



THE UNITED STATES
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

December 16, 2020

United States Congress

The undersigned organizations representing local governments and our elected leaders appreciate the significant efforts of Congress to attach a bipartisan emergency relief package related to COVID-19 to the FY2021 appropriations legislation. **Our top policy priority remains local budget relief for cities and counties to partially offset revenue losses and unbudgeted emergency expenditures that local governments have made and continue to make for the health and safety of our communities.**

Apart from that priority, the undersigned organizations urge you to include the following technical changes in the final COVID-19 emergency aid package:

1. **Adjust FEMA cost-share upwards**

To help local governments offset the costs associated with the current national emergency response to this ongoing pandemic, Congress should include key provisions within H.R. 8266, the FEMA Assistance Relief Act of 2020, including adjusting the FEMA cost-share for all COVID-19 related Emergency and Major Disaster declarations to 100 percent. Additionally, Congress should include provisions within H.R. 8266 that would adjust the FEMA cost-share for all emergencies and major disaster declared in 2020 to not less than 90 percent federal and 10 percent non-federal, as well as a vital provision that would clarify that FEMA – under COVID-19 declarations – should continue to reimburse for certain expenses including personal protective equipment (PPE) for public schools, public transit, public utilities, courthouses and other government buildings and services.

2. **Enhanced Flexibility for Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF)**

States and localities need more flexibility to use already appropriated CRF funding than is provided by the CARES Act. Amending CARES Act language to enhance flexibility for CRF by making “replacement of lost revenue” an eligible expenditure would meaningfully aid state, county, and municipal governments. We recommend CARES Act language be revised to read: *Title VI, Sec 601 (d):(1) are necessary expenditures or lost revenue incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19).*

3. **Deadline Extension for Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF)**

States and localities are facing an imminent deadline to spend down all Coronavirus Relief Funds or return the balance to the U.S. Treasury. Early regulatory uncertainty created a challenging environment for state and local governments to confidently make eligible expenditures or payments

to smaller jurisdictions. We recommend the spending deadline for CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds be extended to December 31, 2021 to allow local governments to continue to wisely invest in their communities by supporting small businesses and protecting vulnerable residents.

Sincerely,



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



Tom Cochran
CEO Executive Director
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Matt Chase
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