



December 17, 2020

Members of the California Congressional Delegation

Dear Members,

On behalf of the 477 cities the League of California Cities represents, we sincerely appreciate the significant efforts of Congress to attach a bipartisan emergency relief package related to COVID-19 to the FY 2021 appropriations legislation, and urge you to include direct funding to cities of all sizes to partially offset revenue losses and unbudgeted emergency expenditures local governments have made, and continue to make, for the health and safety of our communities.

As winter approaches, we are all saddened by the reality that COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are spiking in California and in cities across the nation. In response, cities are on the front lines protecting our residents, providing personal protective equipment (PPE), ensuring the most vulnerable in our communities have access to food and shelter, and helping small businesses survive through local grant programs. These efforts are essential to the viability and recovery of our communities, yet are not sustainable without fiscal support from the federal government.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has repeatedly said this year that disasters, including pandemics, are locally executed, state managed, and federally supported. The CARES Act funding our cities received earlier this year provided some minimal assistance to offset COVID-19 related expenses, but given the magnitude of the pandemic's impacts, more support from the federal government is needed.

Earlier this year, Cal Cities estimated that, due to COVID-19, California cities would face at least \$7 billion in revenue losses over the next two years and billions of dollars in unplanned expenditures. Those estimates are proving to be accurate, and cities are being forced to make tough decisions about which core services to continue delivering and which employees to furlough or lay off. As the pandemic rages and cases surge, the fiscal impacts are growing. Businesses are closing permanently in our communities, and residents have lost their livelihoods. This will have long-term devastating impacts on our cities, our nation, and the families who live in our communities, and will forever change the face of our local main streets.

As the end of this congressional session quickly approaches, the time for our federal partners to support our cities is now. California cities, as well as local governments around the country, have stepped up to respond to this unprecedented challenge and need assistance from the federal government to continue those efforts. We respectfully urge you to include aid to local governments in the bipartisan emergency relief package.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn M. Coleman".

Carolyn M. Coleman  
Executive Director and CEO  
League of California Cities