from certain federal contracting requirements.

Urbanized Area Formula Grant – The \$26.1 billion funding through the program makes federal resources available for transit capital and operating assistance for transportation in urbanized areas.

Capital Investment Grant Program – The American Rescue Plan added \$1.68 billion for projects under this program. The program funds transit capital investments, including heavy rail, commuter rail, light rail, streetcars, and bus rapid transits.

Competitive Planning Grant - \$25 million of funding is made available for planning of public transportation related to the restoration of services through the conclusion of the public health emergency. The Federal Transit Administration will publish a notice of Funding Opportunity related to this on the [Federal Register](#) when made available.

Registration and Listing Assistance for Non-Traditional Manufacturers of Hand Sanitizer and Related COVID-19 Drugs - The FDA typically requires all companies that manufacture drugs or hand sanitizer to register and list their products through the FDA. For companies that are only manufacturing these products for the duration of the pandemic, the FDA assisted with submitting the proper data to speed up the process to allow production to begin promptly.

Formula Grants for Rural Areas - The American Rescue Plan added \$317 million to this program. The program provides capital, planning, and operating assistance to states to support public transportation within rural areas where residents often rely on these services.

Food Supply Chain and Agriculture Pandemic Response – \$4 billion in funding is made available through the American Rescue Plan to help protect the US Agriculture and Supply chain industry. Funds are made available for purchasing and distributing food and agricultural commodities, monitoring livestock susceptible to COVID-19, and to aid overtime inspection costs to keep workers, livestock, and food safe.

USDA Loan Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers - The American Rescue Plan provides payments up to 120 percent of outstanding indebtedness of each socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher as of 1/1/2021. There is no cap to this expenditure, which remains available until expended. The extra 20 percent is intended to address taxes following the debt relief.

USDA Assistance and Support for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers, Ranchers, Forest Landowners and Operators, and Groups – The American Rescue Plan provides \$1 billion in funds support disadvantaged groups within the agriculture industry. This funding can be used to provide outreach, mediation, trainings, grant and loans, education, research, and scholarships. The goal of these funds is to aid socially disadvantaged groups while addressing racial equity issues within the Department of Agriculture and its programs.

Food for Peace Program - \$800 million in funding is provided by the American Rescue Plan to address hunger, food insecurity, and support humanitarian efforts. The funds are award to the Food for Peace program to help with their projects and are available through September 2022.

STATE INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Liquor Buyback for Bar and Restaurant Purchases - Bars and restaurants were permitted to return unopened, high-proof liquor products purchased between 2/27/2020 and 4/6/2020. Bar and restaurant owners were instructed to simply take the product back to the Contract Liquor Agency where they bought it.

Ohio PPE Retooling and Reshoring Grant Program for Manufacturers - The Ohio Development Services Agency is provided \$20 million in grants to manufacturers to help retool facilities by purchasing equipment needed to manufacture Personal Protection Equipment for use in Ohio. These grants will allow companies a chance to add another line of product while also fighting against the pandemic.

Bar and Restaurant Assistance Fund - A \$38.7 million fund that was intended to assist Ohio's on-premise liquor permit holders. It helped over 15,000 licensees with impacts of COVID-19 as they have become limited in the full use of their permit. It provided licensees with \$2,500 assistance payments. On 5/27/2021, the Ohio Senate set aside an additional \$100 million for this fund.

ODOT Essential Goods Weight Limit Waiver for Haulers - The Ohio Department of Transportation has enacted a special blanket permit for haulers carrying heavy loads of essential goods such as food, medical supplies, and cleaning products. This permit applies to driving on all roads maintained by ODOT. The maximum gross vehicle weight is 90,000 pounds.

Suspension of Pharmacy Audits - All pharmacy audits will be suspended during the state of emergency. This allows pharmacies to focus all of their resources on helping fight COVID-19.

Deadline extension - The Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation Board - The Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation Board extended the deadlines for the submission of Applications for Financial Assurance Fund Eligibility, Claim Reimbursement Applications and requests for cost pre-approval to 9/10/2020.

Regulatory Relief for Intrastate Operation of Commercial Motor Vehicles Transporting Relief Supplies - In response to the state of emergency, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) extended temporary regulatory relief from the hours-of-service requirements for drivers operating commercial motor vehicles transporting relief supplies such as food, medical supplies, and cleaning products within the state of Ohio. This relief expired on 3/27/2020.

Entertainment Venues Grant - \$20 million in grants available to entertainment venues impacted by the pandemic. Funds are available in amounts of \$10,000, \$20,000, and \$30,000 based on lost revenue due to canceled events.

Local Fairs Grant - \$4.7 million in grants are available to aid local fairs through the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

Lodging Industry Grants - A \$25 million fund to provide relief for lodging industry businesses impacted by the pandemic. Funds are available in amounts of \$10,000, \$20,000, and \$30,000 based on lost revenue and occupancy rates.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY AND THE CITY OF CLEVELAND INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Cuyahoga CARES for Artists and Small Performing Arts Businesses - Cuyahoga County is offering \$2.64 million of its CARES Act money to Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC). This funding is intended to help nonprofit arts and culture organizations that had to cease operations or were constricted due to the pandemic. Arts Cleveland, a Cleveland nonprofit, is also offering \$1.36M in support.

