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PRESS RELEASE

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St. Clair County Small Business Grant Applications Opening Soon

St. Clair County, Michigan – March 25, 2020

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) has approved a regional grant for the I-69 Thumb Region submitted collaboratively by Region 6 economic development partners. Approval of this grant in the amount of \$850,000 allows the I-69 Thumb Region, consisting of seven (7) counties, to issue prompt Small Business Relief funding. St. Clair County's portion of the grant is approximately \$142,000.

As of Monday, March 30th, applications will officially open. St. Clair County small businesses are encouraged to apply online via the Economic Development Alliance's website at <https://edascc.com/covid19>.

SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF GRANTS – ST. CLAIR COUNTY, MI

In order to qualify for grant support, businesses must meet the following criteria:

- The company is in an industry outlined in [Executive Order 2020-9](#), or any subsequent Executive Order of similar intent ("EO"), or demonstrates it is otherwise affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, as well as meeting additional criteria;



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- The company has 50 employees or fewer;
- The company needs working capital to support payroll expenses, rent, mortgage payments, utility expenses, or other similar expenses that occur in the ordinary course of business; and
- The company is able to demonstrate an income loss as a result of the EO, or the COVID-19 outbreak.

Small Business Grant funding provided by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation is intended to provide immediate grant support for businesses hardest hit by COVID-19.

“The Economic Development Alliance (EDA) is very pleased our local small businesses will be receiving quick funding to help them during this difficult time. We are happy to be executing this grant program and anticipate that demand will be high. We expect to be able to fund approximately a dozen small businesses through the program,” said Dan Casey, CEO of the EDA of St. Clair County.

EDA is coordinating the submissions and processing of all St. Clair County applications. Local chambers have been invited to assist the EDA with reviewing applications and making recommendations for awards. It is anticipated that 14-20 businesses will be awarded grants averaging \$8,000 with maximum grants of \$10,000. Grant applications selected from St. Clair County will then move forward to be approved by a regional panel. Dan Casey will be sitting on the regional Review Panel as the economic development representative for St. Clair County. The goal of the MEDC and the EDA is to get funds disbursed to businesses quickly. Applications are due by 5 pm on Friday, April 3.

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About EDA of St. Clair County

The Economic Development Alliance (EDA) of St. Clair County is a private non-profit organization that provides general purpose economic development services throughout St. Clair County. EDA offers a wide variety of services involving business recruitment and business retention and expansion with the overall goal of growing the local economy and enhancing the quality of life for residents in St. Clair County. The EDA of St. Clair County is supported by a membership of businesses from the private & public sector passionate about supporting community and economic development. To learn more about the Economic Development Alliance of St. Clair County visit www.edascc.com