



March 21, 2020

Dear Business Owner/Non-Profit Director:

I am writing this letter to update you on how Ashland Area Development Corporation's operations are rapidly changing in response to the threat of COVID-19 to our business community. I anticipate that AADC will need to adapt several times in the coming months to the serious challenges presented to businesses and non-profits in Ashland County.

Right now, AADC's primary focus is collecting and providing information about financial assistance to business owners and non-profit managers. In order to facilitate that process, we have set up a new page on the AADC website, <http://www.ashlandareadevelopment.com/business-resources/corona-virus>. The purpose of this page is to create a single location where business owners can get official information about financial assistance, including newly created and future grant and loan opportunities, and other helpful resources. We will be updating the information on a daily basis. The page also lists other resources (government and private) that are offering assistance. We will continue to expand and improve this page to make it as helpful as possible.

A word of warning: Be careful of people that contact you "out of the blue" to offer you grants or loans and ask to see your financials. Unfortunately, scammers are already preparing to take advantage of the current situation by targeting business owners and non-profits.

Although AADC's webpage will be the primary method of sharing information with the business community, it would be helpful if I could send emails to you when there is information that should be immediately shared – much easier than continually printing and mailing letters. However, I don't have email addresses for many of you. Would you please send me an email indicating your name, business name, and phone number? Please send your contact information to me at info@ashlandareadevelopment.org. This email address is the best way to contact AADC at this time.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betsey J. Harries". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Betsey" and last name "Harries" clearly distinguishable.

Betsey J. Harries
Executive Director