Application deadline nears for two State grant programs

Division urges eligible businesses to apply online

PROVIDENCE — The Rhode Island Division of Taxation today issued a reminder about two State grant programs that provide relief for certain businesses that are suffering losses due to coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic restrictions.

“Affected businesses that have not already applied should take time this weekend to review each program’s requirements and other details, because the application deadline for both programs is right around the corner,” said Rhode Island Tax Administrator Neena Savage. “Each program has its own website, with an online application and answers to frequently asked questions,” she said.

➢ One program is associated with business operating restrictions under “Rhode Island on Pause” and was announced on November 25, 2020. It is aimed at specified businesses directly impacted by the restrictions and the coronavirus pandemic. Grants range from $750 to $75,000. Applications must be filed on or before Monday, December 14, 2020. For more information, see: http://www.tax.ri.gov/RIonPause. You must apply for this program in order to be eligible to receive the automatic check for the third week of the Pause.

➢ The other program is associated with business operating restrictions and was announced November 5, 2020. It is aimed at certain bars and restaurants directly impacted by a State-mandated early shutdown. Grants range from $2,000 to $10,000. Applications must be filed on or before Tuesday, December 15, 2020. To learn more, see: http://www.tax.ri.gov/RICares/.

“Remember: These are grants, not loans, and they can offer needed relief to certain businesses that have incurred losses as a result of the pandemic,” she said.

“Today’s announcement is simply a reminder that the programs are available and that the application deadlines are near. For more information, please see each program’s webpage,” she said.

Rhode Island Governor Gina M. Raimondo developed the grant programs to provide relief to certain businesses that have had to cut back their hours, or close temporarily, due to pandemic-related restrictions. The restrictions are part of a range of measures aimed at limiting the spread of the coronavirus and reducing the rising number of coronavirus cases.