



# **FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

## **OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

Jan H. Gardner  
*County Executive*

*Rick Harcum, Chief Administrative Officer*

April 20, 2020

The Honorable Ben Cardin  
United State Senate  
509 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senate  
110 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jamie Raskin  
United States House of Representatives  
412 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Trone  
United States House of Representatives  
1213 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: COVID-19 Federal Assistance Funding to Counties

Dear Senator Cardin, Senator Van Hollen, Congressman Raskin, and Congressman Trone:

I appreciate your leadership during our nation's response to this global health pandemic. I am writing to ask you to support the inclusion of direct funding relief for local counties than can be used to cover expenditures related to the pandemic and to cover lost revenue. The COVID-19 3.5 federal relief package can best help local governments meet the needs of our citizens if there is flexible funding that allows us to continue to provide essential services as well as protect public health.

I also ask for your support for Congress to allow the assistance provided through the CARES Act Corona Virus Relief Fund be used by local governments to both backfill lost revenue as well as provide health services. Counties with populations of less than 500,000 residents need the same flexibility as the larger jurisdictions who received direct block grants from the federal government. It is frustrating that smaller jurisdictions have additional requirements to access and utilize the funds provided by Congress.

The need for these dollars is immediate because Counties are not only responding to the COVID-19 crisis, but are continuing to provide essential services to our citizens. Frederick County joins other local governments on the front lines of our country's response to this pandemic in providing public health services, educating and preparing our citizens, and partnering and supporting our local hospitals and nursing homes. At the same time, we are coordinating with our counterparts across jurisdictions to ensure an efficient and timely response. County governments continue to provide essential services, including the operation of our transit buses, the deployment of Fire and EMS, law enforcement, food delivery to our seniors, water and sewer, trash disposal, and more.

*Frederick County: Rich History, Bright Future*

Winchester Hall • 12 East Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701 • 301-600-1100 • Fax 301-600-1050  
[www.FrederickCountyMD.gov](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov)

We face these challenges at the same time we anticipate a substantial drop in our income tax revenue, which constitutes 35% of our budget. As we look forward to the future, we know we will need to increase our capacity to respond to this health crisis as well as expand services needed to support our community's economic recovery.

Thank you for your advocacy and leadership during these difficult days.

Sincerely,



Jan H. Gardner, County Executive  
Frederick County, Maryland

c: M.C. Keegan-Ayer, President, Frederick County Council  
Michael Blue, Vice President, Frederick County Council  
Phil Dacey, Member, Frederick County Council  
Jerry Donald, Member, Frederick County Council  
Jessica Fitzwater, Member, Frederick County Council  
Kai Hagen, Member, Frederick County Council  
Steve McKay, Member, Frederick County Council  
Ragen Cherney, Chief of Staff & Legislative Director, Frederick County Council  
Rick Harcum, Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the County Executive  
Vivian Laxton, Director of Communications, Office of the County Executive  
Joy Schaefer, Director of Government Affairs & Public Policy, Office of the County Executive

**Board of County  
Commissioners**

Stephen A. Wantz, President  
Edward C. Rothstein, Vice President  
C. Richard Weaver, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
C. Eric Bouchat  
Dennis E. Frazier



**Carroll County Government**

225 North Center Street  
Westminster, Maryland 21157  
410-386-2043; 1-888-302-8978  
fax 410-386-2485  
MD Relay 711/800-735-2258

August 27, 2020

The Honorable Jamie Raskin  
412 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Congressman Raskin:

The Carroll County Board of Commissioners thanks you for your support of Maryland throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We respectfully request you take action to extend the deadline for jurisdictions to spend federal funding beyond December 30, 2020.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding is an invaluable resource as we continue to both navigate and recover from the coronavirus impact. Carroll County received its allocation of CARES Act funding from the state and is in the process of carefully distributing the dollars across many areas of the county. We will have continued needs over the coming weeks and months and will need the extended time to benefit as many residents, businesses and organizations as possible.

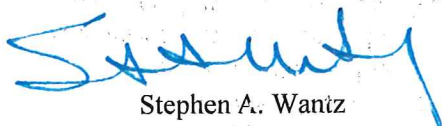
Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and Governor Hogan's declared State of Emergency for Maryland on March 5, 2020, Carroll County has seen unprecedented impacts on health, education, the economy and the provision of services. The COVID-19 public health emergency created unforeseen financial needs and risks for local government. We continue to work, in coordination with the Carroll County Health Department, to incorporate recovery efforts for essential agencies. Our plan implements a variety of strategies across Carroll County to address areas including Employee and Customer Safety, Continuity of Operations, Constituent Needs and Long-Term Resiliency while allowing sufficient resources to provide strong oversight of the federal funding.

