

COVID-19 Engagement from March-July, 2020

Actions

- Engaged with the Michigan Chamber of Commerce & U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- Working with both state and federal levels of government
- Hosted a webinar open to all businesses from chambers and economic development organizations beyond Alliance membership (members and non-members) on CARES Act, presented by U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- Hosted Alliance meeting open to chambers and economic development organizations beyond membership (members and non-members) with the agenda including:
 - U.S. Chamber of Commerce providing a CARES Act presentation
 - Visit from Director Jeff Donofrio, Director, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity
 - Attended by over a dozen federal and state legislators/their representatives, including Congressman Jack Bergman, Congressman John Moolenaar, State Senator Wayne Schmidt, State Senator Curt VanderWall, State Representative Triston Cole, and State Representative Jack O'Malley, as well as office representatives, including the Governor's office
- Co-hosted with Traverse Connect industry forums for the following industries:
 - Salons & spas
 - Manufacturing
 - Construction
 - Retail
 - Human Resources
 - Grocers
 - Chiropractors & Physical Therapists
 - Restaurants
- Hosted a webinar with Chief Justice Bridget Mary McCormack on Michigan's Judiciary after COVID-19
- Hosted a webinar on unemployment with leaders from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity open to all northern Michigan businesses
- Joined Governor Whitmer in announcing the reopening of northern Michigan businesses in regions 6&8
- Hosted a collaborative discussion on housing after COVID-19 with stakeholders from northern and southeast Michigan

Letters/Positions

- The Alliance conducted a business survey to solicit feedback from northern Michigan businesses and provided 166 responses to Senator VanderWall and Senator Schmidt for consideration by the State Senate's bipartisan "Safe Behavior for Safe Workplaces" task force.
- Signed onto a letter from the MI Chamber to Congress encouraging additional funds for PPP

- Sent a letter to the Michigan Congressional delegation on PPP, EIDL, and 501c(6) funding
- Joined forces with numerous chambers across the Midwest and Great Lakes region to support a coordinated reopening of our economy
- Signed onto a letter with various organizations supporting the Governor in continuing the environmental, developmental, and construction project permitting process in Michigan
- Submitted a letter to the Governor advocating for the inclusion of our region in reopening discussions and offering several industry leaders to represent us in these discussions
- Submitted feedback to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission on how to support rural northern Michigan bars and restaurants during the crisis and through recovery
- Signed onto a U.S. Chamber letter with thousands of other organizations advocating for the inclusion of 501c(6) organizations in PPP funding
- Sent a letter to the Governor in support of her regional reopening plan and asking that northern Michigan be able to reopen safely
- Sent a letter to the Governor urging for the regional reopening of cinemas, fitness centers, hair salons, bowling alleys, and more.
- Sent a letter to the Senate and House Appropriations Chairs requesting Fiscal Year 2021 funding for Pure Michigan, Going Pro, and remaining committed to addressing our roads and bridges in order to support Michigan's economic recovery.
- In collaboration with northern Michigan convention and visitors bureaus, sent a letter to the Governor and Senate and House Appropriations Chairs supporting the continuation of Pure Michigan funding in Fiscal Year 2021 to promote our state as a destination where communities and businesses are safely reopening.
- In collaboration with chambers throughout Michigan, sent a letter to the Governor and Senate and House Appropriations Chairs and Vice Chairs on the value of the Going Pro Fund and inclusion in the FY 2021 budget.
- Signed onto a letter to Michigan's congressional delegation advocating for additional funding to state and local governments and encouraging liability protections to businesses operating in good faith.
- Signed onto letter to the Governor, Senate, and House supporting liability reform at the state level for businesses.

Feedback Solicited

- Feedback from 166 businesses submitted to Senator VanderWall and Senator Schmidt for consideration by the State Senate's bipartisan "Safe Behavior for Safe Workplaces" task force
- Feedback from 75 businesses collected for our Regional Reopening Plan

Information for Partners & Associate Partners

- COVID-19 updates shared with Alliance for further distribution on:
 - March 27 – "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order, unemployment
 - April 3 – EIDL, PPP, Emergency Access & Retooling Grants
 - April 10 – "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order, U.S. Chamber call, feedback for Safe Behavior for Safe Workplaces Task Force
 - April 17 – Alliance COVID position statement, April meeting recap, Regional Reopening Plan, Safe Behavior for Safe Workplaces Task Force feedback

update, Liquor Buy-Back Program, MEDC Tech Startup Stabilization Fund, U.S. Chamber Save Small Business Fund

- April 24 – “Stay Home, Stay Safe” order, Regional Reopening Plan, industry forums, U.S. Chamber CARES webinar, MI Judiciary AC (After COVID-19) webinar
- May 1 – Construction & real estate reopening, MI Liquor Control feedback submitted, letter to Governor for N MI representation, continued permitting, Midwest Governors statement
- May 8 – COVID-19 preparedness & response plan, manufacturing reopening, industry forums, PPE, UIA webinar, Judiciary after Covid webinar
- May 15 – Letter to Governor on reopening, Work Share webinars, Launch Scholarship, MI Local Biz Crowdfunding match
- May 21 – Safety precautions needed for reopening, Alliance joins Governor in reopening northern MI
- May 29 – Business advocacy recap, Treasury sales, use, and withholding tax payment installment plans
- June 5 – Alliance applauds region’s businesses in setting reopening example for state, executive order update, PPP Flexibility Act, federal Return to Work legislation
- June 12 – Social districts and liquor to go legislation
- June 19 – State \$880M supplemental, small business restart grants, social districts and liquor to go legislation
- June 26 – Alliance COVID-19 recovery funding advocacy
- July 1 – FY 2020 Budget agreement
- July 15 – Legislature back in Session
- *updates now sent as needed