

CARES ACT AND AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN UPDATE

May 11, 2021

BUSINESS LICENSE / OCCUPATION TAX FILING AND PAYMENT DEFERRAL

OCCUPATION TAX DEFERRAL

- In 2020, Columbus, GA City Council deferred business and occupation tax filing and payment from April 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020 by Ordinance #020-10 and #020-013
- In 2021, Columbus, GA City Council deferred business and occupation tax filing and payment from April 1, 2021 to June 1, 2021 by Ordinance #021-009

CARES ACT – MARCH 2020



CARES ACT

- The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress and signed into law on March 27, 2020
- \$2 trillion+ in economic relief intended to protect the American people from the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19
- Notification from the State of Georgia received on June 29, 2020
- Phase I expenditures deadline was September 1, 2020
- Phase I - \$10,248,054.26 received
 - Teleworking Laptops
 - Public Safety Payroll (Front line Fire/EMS/Police response)
 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Facility modifications

CARES ACT – GRANT PROGRAM

- Phase II/III Funding anticipated to be an estimated \$24 million
- City of Columbus initiated a business grant program to target three categories most impacted by the pandemic:
 - Medical/Health – Testing Sites, Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), Sanitizing, Retrofitting space to provide for social distancing
 - Community Assistance - Food assistance, Utility assistance, Rental/mortgage assistance, Funeral assistance
 - Small Business/Arts Organizations - Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), Sanitizing, Retrofitting office space for social distancing, Teleworking capabilities,
- City hired Media, Marketing & More (MMM) to oversee the grant program application and evaluation process on July 14, 2020
- C♥ LUMBUS CARES – COVID RELIEF FUND was launched

CARES ACT – GRANT PROGRAM

- Media Advisory was issued on August 6, 2020
- Press Conference was held on August 10, 2020
- MMM offered 9 public webinars, small group zoom info sessions, speaking engagements to civic and community organizations, and a public tutorial was listed on YouTube
- Distributed 5 e-newsletters with updates and reminders to a database of over 2,600
- Business eligibility
 - In business since December 31, 2019
 - Headquartered in Muscogee County (locally owned/operated)
 - Current business license or 501c3 status
 - Not a publicly traded company
 - Current on all taxes
 - Serving Muscogee County residents

CARES ACT – GRANT PROGRAM

- Application portal was opened on August 10, 2020
- Applications were due by August 24, 2020
- 467 applications submitted for a total of \$7.2 million
- Eligible applications totaled approximately \$3.4 million

- State of Georgia issued a statement on October 14, 2020 that the Phase II/III funds would be used to shore up the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund so the grant program was not funded from the CARES Act

CARES ACT – CDBG-CV AND CDBG-CV3 FUNDING

- To prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus through providing quality subsidized housing and expanding economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons through HUD programs
- CDBG-CV Allocation = \$981,189
 - Partnered with the Chamber and StartUp Columbus to implement a small business economic relief grant program for business owners impacted by the pandemic = \$112,000
 - **Start Date: May 1, 2021**
- CDBG-CV3 Allocation = \$1,143,059
 - Competitive application process – April 19-30, 2021
- TOTAL = \$2,124,248

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP) MARCH 2021



AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP) ACT OF 2021

- ARP was passed by the House on February 27, 2021, the Senate on March 6, 2021 and signed into law on March 11, 2021
- \$1.9 trillion for economic relief from the devastating economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic
- \$362 billion in direct aid (not thru the state) for states and local governments (Subtitle M., Sec. 9901 of the Act)
 - Formal guidance has not been released by the U.S. Treasury Department

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP) ACT OF 2021

- Uses of Funds
 - Respond to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 or its negative economic impacts
 - Respond to workers performing essential work
 - Revenue replacement for the government
 - Investments in water, sewer or broadband infrastructure
- Currently waiting on guidelines for final amount and direction
- Funding for Phase I of the CARES Act - Business Grant Program and consideration of a potential Phase II of the Business Grant Program will be contingent upon the final allocation and guidelines of the ARP

QUESTIONS