The virus and its impacts will continue into early 2021 at a minimum, and the flexibility to stretch some of this money in FY21 will allow local jurisdictions to be more resilient and proactive in conserving funding for unforeseen future expenditures.


Thank you for your consideration.


Sincerely,

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CARROLL COUNTY

  
Stephen A. Wantz  
President

  
Edward C. Rothstein (COL, Ret.)  
Vice President

  
C. Richard Weaver  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

  
C. Eric Bouchat

  
Dennis E. Frazier



110 W. Michigan Ave., Suite 200  
Lansing, MI 48933  
517-372-5374 Fax 517-482-4599  
www.micounties.org  
**Stephan W. Currie, Executive Director**

Feb. 10, 2021

Sen. Debbie Stabenow 731 Hart Senate Washington, DC 20510	Sen. Gary Peters 724 Hart Senate Washington, DC 20510	Rep. Jack Bergman 414 Cannon Washington, DC 20515	Rep. Bill Huizenga 1217 Longworth Washington, DC 20515
Rep. Peter Meijer 106 Cannon Washington, DC 20515	Rep. John Moolenaar 117 Cannon Washington, DC 20515	Rep. Daniel Kildee 227 Cannon Washington, DC 20515	Rep. Fred Upton 2183 Rayburn Washington, DC 20515
Rep. Tim Walberg 2436 Rayburn Washington, DC 20515	Rep. Elissa Slotkin 1531 Longworth Washington, DC 20515	Rep. Andy Levin 228 Cannon Washington, DC 20515	Rep. Lisa McClain 211 Cannon Washington, DC 20515
Rep. Haley Stevens 227 Cannon Washington, DC 20515	Rep. Debbie Dingell 116 Cannon Washington, DC 20515	Rep. Rashida Tlaib 1628 Longworth Washington, DC 20515	Rep. Brenda Lawrence 1213 Longworth Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of the Michigan Congressional Delegation,

On behalf of Michigan's 83 counties, we urge you to support the COVID-19 relief package for citizens and local government.

We sincerely appreciate the previous relief measures provided in 2020. However, the public health and economic impacts of the pandemic continue to grow. Another package is imperative to ensure Michigan's 83 counties can continue to respond properly to the pandemic.

Fortunately, the proposal from the Biden administration would be of significant benefit to Michigan, with \$65.1 billion to be sent to counties based on their population. Each Michigan county would have access to federal aid for their frontline work against the pandemic.

The aid is structured so that counties can apply and get funds directly and not have to wait to be reimbursed for spending. This will help protect from service disruptions at the local level. And counties can even suballocate to nonprofits and others who are delivering complementary services such as food aid.

The proposal also includes \$117 million to promote transparency and accountability, two points that MAC and the National Association of Counties have strongly supported in previous COVID relief measures and proposals.

Our members are comfortable with, even eager, to “show their work” with federal support, be it via contact tracing from Michigan’s county-based public health departments or the economic response, as exemplified by Kent County’s commitment of \$35 million in previous COVID aid to small businesses.

As this legislation moves through the House and Senate in upcoming weeks, we urge you to provide your support to it.

Thank you again for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Currie', with a horizontal line underneath.

Stephan W. Currie  
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Veronica Klinefelt', written in a cursive style.

Veronica Klinefelt  
Board President



## SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

Johnnie Wright Sr., President  
Orangeburg County

Timothy C. Winslow  
Executive Director

February 5, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Mace  
United States House of Representatives  
212 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Mace:

On behalf of South Carolina's 46 counties, we urge your support and immediate passage of direct aid to each county in South Carolina.

Thanks to the financial assistance Congress provided in previous bills, our counties were able to work with the State and were reimbursed for much of the unexpected budgetary costs our county taxpayers lost as a result of this pandemic. Unfortunately, because 45 of the 46 counties did not receive direct aid, our response was limited. Greenville County, the sole South Carolina local government recipient of direct aid, used \$70 million in CARES Act dollars for its Small Business Assistance program. The program distributes one-time grants of up to \$10,000 to firms with no more than 50 FTEs. The county also established a Minority Small Business Assistance program with \$5 million in CRF dollars to provide grants to small businesses. SCAC knows that given the opportunity, all South Carolina counties will use federal aid aggressively to reverse the impact of this virus on both our communities' health and economies.

