



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Friday, September 25, 2020
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MEDIA ADVISORY: Canton CARES Small Business Grant Program

CANTON, Ohio – The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted the lives and livelihoods of many individuals and businesses within our City. City government is committed to providing any assistance where possible. To that end, we are pleased to announce a second round of small business assistance through our partnership with Economic and Community Development Institute, Inc. (ECDI). This second round will provide up to \$750,000 in grant assistance to our small business community. This, combined with the previous program of \$335,000, which assisted 73 Canton businesses, places Canton's total small business relief program at nearly \$1.1 million.

On Monday, September 14, 2020, Canton City Council passed an ordinance which authorized the City Administration to provide additional funding for a new round of small business grants in the amount of \$750,000. This new grant fund, iterating the Canton CARES Small Business Grant Program, has been created by the City of Canton, in partnership with ECDI, to further assist small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is funded with \$750,000 of the State of Ohio's CARES Act allocation and will be providing each selected business with up to a \$10,000 grant to address their pandemic related needs.

Businesses have shown that there remains a need for assistance. While most have resumed operation, they are functioning at decreased revenue. Qualifying Canton businesses, who have experienced additional business interruptions, are able to receive grant funds from this program in order to assist with the additional costs related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This program will terminate once all funds from the \$750,000 program have been exhausted.

Canton businesses interested in applying for this program may submit their application through the City of Canton's website at www.cantonohio.gov starting at 8:00 A.M. on Monday, September 28, 2020 and ending at 8:00 P.M. on Wednesday, September 30, 2020.

For more information, please contact Christopher Hardesty by phone at (330) 438-4306 or by email at Christopher.Hardesty@cantonohio.gov.

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