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from
Adams County

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Apply now

CARES Act Applications Due!

Adams County began accepting applications for the Federal CARES Act funding, through a program known locally as the Fund for Adams Investment and Recovery (FAIR), on Monday, August 17, 2020. The Adams County Board of Commissioners is disbursing these funds to provide aid for those in need in the community. Entities that are eligible to apply for FAIR include; small businesses with less than 100 full-time employees, tourism-related businesses regardless of the number of employees, behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment providers, non-profit organizations as defined by Section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and municipal governments.

For applicants to be eligible for these funds their operations must be physically located in Adams County. If an applicant is a service provider, in order to be eligible, only the costs for those services provided directly to residents of Adams County are eligible. While priority will be given to entities that have not received other COVID-19 related funding, entities as described above which have already received funding, such as the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), are still eligi-

Deadline

ble to apply to this program for reimbursement for eligible activities. **Applications for Round 1 will be accepted until Thursday, September 17, 2020.** Municipal government entities have been provided a separate application via email directly from the Adams County Office of Planning and Development. The dates for the municipal application cycle are the same; August 17, 2020-September 17, 2020.

It is important to note that the CARES Act dictates these funds can only be utilized to cover costs that are directly related to the public COVID-19 health emergency. The expenditures must be incurred during the period beginning March 1, 2020 and ending December 30, 2020. All funds must be utilized by December 30, 2020. For government entities applying for these funds, only those expenses that were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 are eligible. A list of eligible activities sorted by applicant type is available on the county website <http://www.adamscounty.us/Dept/Planning/Pages/AIR.aspx>. These lists are not all-inclusive. Payroll and lost revenue are not eligible for reimbursement through this program.

Go to <http://www.adamscounty.us/Dept/Planning/Pages/AIR.aspx> for the overall program view. All applications and supporting documentation can and should be submitted online to streamline the process. All applicants to the program will have to ensure that they have not received other public funding for the same expenditures identified in this application. Additionally, applicants will be required to provide supporting documentation for all the identified expenses for which they are seeking reimbursement. Details are provided during the online application process.

It has been determined that another round of applications (Round 2) will take place with an opening date of September 28 and closing date of October 23. Unsuccessful Round 1 applications will not have to re-apply for Round 2.

Questions should be directed to the Adams County Office of Planning and Development at 717-337-9824. The contacts for this program are Sherri Clayton-Williams, Director, who may be contacted at (sclayton@adamscounty.us) and Harlan Lawson, Economic Development Planner (helawson@adamscounty.us).

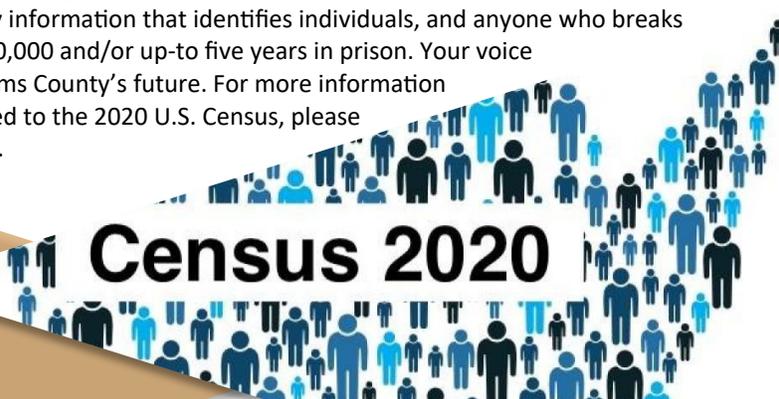
Census is Critical to Adams County

The Adams County Board of Commissioners would like to remind all Adams County residents to fill out the U.S. Census form and make sure friends, family and neighbors are also counted. Residents can respond to the form by mail, by phone, and for the first time, online until September 30, 2020.

