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Applications Being Accepted for Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program; Governor DeWine Signs Order Expanding Telehealth Services for Medicaid Recipients

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)— Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted today announced that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved their request to allow small businesses and nonprofits in Ohio to apply for low-interest, long-term loans of up to \$2 million through the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program.

"Timing is everything as we navigate this crisis," said Governor DeWine. "We have to move quickly to not only ensure that Ohioans are safe, but also that they have the necessary support in place to weather this difficult situation. I appreciate the quick response by federal officials to provide the state's small businesses and nonprofits with access to this resource."

The Economic Injury Disaster Loans may be used by Ohio small business owners and nonprofits to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact. The interest rate is 3.75 percent for small businesses without credit available elsewhere; businesses with credit available elsewhere are not eligible. The interest rate for nonprofits is 2.75 percent.

To keep payments affordable, the loans are long term, with up to 30 years for repayment. Terms are determined on a case-by-case basis, based on each borrower's ability to repay.

"Governor DeWine and I are aggressively working to ensure that the state's economy remains strong and is well-positioned once this health crisis passes," said Lt. Governor Husted. "I encourage business owners and nonprofits to apply for this assistance if needed, and to continue to reach out to let us know how we can help."

Loan applications can be [completed online](#), or applicants can obtain a paper application by calling 1-800-659-2955. For more information about the loan program, visit [SBA.gov/Disaster](https://www.sba.gov/Disaster).

TELEHEALTH FOR MEDICAID RECIPIENTS:

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine today announced that [he has signed an executive order](#) to expand and enhance telehealth options for Ohio Medicaid recipients and their providers amid the coronavirus outbreak. These rules relax regulations to allow recipients to safely access health care providers from their homes, thereby reducing the risk of COVID-19 infection for patients, families, and health care workers

"Maintaining access to services, despite our need to socially distance ourselves, is critical to helping to stop the spread of COVID-19," said Governor DeWine. "This action will help reduce the number of people infected and will hopefully save lives."

Telehealth is the use of electronic information and telecommunications technologies to support long-distance clinical health care, patient and professional health-related education, public health and health administration. Traditionally, health care providers and patients interact with each other via real-time, two-way technology such as smartphones, tablets, or computers. These rules allow patients to connect with their doctors using everyday communications tools including emails, faxes, and landline telephone services.

Individuals do not have to be an established patient to receive telehealth services, and there are no limitations on the types of practitioners who are permitted to provide telehealth services for Medicaid patients.

There are currently 119 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in 24 Ohio counties including: Ashland (1), Belmont (2), Butler (8), Clark (1), Coshocton (2), Cuyahoga (53), Darke (1), Delaware (2), Franklin (10), Geauga (1), Hamilton (1), Huron (1), Lake (2), Lorain (6), Lucas (1), Mahoning (5), Medina (5), Miami (1), Montgomery (1), Richland (1), Stark (5), Summit (6), Trumbull (2), Tuscarawas (1). Of these cases, 33 individuals are hospitalized.

Video of today's full update can be viewed on the [Ohio Channel's website](#).

For more information on Ohio's response to COVID-19, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH.