



Hotel and Lodging Industry Economic Relief

Ohio's travel economy is essential to the state's overall health and prosperity. Hotel and lodging businesses are a key contributor, with more than 42,000 direct jobs and 192,000 supported jobs. Hotels produce \$27 billion in business sales, \$8 billion in wages and \$4 billion in federal, state and local taxes. Already, 29,700 direct hotel jobs (70 percent) and nearly 86,570 supported jobs have been lost due to COVID-19.

While the economic impacts of the public health emergency will affect every sector of our economy, hotels and hospitality saw early impacts. At the same time, hotel and lodging operators are doing everything they can to keep their businesses operating wherever that is possible, both to provide essential infrastructure to support COVID-19 response efforts, and also to other Essential Businesses and Operations which rely on accommodations.

Our sector of the economy has been impacted like never before in history. To keep Ohio's hotel infrastructure available, to assist the tens of thousands of impacted workers, and to allow our travel economy to recover, we ask for these urgent steps:

1. Industry-specific emergency grant and emergency working capital loan programs to help sustain operations to keep essential hotel infrastructure open
2. A state fund to offset expense of providing accommodations for medical staff, first responders and others involved in COVID-19 response
3. Deferral of requirement to remit sales and other state taxes for the duration of the Emergency
4. Deferral of state payroll taxes to coincide with federal deferrals and authorization of state payroll tax credit to coincide with federal credit mandated by Family First Act
5. Establish process and allow deferrals for property tax payments including waiver of penalties, costs or other charges resulting from non-payment
6. Temporary suspension of state fees for licensure, inspection, required filings or other official transactions
7. Continuation of commercial insurance coverages for hotel and lodging businesses used for COVID-19 response
8. Hold harmless provisions for liability claims related to transmission of COVID-19 for hotels participating in response efforts
9. Require business interruption insurance in force on March 9 to cover certain perils attributable to COVID-19 and provide a backstop mechanism to make funds immediately available for such reimbursement

(continued)

10. Protection from predatory lending practices, including required moratorium on foreclosures up to 120 days from end of Emergency
11. Amendment of existing section of O.R.C. Chapter 1319 sections on Nonrecourse Mortgages as follows:
 - Permit 60-120 day forbearances to borrowers on an immediate and expedited basis with minimal documentation needed, i.e. borrower's certifications that a state-declared State of Emergency requires this forbearance
 - Permit borrowers to grant 60-120 day forbearances of payment on all leases without requiring lender consent, provided the tenants agree to repay the obligations within a rolling 12-month period
 - Permit the utilization of all reserves, except for tax and insurance reserves, to be utilized to pay operating expenses first, and then to pay debt service, while also waiving any additional reserve payments being made, except for taxes and insurance reserves, for 90 days
 - Permit borrowers to obtain emergency federal disaster relief, including SBA-backed loans without triggering a negative repercussion for the borrower such as Event of Default or creating any Guaranteed Obligation, or such terms as defined in applicable loan documents
12. Provide grants to individuals employed in the hospitality industry that have been furloughed, laid off or are otherwise experiencing financial emergencies
13. Funding for job training and placement to assist displaced workers and industry recovery phase
14. Direction for spending of state destination marketing effort by TourismOhio to match total amount of funds available for FY20 and FY21
15. Implementation of tax parity provisions for transient accommodations to require full remittance of tax collected to the State of Ohio and local jurisdictions by out-of-state online travel companies to increase revenues available for COVID-19 relief

For more information, contact Joe Savarise, Executive Director

Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association

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