



THE UNITED STATES
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

April 16, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader, United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Democratic Leader, United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader, United States House of
Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer and Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the National League of Cities (NLC), the National Association of Counties (NACo), and The United States Conference of Mayors (USCM), thank you for your tireless efforts to support local governments and the extraordinary measures that local leaders are enacting to protect households and residents from the ill effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our associations strongly support efforts to include \$250 billion in robust, dedicated, and flexible funding for all local governments in any interim emergency coronavirus package currently being negotiated. Local governments at the county and municipal level are fighting this pandemic as partners to provide unique and non-duplicative services to protect public health and economic stability, despite significant losses of revenue as a result of public health measures requiring a pause on most economic activity.

Local elected officials are working on the front lines of the emergency response. County governments are responsible for emergency operations centers, human services, jail management, 911 services, coroners, and medical examiners. Counties also operate nearly 1,000 public hospitals, 1,900 local public health departments, more than 800 long-term care facilities and 750 behavioral health departments. Municipal governments are responding daily to the crisis with our first responders (fire, EMS, and police), coordinating regionally with one another across jurisdictional lines, enacting difficult and fiscally challenging emergency measures to slow the coronavirus epidemic, passing ordinances to limit the worst economic outcomes for residents and small businesses on the margins, and spending such sums as necessary to protect public health and the economy in this extraordinary time.

An USCM/NLC survey of more than 2,100 local officials shows that nearly 100% of communities with populations above 50,000 will see a revenue decline this year, and more than half report that revenue declines will impact core functions including police hiring and retention, and public safety.

At the local level, the battle to contain COVID-19 is crisis-management beyond anything in recent memory. Both counties and cities are expending an unprecedented amount of resources while losing historic amounts of revenue. And for most communities, the peak of the pandemic has yet to be reached. All local governments,

regardless of population, urgently need direct federal funding to help us continue to fight COVID-19 and protect our residents through the summer and beyond.

For us to continue to protect our communities and save lives, we propose that ALL of America's cities and counties be allocated at least \$250 billion in dedicated funding in a way that takes into account each level of governments' role in responding to the pandemic. This will allow America's hardest hit communities to deal with the enormous challenges we are facing while fairly distributing relief to all local governments.

The relief that we desperately need also needs to be flexible. We strongly urge that funding provided in the interim package allow for local governments to make up for lost revenue, and further that there be language in the interim package clarifying that CARES Act funding can be used for the same purpose.

Local governments and our elected mayors, county officials, and council members thank you for your swift action during this truly unique moment in American history. As partners working hand-in-hand both within our communities and also with the federal government and states, we are ready to continue to ensure that America emerges from this pandemic stronger than we were before.

Sincerely,



Clarence E. Anthony
CEO and Executive Director
National League of Cities



Matt Chase
CEO and Executive Director
National Association of Counties



Tom Cochran
CEO Executive Director
The United States Conference of Mayors

Cc: President Donald J. Trump