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### **Fairfield County Awards Loans and Requests Applicants for COVID Relief Loans**

The Fairfield County Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) is looking for applicants for its zero interest, fixed-rate loans to help businesses recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Loans are available to businesses located in Fairfield County that employ less than 200 individuals, were impacted due to the pandemic, and can vary in size from \$5,000 to \$100,000.

Applicants can qualify for either the COVID-Emergency-Relief fund or the county's regular RLF program. The goal of the program is to assist businesses retain or increase their number of employees.

"These RLF programs are a great way for businesses to rebound from the pandemic or to expand," said Rick Szabrak, Fairfield County Economic and Workforce Development Director. "At 0 percent interest the COVID-Relief fund is a great way for a business to shift its revenue model or to help them through a tough time. Our No. 1 goal is to help a business succeed. We're willing to take risks with the loans as long as there's a payoff with jobs."

The targeted industries for the COVID-relief loans are manufacturers, businesses located within a downtown, healthcare, travel and tourism, and minority and/or female-owned businesses. For smaller loan, collateral is not needed.

In the past few months, Fairfield County has awarded two loans as part of its COVID-Relief fund. These included Combustion Brewery in Pickerington and Outerbelt Brewery in Greenfield Township. Both breweries have seen a negative impact due to the pandemic and are looking at ways to diversify their revenue.

"The Fairfield County Revolving Loan Fund has been essential in our business development," said Keith Jackson, owner of Combustion Brewery. "It was integral in providing much needed financing for our business startup 4 years ago and now a vital resource in our growth. The RLF committee has been nothing but supportive in helping us reach our goals as a company."

The regular RLF fund provides another low-interest fixed rate option for businesses for startup businesses or those relocating or expanding. Recently, the RLF Committee awarded funds to Wolfe Brothers Diesel in Carroll and Maverick Equipment in Bremen. Maverick is a Michigan-based company that provides equipment solutions for companies in the environmental sector. They were looking to expand into Central/Southeast Ohio and the RLF became a perfect tool.

"We are grateful for the Fairfield County RLF," said Tim Smith, Managing Partner, Maverick Environmental Equipment. "This program helped subsidize the purchase of our new location offering us a lower interest loan and less cash out of pocket than a conventional bank loan. Everyone from the county was very easy to work with, and the process went smoothly. I would encourage others to look to Fairfield County as a place to start their new business and take advantage of the programs available."

For more information about the revolving loan fund businesses can visit [Fairfield33.com/RLF](http://Fairfield33.com/RLF) or email Doug Durrett at [Doug.Durrett@FairfieldCountyOhio.gov](mailto:Doug.Durrett@FairfieldCountyOhio.gov).

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