COVID-19 MAY 27, 2020 UPDATE

State News

Though I know many of you have applied for the Arkansas Ready for Business Grant, they are saying there are still some funds that may be available. We mentioned it last month to membership but wanted to remind business in the case you missed it.

Maximum grant amount is $100,000

- Eligible expenditures include Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and no-contact thermometers for employees and customers, no-contact Point of Sale (POS) payment equipment; supplies and disinfectants to initially deep clean premises and for use on an ongoing basis; also included are expenses associated with hiring a third party to perform periodic deep cleaning services, hand sanitizer stations, restocking of necessary supplies/raw materials, expenses associated with reconfiguring business to meet recommended health and safety guidelines, signage, marketing and other one-time expenses associated with reopening or resuming normal operations

- Eligible expenditures must be made between March 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020

You can view more than information on that and apply here.

Today, May 27, at 2:30 p.m. Mervin Jebaraj, University of Arkansas Economist, will present: “After COVID-19: Arkansas’s Economic Outlook.”

It is impossible to ignore the economic impact of COVID-19. With social distancing guidelines and various restrictions throughout all industries, the forecast of the impact on the Arkansas economy remains uncertain. Mervin Jebaraj, University of Arkansas Economist, will discuss factors that could impact the trajectory of the economy and potential economic outlook scenarios for Arkansas. Jebaraj is the director of the University of Arkansas Sam M. Walton College of Business Center for Business and Economic Research. If the webinar is full when logging in, a video link will be sent to all registrants following the webinar. To register for today’s 2:30 p.m. webinar, click here.

As the economy continues to reopen, many communities depend on the revenue public events infuse in the local area. Following government guidelines is the first priority, but what else can event planners do to plan for hosting events? Ensuring consumer confidence and modifying event operations is crucial to retaining attendance. Join this webinar to hear research-based strategies for planning and executing safer events this as Arkansas recovers from COVID-19. Click here to register.

Save the dates!

The State Chamber/AIA has an interactive tool showing Arkansas business reopening dates updated regularly here.
The State Chamber/AIA has revised our COVID-19 Prevention Best Practices Document to assist businesses with their reopening efforts here.


Donors needed to restock blood supplies here.
Updated PPP commentary from Cal McCastlain of Dover Dixon Horne PLLC here.

The Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center (ASBTDC) is holding a series of webinars as part of its Keep Calm and Small Business On effort here.

The SBA Arkansas District Office and SCORE are offering Small Business Disaster Assistance Funding and Updates webinars here.

Federal News

WHO warns first wave of pandemic is not over here.

U.S. fast approaching grim milestone of 100,000 COVID-19 deaths here.

CDC issues new updates here.

NAM provides new details on Supply Chain Policy Recommendations here.

Brazil travel ban begins today here.

Eight ways to go out and stay safe during coronavirus pandemic here.

A pandemic bright spot: In many places, less crime here.

Why so many Latinos are getting coronavirus here.

For additional information and resources, check our COVID-19 Coronavirus and Arkansas page here.