



May 4, 2020

Honorable Governor Gavin Newsom
 1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Allocation of CARES Funding for Counties of less than 500,000 populations

Dear Honorable Governor Newsom,

Thank you for work efforts during this unprecedented time and your leadership in assisting all affected by the COVID-19 global pandemic. We appreciate your efforts to keep all Californians safe.

As you are well aware, county governments are at the forefront of this pandemic. We are working to implement your orders and the recommendations from the California State Department of Public Health to ensure the health and safety of our communities. Our public health physicians, nurses, lab personnel, mental health practitioners and many others are working tirelessly in this crisis. In addition, our counties are providing direct services such as disease tracking and tracing, emergency coordination and response, public safety, human services, food assistance, services for the elderly and homebound, and housing, among others. These obligations fall squarely on the shoulders of county governments.



Unfortunately, 42 of 58 county governments with populations less than 500,000 are not receiving a direct allocation of federal CARES

funding. We request that you ensure equitable funding for smaller counties to help us address the unprecedented demands we face to reduce and contain the spread of COVID-19. The California State Association of Counties has requested 80% of the \$1.1 billion State residual CARES Act funds be allocated to smaller counties for this purpose. We urge you to do this, as we collectively represent approximately 6.3 million Californians, who deserve as much assistance as those in more populated areas.

Even after there is easing of “stay at home” orders, counties will be facing the daunting challenge of continuing to provide safety net services to the most vulnerable while meeting the public health challenge of surveillance, testing and quarantining to keep the virus boxed in. Like all public entities, at the same time, we are facing rapidly eroding revenue which will impact our budgets and jeopardize our ability to continue robust responses. **COVID-19 knows no geographic boundaries, and the virus can quickly spread throughout the State if smaller counties are without resources to ensure we continue to suppress and contain the virus. This is a potentially dangerous situation for the entire State.**

Immediately allocating the remaining allowable funding to our counties would provide immediate cash flow assistance to many that are struggling with such significant expenditure pressure. Counties encourage the state to do that as soon as feasible and to prioritize safety net service providers when considering an allocation.

Other requests, such as a State backfill of Sales Tax Layaway Program, protections and mitigations for 1991 and 2011 Realignment programs, and development of cash flow solutions to address short term needs, are critical for all counties, large and small, throughout the state.

As county administrators and executive officers, we know that counties are an extension of state government and, as a result, we want to continue to work in partnership with the Legislature and Administration through this public health and economic crisis to ensure that we have the necessary resources to keep all Californians safe and healthy.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued leadership.

Sincerely,

County Administrative Officers/County Executive Officers:

Nicole Williamson, Alpine County
Chuck Iley, Amador County
Shari McCracken, Butte County
Albert Alt, Calaveras County
Wendy G. Tyler, Colusa
Jay Sarina, Del Norte County
Don Ashton, El Dorado County
Scott DeMoss, Glenn County
Amy S. Nilsen, Humboldt County

Tony Rouhotas, Imperial County
Clint Quilter, Inyo County
Rebecca Campbell, Kings County
Carol J. Huchingson, Lake County
Richard Egan, Lassen County
Darin McCandless, Madera County
Matthew Hymel, Marin County
Dallin Kimble, Mariposa County
Carmel Angelo, Mendocino County
James Brown, Merced County
Chester Robertson, Modoc County
Robert C. Lawton, Mono County
Charles J. McKee, Monterey County
Minh C. Tran, Napa County
Alison Lehman, Nevada County
Todd Leopold, Placer County
Gabriel Hydrick, Plumas County
Ray Espinosa, San Benito County
Wade Horton, San Luis Obispo
Mona Miyasato, Santa Barbara County
Carlos Palacios, Santa Cruz County
Matt Pontes, Shasta County
Lee Adams, Sierra County (Chair of the Board)
Angela Davis, Siskiyou County
Birgitta E. Corsello, Solano County
Sheryl Bratton, Sonoma County
Steven M. Smith, Sutter County
Williams J. Goodwin, Tehama County
Richard Kuhns, Trinity County
Jason T. Britt, Tulare County
Tracie Riggs, Tuolumne
Patrick S. Blacklock, Yolo County
Robert Bendorf, Yuba County

Cc: Ann O’Leary, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Ana J. Matosantos, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor
Tam Ma, Legislative Deputy, Office of the Governor
Richard Figueroa, Legislative Deputy, Office of the Governor
Keely Bosler, Director, Department of Finance
Vivek Viswanathan, Department of Finance
Adam Dorsey, Program Budget Manager, California Department of Finance

Mark Ghaly, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency
Brendan McCarthy, Assistant Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency
Sonia Angell, Director, California Department of Public Health
Honorable California State Senators
Honorable California State Assembly Members
Catherine Smith, CACE Administrative Director
Graham Knaus, CSAC Executive Director