

2019-2020

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Carolyn M. Coleman

July 30, 2020

Members of the California Congressional Delegation

Dear Members,

On behalf of the League of California Cities and the 476 cities we represent, I urge you to support \$500 billion in direct and flexible federal assistance to local governments of all sizes to sustain core services for our residents and to support public health and economic recovery in our communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted municipal budgets across the country in ways that local governments could not have foreseen. Serving on the front lines of fighting this pandemic, California cities have stepped up by enacting emergency orders, setting up testing, protecting residents, supporting vulnerable populations, and helping Main Street businesses stay afloat. These actions have saved lives, but they have come at a cost. This unprecedented and multifaceted COVID-19 response, including the shutdown of our local economies, has left California cities facing a nearly \$7 billion revenue shortfall over the next two years. This shortfall continues to grow by billions of dollars as modified stay-at-home orders have extended into the summer months. At the same time, California cities have incurred significant unplanned expenditures.

Without significant new federal resources to offset expenses and address revenue shortfalls due to COVID-19, cities, who are required to balance their budgets every year, have no choice but to reduce or eliminate critical public services that our residents rely upon and layoff city employees. In a recent survey of California cities, ninety percent of cities say they will have to cut staff or decrease city services to residents, and nearly seventy-five percent of cities report they may have to take both actions. Fewer first responders to answer emergency calls, reduced frequency of garbage pickups, delayed repairs to streets and sidewalks, delayed inspections and permitting, and limited hours for parks and senior centers are just a few of the core services under threat.

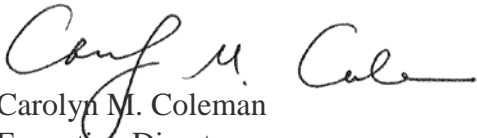
Cities need Congress to deliver this assistance with no minimum population threshold determining eligibility for funding to all of our communities now. We cannot afford to wait. The funding provided through the CARES Act was not enough to ensure that all local governments have the resources to stabilize local budgets and continue delivering local services, fighting this pandemic and supporting local recovery.

Cities are the economic engines of our state and the backbone of this nation. Recovery from this unprecedented crisis will only be realized at the local level with strong support from the federal government. We implore you to provide this

assistance to our cities, so that we can continue to be your strong partner in California.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at ccoleman@cacities.org or the League's Washington advocate, Leslie Pollner at leslie.pollner@hklaw.com or 202.469.5149.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carolyn M. Coleman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carolyn" being the most prominent part.

Carolyn M. Coleman
Executive Director

Cc: The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor, State of California
The Honorable Toni Atkins, Senate President pro Tempore, State of California
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Assembly Speaker, State of California
The Honorable Shannon Grove, Senate Republican Leader, State of California
The Honorable Marie Waldron, Assembly Republican Leader, State of California