

CATTARAUGUS COUNTY IDA

A Message from Corey Wiktor, Executive Director of the Cattaraugus County IDA for the week of June 1, 2020:

Earlier this week, I communicated to you that our region is currently in [Phase 2](#) of the state's re-opening plan. That phase has been extended so that [restaurants will be able to open for outdoor dining](#) effective June 4th. This is very positive news as it demonstrates slowly but surely, our economy is opening up for business.

Also new this week, the United State Senate like the US House passed the [Paycheck Protection Flexibility Act](#) which among other things extends the covered period to 24 weeks (please note that business who have already received loans have the option of sticking with the 8 week covered period); eliminates the prohibition on more than 25% of forgiven amounts spent on non-payroll costs (businesses may now spend up to 40% of the loan amount on non-payroll costs); and, extends re-hiring safe-harbor to December 31 and provides for additional safe-harbors (e.g. inability to rehire individuals who were employees of the borrower).

The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) provides direct relief to farmers and food producers who faced price declines and additional marketing costs. USDA is accepting [applications](#) now through August 28, 2020. Producers should apply through the Farm Service Agency at their local USDA Service Center. In Cattaraugus County the point of contact for the program is Nicole Ayers via email at nicole.ayers@usda.gov or by phone at 716-699-2375.

We are joining the Buffalo Niagara Partnership and other business organizations in [asking Governor Cuomo to enact liability protections related to COVID-19](#). We are asking Governor Cuomo to enact liability protections to protect businesses acting in good faith and following government issued guidance if an employee contracts the coronavirus. Please consider [adding your voice](#) to this important issue.

The Center for Disease Control has a number of excellent resources on its [website](#) where you can access information about COVID19. From protecting your loved ones at home to staying safe at the office, there is information on CDC site for just about everything.

Finally, I just want to touch on the current turmoil that we are seeing in cities across the country, including Buffalo. We remain shocked by the brutality of what occurred in Minneapolis. What are intended to be peaceful protests have turned violent and criminal through no fault of those protesting. While we are geographically far removed from it, we cannot ignore the cries for justice and equality. We are after all, one nation under God and that all our citizens have inalienable rights under the Constitution. Let us hope and pray for peace during these extremely troubling times.

Stay positive, stay healthy and stay safe – Corey