



**Ottawa County RISE Small Business Innovation Grant
Overview of Small Business Grants to Promote Adaptation & Growth**

Background

Derived from the Regional Incubator for Sustainability & Entrepreneurship (RISE), RISE Small Business Innovation Grant program helps Ottawa County, Ohio entrepreneurs create sustainable and successful business ventures. Through collaboration between the Ottawa County Improvement Corporation, the Ottawa County Community Foundation, and the Burton D. Morgan Foundation, the RISE Small Business Innovation Grant has expanded to Ottawa County.

Program Description

The program aims to continue the RISE mission of sustainable and successful business ventures with special consideration for those impacted on the recent public health emergency. The program is intended to support small businesses in pursuit of sustainability and growth. This grant is intended to make possible the needed innovative and strategic investments for businesses to thrive and adapt in an everchanging world.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Capital improvements;
- Development or acquisition of online platforms such as websites or mobile apps;
- Development of new solutions to problems

Grants will be made in the amount of \$500-\$3,500. While grant availability is limited, all applicants with a completed application will invited to participate in a one-time training course - Remaining Relevant in Chaos. This course (\$500-value) will be provided at no cost to all applicants. It will deliver value to customers with limited resources. Topics covered include communication, digital marketing, and management.

Eligibility

1. Existing business within Ottawa County, must be registered with State of Ohio and in operation for 6 months prior to application
2. The following business types will not be eligible: tobacco or vape supplies, guns or firearms, pawn shops, thrift stores or “eBay” stores, adult or pornographic stores
3. Eligible uses of the funds vary. Unless the applicant can demonstrate a connection to revenue or business/employment expansion non-permitted uses of funds include purchasing of common operating supplies, including personal protective equipment.
4. Entrepreneurial education and training are acceptable use of funds. Courses must be provided by an accredited institution; and explanation of how the coursework is relevant to the entrepreneurial project/initiative is required.

Application Process

- Application period will be open **October 9-November 6, 2020**. Applications will then be reviewed by a panel of the RISE selection committee. Applicants will then receive their grant prior to year's end.
- Applicants must demonstrate proof of eligibility including prior year's financial statements and articles of incorporation.
- Applicants will be required to explain their innovation or strategic investment and provide their plan to accomplish its intended objective. Innovations already under development will be considered.
- Applicants will be required to outline intended uses of the grant funds.
- Recipients will be expected to attend a quarterly interactive development series during the upcoming year.
- Recipients will be chosen based on creativity, feasibility, clarity, and impact on the business and economy.
- All applicants will be contacted with the result of their application and may be contacted with clarifying questions during the review process.