

# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Contact:** Greta Johnson  
Assistant Chief of Staff  
Office of Executive Shapiro  
[gjohnson@summitoh.net](mailto:gjohnson@summitoh.net)  
330-643-2656

## **Summit County Executive Shapiro announces \$7.3 Million in Grants to Schools for COVID-19 Costs**

**SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**—On Monday, September 21, 2020, Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro and County Council authorized \$7.3 million in federal CARES Act funding to create the COVID-19 Public School District Re-Opening Grant Program. The funds allocated to this program will be used to cover costs associated with school re-openings.

“Our schools have faced unprecedented challenges since March. They have done an incredible job creating re-opening plans that fit the needs of their communities, but now face the stress of unexpected financial costs to keep students, teachers and staff connected and safe,” said Executive Shapiro. “This grant program will help relieve that stress and free up scarce funds for other essential budget items.”

Grant awards will be given to Summit County’s 17 public school districts based on the Average Daily Membership (ADM), a count of students, as defined by the Ohio Department of Education. Each district will be required to provide a preliminary and final report of fund use to the County.

“Springfield Local Schools and the families we serve have remained vigilant about the safe delivery of education and services. We are grateful for Executive Shapiro and County Council’s innovative grant program to assist us in our reopening,” said Chuck Sincere, Springfield Local Schools Superintendent.

In accordance with U.S. Treasury guidance, CARES Act funds may be used to cover district costs incurred by providing distance learning, like laptops for students, or for in-person learning, like the cost of personal protective equipment for students and staff. Such necessary expenditures not accounted for in a district’s budget as of March 27, 2020 may be covered with the County grants.

In addition to the Public School Re-Opening Grant program, with County Council approval, Executive Shapiro has provided \$44 million in small business grants, rental and mortgage assistance, utility assistance, and payroll support for first responders to all 31 Summit County communities.

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