The U.S. Constitution requires a census count every ten years, and documents population increases, decreases, and changes in community demographics. Those statistics are then used to decide how many seats each state gets in the U.S. House of Representatives and determines the amount of federal funding Pennsylvania and Adams County receives for essential programs and services, including healthcare, food assistance, education, transportation, housing, community development and more. Counties also use this funding to support the many related services and programs they provide that form the fabric of our communities and enhance the quality of life for residents. Based on our last population count, Pennsylvania receives \$26.8 billion annually for the 16 largest federally-funded programs alone.

Pennsylvanians who have not responded to the 2020 Census should expect a Census enumerator to contact them in person or over the phone. All Census workers must carry a valid ID badge with their photo, U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and expiration date. Residents can call (800) 923-8282 to check if a visitor works for the Census.

Residents concerned about safety and security issues should know that Census answers can't be used against an individual, and data security is managed by security experts operating at the highest levels. Under Title 13 of the U.S. Code, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot release any information that identifies individuals, and anyone who breaks this law faces a fine of up to \$250,000 and/or up-to five years in prison. Your voice matters in shaping Adams County's future. For more information and resources related to the 2020 U.S. Census, please visit pa.gov/census.



Census 2020



Congrats!

Congrats Lisa Chilcoat

Lisa Chilcoat, Human Resources/Payroll Coordinator, recently passed the test giving her the certification of **SHRM-CP** (Society of Human Resource Management-Certified Professional.) This certification is the culmination of over three years of research, and is based on the SHRM Competency Model, which was validated by more than 35,000 HR professionals around the world. These HR professionals identified the skills needed to grow and succeed in HR careers. This is the equivalent of an accountant becoming a CPA. Lisa has been with the County of Adams for 7 years as a dedicated member of the Human Resources Department. Congratulations to Lisa for this accomplishment of personal and organizational achievement!

Support Adams County 4-H

Besides the leaves falling off the trees, November also means that its Adams County 4-H Benefit Auction time. Considering the Covid-19 situation, and the financial impact it has had on many families and businesses in Adams County, the Adams County 4-H Board has decided to not hold the event this year. The Adams 4-H Board's decision strives to meet the policy requirements of The Pennsylvania State University, PA Governor Wolf, and CDC health requirements in keeping everyone safe and healthy.

Individuals and businesses can still support the 4-H program by contributing financially. If you would like to donate to the Adams County 4-H, Chrissy Redding, Adams County Treasurer, will gladly accept donations on behalf of the 4-H Clubs of Adams County Inc., at her office. On behalf of Adams County 4-H, thank you to those who have supported the auction in previous years. Please plan to attend the 4-H Benefit Auction in November of 2021.

General Election Dates to Remember

There are only 52 days until the Presidential Election. I am sure we would agree that a large voter turnout is anticipated. Here are a few important dates to remember for the upcoming election. The last day to change your registration or to register to vote is October 19, 2020. The application must be received in the county election office by the close of business on the 19th. The polls will be open on Election Day, November 3, 2020 from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. It is very important that you mail your absentee/mail-in application in early and return it promptly. Although possible election changes are being discussed in the legislature as this newsletter is written, unless the legislature sees fit to change the statutes, except for overseas military, ballots must be received in the Election's Office by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Being postmarked or mailed by that date does not conform to being received and your vote will not be counted. Electors who request an absentee/mail-in ballot and now choose to vote in person must bring both ballot and barcoded envelope to the polls on Election Day. Electors must sign a statement and the ballot will be spoiled (voided). They then will be able to go through the process and vote a regular ballot.

Make sure you get out there and exercise your right to vote – and if you are voting by mail remember – there is no reason to wait to the last minute!

