



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Currecia Gamble, WDBCO
Phone: 614-323-2508 (cell)
Email: cgamble@wdbco.org

Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio, Provides Workforce Training at No Cost to Small Businesses Through \$1 Million CARES ACT Funding from the City of Columbus.

COLUMBUS — In response to COVID-19 and the challenges many businesses faced due to mandated state-ordered closure this year, Columbus City Council on Monday approved \$1 Million Dollars of Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funding to the Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio (WDBCO) in order to provide workforce training at 100% no cost to Columbus employers.

“It has been close to nine months since our city has been faced with challenges due to COVID-19 and many of our small businesses have not been able to recover,” says Lisa Patt-McDaniel, CEO of the Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio. “As we prepare for the winter months and a new year, we need to provide resources now for employers to upskill their current employees or those they had to lay-off due to the pandemic by providing 100% no cost to them training opportunities so they can rebuild and sustain business”.

The City of Columbus Workforce Committee chaired by Councilmember Priscilla Tyson approved the \$1,000,000 funding for the employer workforce training investment program during their normal City Council meeting on Monday evening.

“Many of the businesses throughout the city had to make drastic cuts and pivot to new business models due to the coronavirus pandemic,” says Councilmember Priscilla Tyson. “Small businesses are the heart of our city, and we need to do all we can to help them rebuild. I am proud of the work Council is doing to address our workforce needs and provide funding to the Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio to assist our business community”.

The Employer Advantage Fund provides short-term professional development to immediately up-skill employees (including employees currently laid off). Reimbursement includes 100% of wages and training costs to the business. To qualify for the funds, Employers' workforce must consist of 51% Columbus, Ohio residents. Maximum expenditure awarded is \$50,000.00 per business. To see if your business qualifies for the funds, visit www.wdbco.org. Deadline to apply is November 30, 2020.

Businesses who have questions about the Employer Advantage Fund are encouraged to email the WDBCO Business Solutions Team at BusinessSolutions@wdbco.org.

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About Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio

The Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio is a nonprofit organization serving as the Strategy and Policy Board for Ohio Workforce Area 11, Columbus and Franklin County. The Board assists in-demand sector employers with developing a talent pipeline and jobseekers with acquiring the skills and credentials for in-demand careers. To learn more visit www.wdbco.org.