

FEBRUARY 12, 2021

WEEKLY UPDATE

Official newsletter of Khoury Johnson Leavitt



Khoury
Johnson
Leavitt

KJL SPECIAL ALERT

The Khoury Johnson and Leavitt team remain informed and engaged during these times of uncertainty. We are in communication with leadership in the executive, legislative and judiciary branches of state government, in addition to locals on a regular basis. Updates will continue every Friday as a mechanism to recap relevant activity from the past week.

Comcast to offer \$1M in grants to minority-owned Detroit small businesses

Adrienne Roberts

Comcast Corp. is making \$1 million in grants available to minority-owned businesses in Detroit, part of its Comcast RISE Investment Fund, an initiative launched in the fall aimed at helping small businesses survive the COVID-19 pandemic.

Detroit small businesses with owners who are Black, Indigenous or people of color can apply for a grant of up to \$10,000, which will be awarded in May, Comcast said Tuesday.

Comcast's grant application will open March 1 and remain open through March 14. A total of 100 grants will be awarded to businesses that have been open at least three years, have up to 25 employees and are in Detroit, Hamtramck or Highland Park.

Detroit is one of five cities where Comcast is offering the grants, along with Atlanta, Chicago, Houston and Philadelphia, chosen because they saw sharp declines in local commerce spending, according to research from the JPMorgan Chase Institute.

The need for financial relief for small businesses to survive the winter was apparent recently when the Michigan Economic Development Corporation opened up a first-come, first-served small business \$10 million grant program in December. About 22,000 small business owners showed up online to apply for financial lifelines. The MEDC was expecting 667 applicants.

Since then, the MEDC opened up another grant program, but small businesses continue to shutter.

An estimated 30% of small businesses in metro Detroit were either temporarily or permanently closed at the beginning of January, according to the Opportunity Insights Economic Tracker compiled by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG).

State health orders still point to virtual public meetings

While [the recent update to Michigan's statewide health orders on COVID-19](#) focused on youth sports activities, the change still left in rules that make indoor public meetings challenging to host.

Indoor gatherings at non-residential venues are limited to 10 or fewer persons from two or fewer households. Public meetings may be held outdoors if there are fewer than 25 attendees or 20 attendees per 1,000 square feet, whichever is less. Attendees should be separated by at least six feet and wear a mask, the state orders.

DHHS director will be guest on Feb. 22 KJL podcast episode

Elizabeth Hertel, recently named by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to lead the state's mammoth Department of Health and Human Services, will be the guest on the KJL Podcast on Feb. 22 at 11am. Stay tuned for registration info.

The state's response to COVID-19 will be the focus of the discussion with Hertel, of course, but the interview is sure to touch on other responsibilities of the department, which has 14,000 employees and operations in all 83 counties.



Broadband tax break bill clears Senate committee

A bill to give tax breaks to firms installing new broadband equipment in Michigan cleared the Senate Committee on Energy and Technology this week.

Senate Bill 46, by Sen. Aric Nesbitt (R-Van Buren) is designed to give a 10-year personal property tax (PPT) exemption to businesses that provide broadband service of at least 10 megabits per second downstream.

The measure now moves to the full Senate for consideration.

CLIENT NEWS

Comcast RISE to Award \$1 Million in Grants to BIPOC-Owned, Small Businesses in Detroit
2/9/21

You can access the full article [HERE](#)

KJL COVID RESOURCE TAB

A COVID 19 resource tab has been added to our website www.kjlteam.com. We will continue to update that tab with information relevant to our clients. Also, if you haven't already, please follow us on Facebook and Instagram for daily information.



Khoury
Johnson
Leavitt

kjlteam.com
124 W. Allegan, Suite 1700
Lansing, MI 48933

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KJL SOCIAL MEDIA



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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

www.michigan.gov/coronavirus.com

www.michigan.gov/ag

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.com

www.congress.gov.com

www.michiganbusiness.org

KJL TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION



Ron Khoury - ron@kjlteam.com, (517) 881-6356

Stephanie Johnson - stephanie@kjlteam.com, (517) 648-1602

Andy Leavitt - andy@kjlteam.com, (810) 625-0861

Marcy Lay - marcy@kjlteam.com, (517) 282-3295

Ryan Burtka - ryan@kjlteam.com, (313) 605-3878

Karen Currie - karen@kjlteam.com, (616) 706-2282

Mike Zimmer - mike@kjlteam.com, (517) 285-4126

Brian Clark - brian@kjlteam.com, (517) 410-3430

Lauren Bunn - lauren@kjlteam.com, (616) 826-1262

KJL Communications Director, Karen Currie

Karen@KJLteam.com