As you know, counties, as the general government closest to the people, are the "boots on the ground" in this fight. We will defeat this virus and South Carolina and our country will emerge stronger. Your South Carolina counties believe in public accountability and transparency and will ensure the public is aware of our use of any federal funds distributed. South Carolina counties are committed to defeat the COVID-19 virus, keep our local businesses alive, and serve our most vulnerable residents and frontline heroes. For South Carolina to fully recover, it will take additional federal investments that leverage and supplement the local efforts of our counties and local tax base.

Congresswoman Mace, we loved working with you when you were in the General Assembly and we are excited that we will be able to work with you in Congress. Please pass this direct aid to ensure South Carolina counties have the resources, decision-making power and flexibility necessary to overcome this crisis and lead our nation to a brighter future.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Tim Winslow  
South Carolina Association of Counties  
Executive Director

Nancy,  
Super Proud to have  
a Citadel Grad in  
Washington! Call  
me if you need  
anything from the  
Counties!

Tim  
Class. P. 92



January 28, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressional Leaders:

The nearly 40,000 county elected officials and more than 3 million county employees across the nation remain focused on addressing the devastating, and unfortunately, enduring impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including through our county public health officials, health care providers, public safety personnel and other essential frontline leaders. As this unprecedented global health pandemic continues to evolve and reach further into our communities, **we urge your bipartisan support and immediate passage of the local government aid outlined in the President's American Rescue Plan.**

**We want to acknowledge the invaluable aid that our federal partners have already provided in previous bills.** These resources were invested prudently in our local public health mitigation and response, such as PPE, testing and contact tracing, for essential workers and the public. As part of our local community services, counties also concentrated on service gaps for our most vulnerable residents and small businesses, especially the basic nutrition and shelter needs of our seniors, youth, sick and unemployed. Broadband access for school children and remote workers, along with job placement and workforce training for the unemployed, remain other areas of significant focus. Unfortunately, far too many counties never received any, or very limited, federal resources, based on statutory population thresholds and state sub-allocation decisions. Unfortunately, the pressing challenges and needs facing our counties continue to outstrip our local resources.

**Even with these much-appreciated federal dollars, the immense scale and growing needs facing our counties are far outstripping our local resources.** While most of the federal dialogue has focused on the outlook of state and local revenues, it is important to recognize the historic community and resident needs that are far beyond normal times. This unprecedented pandemic has killed more than 400,000 Americans, dislocated a record number of workers, crushed countless small businesses, and impacted our children's learning and growth. In most places, it has also stretched, beyond our wildest imaginations, county resources and services for public health, substance abuse and mental health, child protective care, coroners and medical examiners, housing, food and nutrition, and broadband access. In response, county officials have dug into local financial reserves, reallocated local resources, and have made hard decisions to cut non-essential services and staff to stay afloat during these difficult times.

**County leaders are serious, prudent stewards of public dollars.** We remain very concerned about mounting federal debt. Yet, we also understand that we must overcome this devastating pandemic together, now, so we can make the smart investments needed to pursue a brighter, more resilient future for all our residents and communities. As Henry Kissinger asserted, “The historic challenge for leaders is to manage the crisis while building the future.”

**As important ground-level partners in our nation’s intergovernmental system, county leaders are not looking for an unlimited federal handout.** We support coordinating a stronger federal-state-local framework that ensures federal resources are invested appropriately, with a strategic focus on COVID-19 impacts and future community resiliency. We embrace robust public accountability and transparency standards, and we welcome the opportunity to discuss any necessary safeguards.

**We know that the only way to unlock the full economic potential and protect the wellbeing of the nation is to overcome the current global public health emergency.** Our immediate charge remains to help mitigate the COVID-19 virus, keep our local businesses alive, and serve our most vulnerable residents and frontline heroes. County leaders are also faithful to the American tradition of building back better after a major national crisis. The reality is that this will take additional federal investments that leverage and supplement the local efforts of our counties and local tax base.

We respectfully urge Congress and the White House to work together in a bipartisan manner to ensure our county leaders – and our local communities – have the resources, decision-making powers and flexibility necessary to overcome this massive national emergency and to ensure our nation is better prepared for future pandemics and disasters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew D. Chase". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matthew" being more prominent and the last name "Chase" following in a similar style.

