

CATTARAUGUS COUNTY IDA

A Message from Corey Wiktor, Executive Director of the Cattaraugus County IDA for the week of June 22, 2020:

As the region anxiously awaits the fourth and final phase of the re-opening of the economy next week, some businesses that were anticipating opening have been ordered to keep their doors closed. This frustrating pattern from Albany continues the disregard for businesses in Cattaraugus County that are desperate to open.

However, there was a glimmer of good economic news as the [Olean Times Herald](#) reported that the unemployment rates in Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties dropped a bit with the re-opening of the economy in May.

The impacts of the coronavirus have certainly impacted the economic development community and entities such as the CCIDA have and are continuing to understand some of the [lessons learned](#). One of the lessons we learned during the early days of the pandemic was the importance of communications in order to push out information to assist businesses coping with the devastating impacts of the virus. I hope you are finding the CCIDA's weekly stakeholder communications of value as we share information being provided by a strong and united economic development sector across the region and state.

One of our economic development partners in this ongoing effort is the Buffalo Niagara Partnership which has been offering free events and webinars throughout the pandemic. The BNP is offering yet [another](#) free event that will discuss the impending start of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) which supplants NAFTA. The new trade law takes effect on July 1, 2020.

Throughout the pandemic, Congressman Tom Reed's office has provided valuable information about resources to help alleviate the significant financial, health and safety impacts of the pandemic. There are a number of programs that I encourage you to look into, including:

- [2020 Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program](#) which is being administered through the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Homeland Security – FEMA
- [Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program \(SHOP\)](#) administered through the Department of Housing and Urban Development
- [Migrant and Seasonal Early Head Start Expansion and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Grants](#) administered through the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families
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- [SNAP E&T National Partnership Grants](#) administered through the Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service

- [Dental Preventive Clinical Support Program](#) administered by the Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service
- [Forest Service Northeast and Midwest Landscape Scale Restoration 2021](#) administered by the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service

Finally, our friends at Mercy Flight are hosting an Open House event on Sunday, June 28th from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. at Olean General Hospital. For more information, please contact Keri Simon at 307-6416.

Remember to stay positive, stay healthy and stay safe!

Corey