



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(YELLOW SPRINGS, Ohio)— The Village of Yellow Springs proudly announced the distribution for \$40,000.00 in grant funds to support small businesses and nonprofit organization to use for COVID-19 related expenses to improve environmental conditions and air quality in their place of business. The Village awarded 18 organization with grants of up to \$5,000.00. The Village received 18 applications, totaling \$70,587.72 in requests for financial assistance for expenses varying from HVAC filtration systems upgrades, new air filtration equipment, masks, hand sanitizer, gloves, plexiglass partitions and online collaboration technology.

This initiative is part of the Village’s strategy to invest CARES Act funds in projects with High Impact. The Village has funded Public Wi-Fi, Learning Center for school children needing a conducive and safe learning environment, and Digital Engagement for Seniors. This particular project was design to address the role that HVAC systems play in the transmission of COVID-19. Scientists have established that the COVID-19 is highly contagious and transmitted via air, and HVAC systems can potentially spread a virus across rooms when high-speed air flows past an infected person to others.

Changes to HVAC settings and upgrades may help reduce the spread of COVID-19, such as increasing the rate of exchange with fresh air and filtration and ionization of air to kill bacteria and virus. Improving environmental conditions and air quality is critical to providing a safer place of business for customers and employees. Doing so also helps business recovery from the COVID-19 financial impact.

“We know this pandemic has been difficult for so many people and businesses in Yellow Springs. We are here to support our residents and businesses.” *Josue Salmerón, Village Manager*