



BOC Commissioner (District 2)

Item No. 16.

Bob Ott, Commissioner

Districts All

Cobb County...Expect the Best!

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Bob Ott, Commissioner

DATE: May 26, 2020

PURPOSE

To approve emergency funding for a Small Business Grant Program, to be used by locally owned and operated small businesses with less than 100 employees, adversely affected by COVID-19 to improve unemployment numbers by providing cash grants subject to certain conditions; and to authorize the Chairman to execute the Memorandum of Understanding and any other necessary documents for said purpose.

BACKGROUND

The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a world health emergency and a global pandemic. A National Public Health Emergency was declared for the United States on March 13, 2020. And, the Governor of the State of Georgia declared a State Public Health Emergency in Georgia on March 14, 2020, currently extended through June 12, 2020. Further, the Governor of Georgia issued a shelter in place order through April 30, 2020, currently extended through June 12, 2020 for medically fragile persons, necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19, which has had devastating effects on the economy and the ability of Cobb citizens to care for their families.

As one of the most influential business advocacy organizations in Georgia and one of the top three chambers in the nation, the Cobb Chamber is dedicated to bringing the community and its leaders together to create jobs and strengthen the economy and quality of life, so businesses and the community can achieve more. The Cobb Chamber recently conducted a survey of local businesses to assess the effects of COVID-19 on their operations. Among the many findings, 32% of the respondents fear that the effects of COVID-19 may put them out of business and 60% state that financial support is needed to help them continue operations.

Small businesses with their headquarters, regional office, central office or primary in Cobb County and with less than 100 full-time employees may apply. The applications will be reviewed by Commission District so that all areas are equally represented in the number of companies approved for grants. An independent committee as selected by Cobb Chamber and the Board will review the submitted applications. The amount of funding available will vary based on the business size as follows:

- 1 to 10 employees - up to \$20,000.00
- 11 to 50 employees - up to \$30,000.00
- 51 to 100 employees - up to \$40,000.00

It is requested that the Board of Commissioners authorize a fund balance appropriation in the amount of \$50,500,000.00 to support this effort. Cobb Chamber will administer the emergency funding in the amount of \$50,000,000.00 for this crucial effort during this critical time. Cobb County intends to compensate Cobb Chamber for the grant administrative services in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00, or 1.0% of the allocated funds. Administrative services include but are not limited to, education sessions by Cobb Chamber about the grant opportunities which will be conducted via social media, newsletters, CobbTV, email, and a webinar; a review of the applications shall be by a committee created by Cobb Chamber and the Board which shall be comprised of a diverse group of industries with at least one banker, one CPA, and small business owners representing retail, services, and restaurants, among others; and facilitation of communications.

IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

FUNDING

Funding is available in the CARES Fund with the following budget transactions:

Transfer From:	278-055-V9CT-8820	Undesignated Contingency	\$50,500,000.00
Transfer To:	278-491-V9CO-6574	Contributions	\$50,000,000.00
Transfer To:	278-491-V9CO-6326	Professional Services	\$ 500,000.00

RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Commissioners approve emergency funding for a Small Business Grant Program, to be used by locally owned and operated small businesses with less than 100 employees, adversely affected by COVID-19 to improve unemployment numbers by providing cash grants subject to certain conditions; authorize the corresponding budget transactions; and to authorize the Chairman to execute the Memorandum of Understanding and any necessary documents for said purpose.

ATTACHMENTS

1. MOU Small Business