Matthew D. Chase  
CEO/Executive Director

## **COUNTY COVID-19 FINANCIAL RESPONSE**

- Cook County is incredibly proud of the work we have done to provide millions of dollars of emergency relief throughout Cook County in a consistent, thorough and equitable way.
- Cook County received approximately \$429 million from the U.S. Treasury from the CARES Act. We started our work to get this money out to local governments immediately.
- First, we allocated \$51 million of this relief among the suburban municipalities located within Cook County and \$81.9 million to economic relief efforts for critical supportive services such as homeless sheltering and utility assistance. Small business support from Cook County is also going to recovery grants and technical assistance, workforce development through training and housing aid through rental and mortgage assistance.
- The distribution methodology created by Cook County was a first-of its-kind equity model determined through an equitable lens, with factors that included, but that were not limited to, immediate needs of the municipality to respond to the pandemic, municipal population, municipal median income and municipal public health statistics. We have included a link to a [Chicago Tribune story](#) detailing the equity model created for CARES Act fund distribution.
- The allocation method considered the rising COVID-19 related costs experienced by all municipalities, as well as the capacity of various municipalities within the County to respond to those costs in light of unequal historic and current investment in those communities. The white paper titled: [Subgrantee Allocation Process: An Equitable Distribution Model of Cook County's CARES Act Funding to Suburban Municipalities](#), details a funding allocation model developed by Cook County and CMAP, along with a description of the decision-making process used to develop the Sub-Grantee Allocation Method.
- Once the allocation method was applied to each local government the real work of implementation began. The distribution and collection of intergovernmental agreements and board ordinances across the County. Applications were evaluated using strict U.S Treasury guidelines and technical assistance was also provided on a weekly basis in the form of online office hours and on an ad hoc basis in response to applications we received. Additionally, a [website was created](#) to house all documents including presentations, frequently asked questions, forms and applications.
- Cook County did not stop there. We decided a second round of relief from Cook County was something that would do a great deal of good so we worked to distribute even more money. This included:
  - \$700,000 split between 25 fire protection districts in Cook County to cover payroll, PPE and other COVID-19 eligible costs as defined by the U.S. Treasury. These funds will provide crucial assistance to critical public services that have seen both an increase in emergency medical services and a decrease in public aid assistance.
  - \$5,000 each to each of 97 library districts across Cook County bringing the total relief funding to \$485,000. This was a calculated policy decision guided by the public's expanded reliance on public libraries for access to high speed internet during this pandemic. Extending and expanding internet availability at Cook County libraries is an important way to support equity and access in underserved areas.

- \$300,000 was made available to nearly 30 townships within Cook County offering a myriad of public services like senior services, transportation, mental health services and after school programs and 98 Park districts in Cook County were eligible to receive \$5,000.
- An additional \$12,000 was made available to each Cook County municipality to cover additional COVID costs incurred more recently.
- Cook County has allocated over \$48 of the \$51 million to 180 different units of government for categories including personal protective equipment, public health expenses like sanitizing supplies, and improving telework. A significant amount of the funds were used to cover public health and safety employees dedicated to mitigating and responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Some subrecipients shared that these funds would allow them to maintain staffing levels and avoid laying off and furloughing essential employees. A breakdown of these expenses can be found at the bottom of this document.
- By making this money to our local governments as well as our fire, park and library districts, we are doing important work supporting public safety and education. This has undoubtedly been an immense undertaking, but we are excited to be getting millions of additional dollars out the door.
- A fuller and more thorough breakout is available in our [monthly report to the Cook County Board of Commissioners](#). CRF allocations are separated into four different categories with specific data detailing the many expenses and needs being addressed.
  - **Suburban Municipalities:** Expenses including cost reimbursements for incurred and future eligible expenses
  - **Economic Development:** This includes the Cook County Recovery Loan Program and other short-term Bureau of Economic Development initiatives
  - **Operational Initiatives:** Costs for workspace redesign, telework capabilities, public Health initiatives, etc.
  - **Direct Costs:** Labor costs, agency cost reimbursement, PPE/cleaning supplies and facility cleaning/security costs, etc.

