



April 14, 2020

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the National Association of Counties (NACo), thank you for your leadership during this critical time and your efforts to address the significant health, safety and economic impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

**As your administration negotiates a potential fourth COVID-19 response package, we urge you to provide direct and flexible funding to county governments who are at ground-zero of this unprecedented public health and economic crisis.** Our 3,069 county governments, boroughs and parishes, led by 40,000 county elected officials, employ 3.6 million public servants, representing more than one percent of Americans. Nationwide, our counties support nearly 1,000 public hospitals, 1,900 local public health departments, more than 800 long-term care facilities and 750 behavioral health departments. Our first responders and frontline personnel, including our public and community health professionals, sheriffs and police, 911 operators, firefighters, EMT/paramedics, emergency operations center experts, coroners/medical examiners, child welfare and aging service providers, substance abuse and mental health counselors, veterans service officers, homelessness program coordinators and jail administrators, among many others, depend on a strong intergovernmental partnership of federal, state, tribal and local officials.

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 urge you to support efforts to allocate resources directly to counties. We make this request, respectfully, in the context of our support to assist all state and local governments, as appropriate, with a balanced distribution method that takes into consideration both the skyrocketing costs and declining revenues for America's county governments.

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

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Borgeson  
Commissioner, Douglas County, Nebraska  
President, National Association of Counties