



May 19, 2020

The Honorable Anna Caballero, Chair  
Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 4  
State Capitol, Room 5052  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jim Cooper, Chair  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4  
State Capitol, 6025  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Allocation of CARES Act Funding to Local Governments**

Dear Senator Caballero and Assembly Member Cooper:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the Urban Counties of California (UCC), and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we write to express our sincere appreciation for the Administration's proposal to provide nearly \$1.3 billion in CARES Act funds from the Coronavirus Relief Fund to California counties to assist in our frontline response to the COVID-19 pandemic. To be sure, these funds can and will be used expeditiously by counties large and small to address unforeseen local costs that – in the face of the pandemic and subsequent economic downturn – have skyrocketed, at the same time we are experiencing dramatic reductions in local revenue.

Strategic use of CARES Act funds will help support efforts at the local level to ensure access to safety net services, including public health, behavioral health, and other health and human services programs that will help the most vulnerable among us. We are prepared to work in a collaborative manner with the Administration to ensure that funds are used appropriately, consistent with guidance issued by the United States Department of the Treasury and the Department of Finance. At the same time, we question the utility of having the state's smaller cities receive their allocation from their respective counties and encourage the Administration to consider ensuring that any administrative obligation on the county's part in doing so would be minimal, as our current capacity and resources are already stretched thin.

We acknowledge and continue to press for additional federal resources for state and local government relief. Despite the investment of considerable resources at the local level aimed at combatting the coronavirus pandemic, much like the state, counties cannot continue to meet the unprecedented demands for public health, emergency response, and other vital public services without additional federal support. Significant federal assistance that is flexible and broadly accessible is critical to our collective success in managing the pandemic and rebuilding our California economy.

We appreciate the Legislature's support and assistance in counties' efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and encourage your support for the Administration's proposal to distribute CARES Act funds to counties to assist in our public health and economic recovery. Please don't hesitate to reach out if we can provide additional assistance.

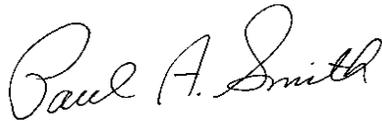
Sincerely,



Geoffrey Neill  
California State Association of Counties



Jean Kinney Hurst  
Urban Counties of California



Paul Smith  
Rural County Representatives of California

cc: Each Member and Consultant, Senate Budget Subcommittee #4  
Each Member and Consultant, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #4