

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 2, 2021**

**JIDC ACCEPTING COVID-19 HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY  
RECOVERY PROGRAM (CHIRP) APPLICATION FOR FULTON COUNTY**

**JOHNSTOWN, PA** – JIDC will begin accepting applications for the COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program (CHIRP) starting Tuesday, March 2, 2021. JIDC has been designated to serve grants awarded to Fulton County as part of the county block grant appropriated for COVID Relief in the amount of \$164,572.

Businesses within the commonwealth must have a NAICS designation within the Accommodation subsector (721) or Food Services and Drinking Places subsector (722) and where accommodations, food or drink is served to or provided for the public, with or without charge. Other eligibility criteria is as follows:

- Business must have been in operation prior to February 15, 2020.
- Business has fewer than 300 full-time equivalent employees.
- Business/owner has a tangible net worth of not more than \$15,000,000.
- Business must have experienced a reduction in revenue in 2020.
- Eligible operating expenses must have been incurred between March 1, 2020 and date of application.

Priority will be given to businesses that show greater than 50% reduction in revenue in 2020, had been mandated to fully close by the disaster proclamation issued by the Governor on March 6, 2020, and received no other CARES funding through the federal, state, county or local government level. Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis in six (6) rounds or until funding has been fully dispersed. Grants will be awarded in increments from \$5,000 up to \$50,000.

“We are thankful to be working with JIDC to assist in administering the program to the Fulton County businesses. We are hoping this program goes quickly and smoothly so we can get our businesses the help that they need,” said Chairman of Fulton County Commissioners, Stuart L. Ulsh.

“JIDC is grateful to be designated to disperse the CHIRP grant,” said Linda Thomson, President. “We have multiple people assigned to this task that are on our small business financial team, so they’re very

familiar in dealing with small businesses and their financials and their processes. We have the right people on it.”

The application and additional program information can be found on the JARI website at [www.jari.com](http://www.jari.com). Businesses that have questions or need assistance can reach out to one of the following JIDC team members:

Michele Clapper – (814) 262-8368 - mclapper@jari.com

Blake Fleegle – (814) 254-4023 – bfleegle@jari.com

Lauren Thompson – (814) 262-8367 – lauren@jari.com

### **ABOUT JIDC**

Johnstown Industrial Development Corporation (JIDC) is a Certified Economic Development Organization by the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority. JIDC is part of the umbrella organization of JARI. JIDC’s mission is to foster the growth of a diverse economy by maintaining certifications to provide capital; offering sites for business growth; building infrastructure to meet business needs; and marketing the economic assets of our region.

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