

# COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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**Kim Dawson**  
Clerk of the Board



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April 16, 2020

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Kamala Harris  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Tom McClintock  
U. S. House of Representatives  
2312 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein, Senator Harris and Representative McClintock,

On behalf of El Dorado County, I thank you for your leadership during this critical time and for your efforts to address the significant health, safety and economic impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

**As Congress negotiates a potential fourth COVID-19 response package, we urge you to provide direct and flexible funding to county governments of all sizes who are at ground-zero of this unprecedented public health and economic crisis.**

In California, counties operate as a direct arm of the State and provide a wide variety of direct essential services to our residents, for which we are solely responsible. Examples of such services include child and adult protective services, older adult services such as meal delivery and adult day care services, inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services, jail management, 911 dispatch services, veterans services, and operating emergency operations centers. **Given our role at the front lines of this crisis, we strongly urge you to allocate resources directly to counties as California mandates the implementation of public health and emergency response responsibilities to county governments.**

While the CARES Act (P.L. 116-136) provided \$150 billion for unanticipated expenditures for states and local governments, counties with populations below 500,000 are not eligible for direct funding and are instead at the mercy of the state – who are dealing with their own fiscal pressures. Even a significant subset of major urban counties that are eligible for direct assistance under the Coronavirus Relief Fund will now see combined reductions of \$5.1 billion under the U.S. Treasury's guidance because many must now subtract city populations within their county boundaries, despite the fact that these counties are mandated to provide critical public health functions for their entire geographic area.

Given the unique role of counties in our nation's public health and overall community response to this pandemic, we again respectfully urge you to support efforts to allocate resources directly to counties. **We further urge you not to use the outdated CDBG formula for the allocation of funds to local governments.**

We thank you again for your leadership during these unprecedented times. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further with your team and are committed to a solution that helps our nation mitigate, respond to, and recover from these historic times.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Brian K. Veerkamp  
Chair, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

- c. The Honorable Brian Dahle  
The Honorable Frank Bigelow  
The Honorable Kevin Kiley  
California State Association of Counties  
Rural County Representatives of California