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.
  - Athens County Economic Development Council
    Sara Marrs-Maxfield, Executive Director: sara@athenscountyohedc.com
    Mollie Fitzgerald, Assistant Director: mollie@athenscountyohedc.com
    740-597-1420
  - Athens County Convention & Visitors Bureau
    Paige Alost, Executive Director: palost@athensohio.com
    Boone Troyer, Partnership Engagement Manager: btroyer@athensohio.com
    740-592-1819
  - Athens Area Chamber of Commerce
    Dani Underhill, President: dani@athenschamber.com
    Dawn Worley-Sims, Director of Operations: dawn@athenschamber.com
    740-591-4111

*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.*