

NEWS RELEASE
Thursday, April 16, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City Contact:
Ted Esborn
Econ. Devel. Director
City of Avon Lake
440-930-4167
Tesborn@avonlake.org

Avon Lake grants almost \$87,000 to city businesses through its Job Growth Incentive Program

Avon Lake, Ohio: On Monday, April 13, Avon Lake City Council approved this year's awards for the City's Job Growth Incentive Program (JGIP). This unique program was created in 2012 and reauthorized in 2017. It is primarily a business retention program but also sometimes acts as a business incentive. Each spring, the City looks at the business income tax (withholding) for every business in Avon Lake. Every business that has a year-over-year increase in income tax receives a grant award from the City in the amount of 25% of the increase, with a maximum award of \$50,000 and a minimum award of \$25. Eligible organizations are for-profit entities that have a substantial part of their operation occurring at a commercial property in Avon Lake; home-based businesses do not qualify.

There are no restrictions on how businesses use this money. They can reinvest it in their businesses, or perhaps do something fun for their employees. The City sees it as a simple token of appreciation for what businesses contribute to Avon Lake.

This spring, Avon Lake was looking at tax year 2019 and comparing it to tax year 2018. There were 72 Avon Lake businesses that qualified for an award, and the total amount of the awards is \$86,943. The largest award is going to Ford Motor Company, who is receiving the maximum award of \$50,000. Also among the largest award recipients are Discount Drug Mart, Lubrizol, Performance Health, Thogus Products, and Chemtron.

In past years, Avon Lake has held a press conference to announce the annual awards and invited some of the recipient businesses. That option is not available this year, and the City has decided that the best substitute is getting the money out as quickly as possible.

"We are more grateful this year than ever to have this program," says the City's Economic Development Director, Ted Esborn. "During this Coronavirus crisis, we are able to send checks to some of our businesses. We wish we could send them to all our businesses, and we wish that all the grants were large enough to cover some actual costs. But we are grateful still because the timing of this program is allowing us to get desperately needed funds out there to our businesses at a time of great need."

Mayor Greg Zilka commented that "We have seen several small businesses qualify for a check each year. This is a testament to their hard work and business acumen. Other businesses produce a product that is more cyclical in demand by its very nature. This program also provides an opportunity for them to earn a refund as the years pass. We appreciate your presence in our community. We congratulate them all."

Grant checks are being prepared and will be mailed out to recipient businesses, who should receive them the week of April 20.