ReStartCLE Winter Restaurant Operations Support Grant - The grant provides a total of \$500,000 and up to \$5,000 per business to help restaurants offer safe outdoor dining in the winter through purchases including heaters, fire pits, tents, igloos, etc. An operations plan must be provided to receive the money.

IV. UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

The Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19) has had a major impact on unemployment everywhere and in every industry. The national unemployment rate peaked at 14.8% in April 2020; a rate that has not been seen since data collection started in 1948.⁴ It has since declined to 5.8% as of May 2021, which is still about 2 percentage points more the unemployment rate in the U.S. before the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵ The following timeline displays how the federal government, the State of Ohio, Cuyahoga County, and the City of Cleveland have been and continue to support unemployed individuals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

		Unemployment Benefits																				
2020/2021	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	→		
National/ Federal	CARES Act: Enacted 3/27/2020 - Economic Impact Payments - Deadline to submit information 11/21/2020												Consolidated Appropriations Act: Enacted 12/27/2020 - Individual Stimulus Payments - Expires 9/30/2021		American Rescue Plan: Enacted 3/11/2021 - Individual Stimulus Payments							
	CARES Act: Enacted 3/27/2020 - Unemployment Insurance Flexibility - Continuing																					
	CARES Act: Enacted 3/27/2020 - Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation - Expired 7/31/2020						Lost Wages Assistance Program: Enacted 8/1/2020 - Expired 12/27/2020				Consolidated Appropriations Act: Enacted 12/27/2020 Extension of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation - Expires 3/14/2021				American Rescue Plan Act: Enacted 3/11/2021 Extension of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation - Expires 9/4/2021							
																			American Rescue Plan Act: Enacted 3/11/2021 - Child Tax Credit - Through Spring of 2022			
	CARES Act: Enacted 3/27/2020 - Dislocated Worker Grants - Continuing																					
State of Ohio	Pandemic Unemployment Assistance: Enacted 4/24/2020 additional \$600 - expired 7/25/2020					Lost Wages Assistance Program: Enacted 8/1/2020 - expired 12/27/2020					Extended on 12/27/2020 to 4/10/2021 - includes additional \$300			American Rescue Plan Act: Enacted 3/11/2020 additional \$300 - expires 9/4/2021								

FEDERAL INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Economic Impact Payments - The [CARES Act](#) provided up to \$1,200 per adult for individuals with less than \$99,000 in annual income or \$198,000 for joint filers. Families received \$500 for each child under 17 years old. The [Consolidated Appropriations Act](#) provided an additional \$600 per adult and child under 17 for those making less than \$75,000 (or \$150,000 for joint filers). As the income cap is met, the stimulus will be reduced by 5% of the exceeded amount. The [American Rescue Plan](#) provided an additional \$1,400 per adult and for each qualifying dependent, including full-time students younger than 24 years old making less than \$75,000 (or \$150,000 for joint filers).

Unemployment Insurance Flexibilities - The law now permits states to amend their unemployment insurance benefits in circumstances related to COVID-19. For example, if an employer temporarily halts operations due to the pandemic and employees can't work. Or, an individual is placed in quarantine but will continue work when it is over. Also, if an individual leaves their job due to risking exposure to a family member or to care for them.

Child Tax Credit - The American Rescue Plan increases the Child Tax Credit maximum to \$3,000 per child and \$3,600 for children under age 6. This credit is fully refundable, making the entire credit available if it exceeds an individual's income tax liability instead of partially refundable under current law.

⁴ Falk, G., Carter, J., Nicchitta, I., Nyhof, E., & Romero, P. (2021). Unemployment rates during the COVID-19 pandemic: In brief. Congressional Research Service.

⁵ Bureau of Labor Statistics., (2021). The Employment Situation-May 2021 (USD-21-0980). United States Department of Labor. <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empst.pdf>

Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation - The CARES Act created the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program, which extends unemployment insurance for an extra 13 weeks to those who have exhausted their benefits. States are required to offer flexibility to applicants in meeting PEUC eligibility requirements related to “actively seeking work” if an applicant’s ability to find work is affected by COVID-19. In addition to the weekly benefits individuals can get through PEUC, they were also eligible for \$600 per week under the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation. The [Consolidated Appropriations Act](#) extended these benefits for unemployed individuals for 11 weeks in 2021, while reducing the benefits to \$300 per week. The [American Rescue Plan](#) further extended benefits of \$300 per week to 9/4/2021.

Lost Wages Assistance Program - FEMA gave up to \$44 billion from the Disaster Relief Funds towards making lost wage payments. This was intended to replace the additional \$600 in unemployment benefits to ease the burden on those struggling with lost wages.

Dislocated Worker Grants - These grants (DWGs) are available to states that have been affected by mass layoffs. The Employment Recovery DWG temporarily expands the capacity of states to assist dislocated workers. Disaster Recovery DWGs provide money to create temporary employment to assist with recovery efforts.

STATE INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance - The program is meant for Ohioans who are unemployed due to the pandemic but cannot qualify for regular unemployment benefits. It covers additional categories of workers making many people eligible for the benefits. These benefits were extended on 12/27/2020 by the Consolidation Appropriation Act. The American Rescue Plan further extended these benefits through 9/4/2021. Both extensions come from provisions in federal funding to assist state run state unemployment benefits.

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Your comments and questions are valued and encouraged.

Please share them with Dr. Iryna V. Lendel at i.lendel@csuohio.edu

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