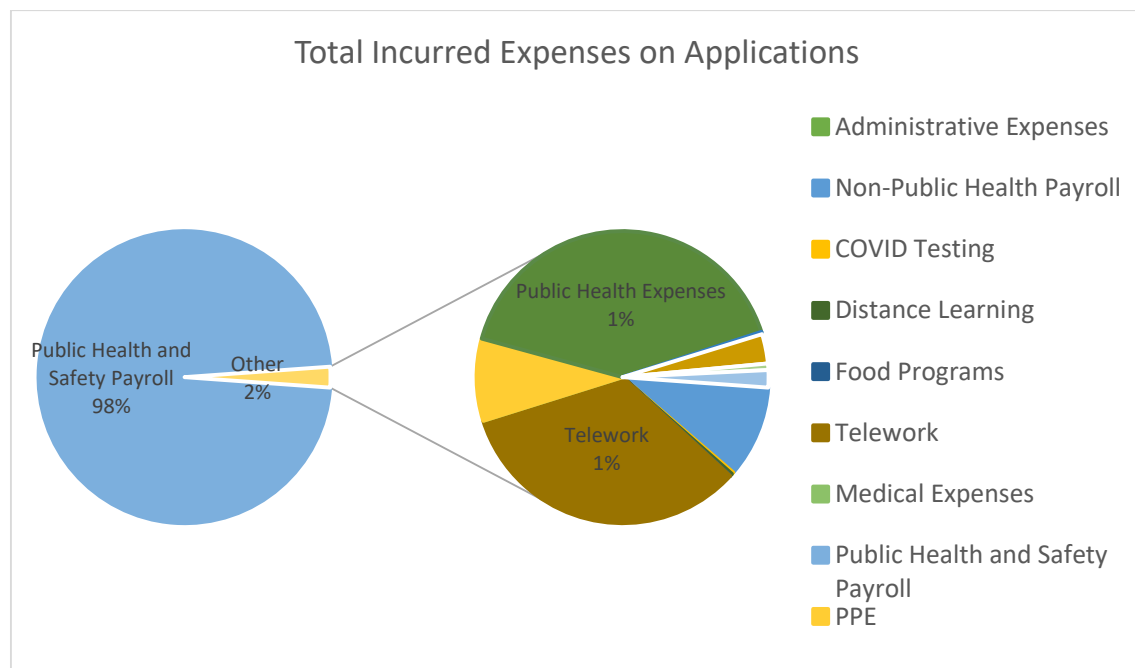
#### **CONTINUED NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FEDERAL RELIEF**

- The pandemic continues to create a tremendous strain on the finances of state and local governments across the country. While Cook County has instilled sound fiscal discipline, reduced headcount, closed billions of dollars of budget gaps and pushed for a more efficient government, it isn't immune to an economic downturn or recession.
- About 65% of Cook County revenue is considered economically sensitive with expected decreases in collections related to COVID-19. Cook County significant revenue losses this fiscal year as we've seen dramatic decreases in Sales Tax, Gasoline, Amusement, Parking and Hotel Taxes to name a few. This is also coupled with increases in COVID-19 related expenses the County has seen during the pandemic.
- Cook County is the Midwest's cultural and economic center. Home to 5.2 million residents, it is the second most populous county in the United States. Through an over \$6 billion budget, Cook County provides a system of vital services like running a system of safety net public hospitals and ambulatory clinics, operating the second largest unified court system in the United States and administering the second largest property tax system in the country.

- Without Federal support, local governments across the country will have to curtail services and make difficult cuts at a time when our residents need assistance most. This could also cause further economic contraction and only exacerbate financial difficulties throughout the country.
- Federal funds for lost revenue can serve as an important lifeline for local governments working to craft balanced budgets while preserving essential services. Declines in revenue caused by this pandemic are wreaking havoc on local budgets, jeopardizing essential services and impacting our day-to-day lives.

### **EXPENSE BREAKOUT**

Expense Type	Amount
Administrative Expenses	\$ -
Non-Public Health Payroll	\$ 113,955
COVID Testing	\$ 2,345
Distance Learning	\$ 3,152
Food Programs	\$ 53
Telework	\$ 373,510
Medical Expenses	\$ -
Public Health and Safety Payroll	\$ 47,879,754
PPE	\$ 97,854
Public Health Expenses	\$ 446,785
Compliance Expenses	\$ 2,953
Other related expenses	\$ 36,565
FEMA Payroll Match	\$ 8,023
FEMA Materials Match	\$ 21,507
<b>Total Incurred Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 48,986,457</b>





February 9, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Byron Donalds  
United States House of Representatives  
523 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Donalds:

On the behalf of the Florida Association of Counties, I humbly urge your support of state and local aid in the next COVID-19 relief package. The nearly 40,000 county elected officials and more than 3 million county employees across the nation remain focused on addressing the devastating, and unfortunately, enduring impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including through our county public health officials, health care providers, public safety personnel and other essential frontline leaders. As this unprecedented global health pandemic continues to evolve and reach further into our communities, we urge your bipartisan support and immediate passage of the local government aid outlined in the President's American Rescue Plan.