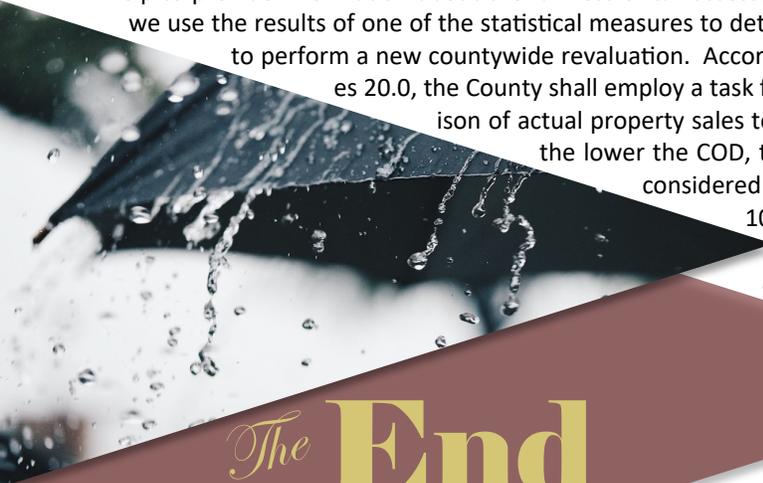


**DECISION
2020**

Tax Services Update

Recently the County entered into an agreement with Tammie Knight, Conewago Township Tax Collector, to provide training, assistance and support to the County's other 32 collectors. Though tax collectors are elected and work independently, serving three taxing bodies (County, Municipality and School District), the County, over the years, has adopted tax collection software and processes to make the overall job of tax collection a uniform process. Up to the end of last year, our Tax Services staff took on most of the training and support, however, with some recent changes to the Tax Services staffing structure, we found that it is beneficial to have an actual tax collector, who understands the process, and who has extensive experience in the realm of tax collection. Tammie has been a tax collector for over ten years and is the president of the Adams County Tax Collectors' Association. She had already been looked upon by her tax collector colleagues as a great source of information. This contract with Tammie provides a very knowledgeable person to the process, which will help ensure effective and efficient operation of services.

Recently our Tax Services staff completed its annual real estate assessment ratio studies for the year 2019. These in-house studies help to provide information about the fairness of tax assessments in Adams County. In 2013, we adopted an ordinance by which we use the results of one of the statistical measures to determine whether or not there may be a need to examine the potential to perform a new countywide revaluation. According to that ordinance, if the Coefficient of Dispersion, or COD, reaches 20.0, the County shall employ a task force to examine the real estate situation. COD is a result of a comparison of actual property sales to their respective assessments between one another. As a reference, the lower the COD, the more equitable assessments are. A COD between 5.0 and 15.0 is considered a very fair assessment and Adams County's current result is 10.86. Therefore, statistically speaking, assessments are considered fair in the County and there is no need to explore any further action at this time.



The **End**

Rain has finally returned to Adams County and the summer is winding down weather-wise quite nicely. My lawn and roses have decided they are happy again, except for a few spots on my lawn that may be toast until next spring unless - Scotts Lawn Patch Repair works. It has been great being outdoors without the week after week of intense heat. Thank goodness for the break in the heat and cooler nights - since my upstairs 1-year old central A.C. condenser went south, and with COVID it is taking 4 weeks to get another one due to back-orders. Speaking of back orders - have you noticed the row upon row of empty shelves at Wal Mart? I sure did last evening. Makes me realize that the abundance of goods and services is just one of many things we Americans sometimes take for granted.

The Pennsylvania DOH announced that on September 21, restaurants can return to 50% occupancy, with no alcohol served after 10PM, if they fill out compliance information that can be monitored by the state and also viewed by the public when deciding which establishment they chose to patronize. There is little doubt that 25% occupancy was non-sustainable for most restaurants, and 50 % although improved, when coupled with the alcohol sales cut-off at 10PM, is still borderline sustainability for many restaurants. I again urge you to get out there and support your favorite Adams County food and beverage establishment - as they really need your support.

It doesn't get any better in Adams County than September and October. The *Land Conservancy of Adams County Annual Art Auction* will be held virtually this year. It is now live with beautiful local and regional art on display. The auction runs through September 23. To get in on the bidding go to BiddingOwl.com/LCAC. The annual *LCAC Road Rally* kicks off on October 17. This year's route theme is *25 Years of Preservation*. The route and stops have been designed to be safe for all attendees and volunteers. To get a registration form go to www.preserveadams.org or call them at 717-334-2828.

Get outside and enjoy the views as Summer turns to Fall. No matter what you do, get out there and enjoy all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!