We want to acknowledge the invaluable aid that our federal partners have already provided in previous bills. These resources were invested prudently in our local public health mitigation and response, such as PPE, testing and contact tracing, for essential workers and the public. As part of our local community services, counties also concentrated on service gaps for our most vulnerable residents and small businesses, especially the basic nutrition and shelter needs of our seniors, youth, sick and unemployed. Broadband access for school children and remote workers, along with job placement and workforce training for the unemployed, remain other areas of significant focus. Unfortunately, far too many counties never received any, or very limited, federal resources, based on statutory population thresholds and state sub-allocation decisions. Unfortunately, the pressing challenges and needs facing our counties continue to outstrip our local resources.

Even with these much-appreciated federal dollars, the immense scale and growing needs facing our counties are far outstripping our local resources. While most of the federal dialogue has focused on the outlook of state and local revenues, it is important to recognize the historic community and resident needs that are far beyond normal times. This unprecedented pandemic has killed more than 400,000 Americans, dislocated a record number of workers, crushed countless small businesses, and impacted our children's learning and growth. In most places, it has also stretched, beyond our wildest imaginations, county resources and services for public health, substance abuse and mental health, child protective care, coroners and medical examiners, housing, food and nutrition, and broadband access.

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
PRESIDENT ELECT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**BILL TRUAX**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
CHARLOTTE

**NICK MADDOX**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
LEON

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



In response, county officials have dug into local financial reserves, reallocated local resources, and have made hard decisions to cut non-essential services and staff to stay afloat during these difficult times.

County leaders are serious, prudent stewards of public dollars. We remain very concerned about mounting federal debt. Yet, we also understand that we must overcome this devastating pandemic together, now, so we can make the smart investments needed to pursue a brighter, more resilient future for all our residents and communities. As Henry Kissinger asserted, “The historic challenge for leaders is to manage the crisis while building the future.”

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We know that the only way to unlock the full economic potential and protect the wellbeing of Florida and the nation is to overcome the current global public health emergency. Our immediate charge remains to help mitigate the COVID-19 virus, keep our local businesses alive, and serve our most vulnerable residents and frontline heroes. County leaders are also faithful to the American tradition of building back better after a major national crisis. The reality is that this will take additional federal investments that leverage and supplement the local efforts of our counties and local tax base.

We respectfully urge Congress and the White House to work together in a bipartisan manner to ensure our county leaders – and our local communities – have the resources, decision-making powers and flexibility necessary to overcome this massive national emergency and to ensure our nation is better prepared for future pandemics and disasters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melissa McKinlay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Melissa" and last name "McKinlay" clearly distinguishable.

Commissioner Melissa McKinlay  
Palm Beach County  
President, Florida Association of Counties



February 4, 2021

**Memorandum to Texas Delegation from Hon. Renee Couch, President, and Susan M. Redford, Executive Director, Texas Association of Counties**

As the 117th Congress begins, the Texas Association of Counties looks forward to working with you and your staff to improve the lives of twenty-nine million Texans. We intend to build an even stronger federal-local partnership during the pandemic recovery.

**Our federal team will contact your staff and request a call or virtual meeting to discuss the challenges facing Texas counties this year.**

Texas counties are still managing a historic public health crisis and face an uncertain fiscal future. Most counties (242 of 254) did not receive direct assistance from the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF).

Last year, Texas received \$11.24 billion, and eligible jurisdictions (populations above 500,000) received \$3.2 billion in direct payments. The state received \$8 billion and allocated \$1.85 billion for local governments that did not qualify for direct assistance. However, the state created distribution requirements more restrictive than Congress intended and the US Treasury guidance outlined. That has made it difficult for many counties to meet the application criteria.

Texas counties have used the CRF to support public health and safety while promoting economic opportunities for businesses and individuals.

As Congress considers additional economic relief for state and local governments, Texas counties urge you to:

- **Provide direct relief for counties of all sizes.**
- **Divide federal funding equally between cities and counties using a population formula.**
- **Make lost revenue an eligible use for CRF and future funding.**
- **Establish accountability standards to ensure the proper use of federal funds.**

We also look forward to discussing other issues facing Texas counties, including broadband access, healthcare, and infrastructure. Please contact Austin McCarty (austinm@county.org or 512-478-8753) or Cary Roberts (caryr@county.org or 512-560-0434) if you or your staff need additional information.

Sincerely,

Hon. Renee Couch  
Comal Country Treasurer  
President, Texas Association of Counties

Susan M. Redford  
Executive Director  
Texas Association of Counties