



California Mayors Coalition

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June 8, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: CARES Act State Budget Funding Allocation Formula

Dear Governor Newsom,


On behalf of the California Mayors Coalition, thank you for your continued efforts to protect and support our State during this unprecedented public health crisis. As you know, cities across the State have enacted emergency measures to slow the spread of the coronavirus, including taking action to protect individuals, small businesses, and incurring significant unplanned expenses to protect public health. While we, as cities, are proud of the work we have done to protect our communities, these actions have come at a high cost.

We also thank you for the inclusion of \$450 million of the State's CARES Act funding in the May Revise to cover cities' COVID-19-related costs. As you know, the Legislature has also put forth their proposal that would increase this funding for cities to \$500 million. While we support and appreciate the allocation of these funds to cities, we believe the current formula in both proposals is not equitable and does not meet the needs of the majority of residents in Californians.

Under each of these proposals, cities with populations of above 300,000 receive funding equal to about \$85 per resident, while the other 469 cities will receive funding equivalent to about \$12 per resident. We implore you to work with the Legislature to adjust the allocation of CARES Act funding in the State budget to distribute this funding to all cities on a per capita basis.

A per capita distribution will naturally provide larger amounts of funding to larger cities, based on their number of residents, but it will keep the allocation amount "per resident" equal across all cities. All of our residents have been affected by the impacts of COVID, and it is not right to provide a higher "per resident" amount to those that live in larger cities.

Residents that live in cities with a population of under 300,000 make up 72% of the population of California. Our residents and our cities matter. A per capita distribution of the entire pot of funding will create a fair distribution that will treat every Californian and every City equally.



CARES Act funding will help our cities recover from this pandemic more quickly and help re-open our communities without depleting city revenues and threatening core city services. The Coalition appreciates your consideration of our budget request and looks forward to further discussing how together we can continue to best protect Californians and re-open our economy.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Fitzgerald
Founder
California Mayors Coalition

cc. Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
Senate Pro Tempore Toni Atkins
Assembly Budget Chair Phil Ting
Senate Budget Chair Holly Mitchell
Members of the California State Assembly
Members of the California State Senate

April Verlato, Mayor
City of Arcadia

Darcy McNaboe, Mayor
City of Grand Terrace

Larry Schroeder, Mayor
City of Claremont

Christina Shea, Mayor
City of Irvine

Fred Smith, Mayor
City of Buena Park

Phill Dupper, Mayor
City of Loma Linda

Katrina Foley, Mayor
City of Costa Mesa

Tom Beamish, Mayor
City of La Habra

Acquanetta Warren, Mayor
City of Fontana

Bob Whalen, Mayor
City of Laguna Beach

Michael Allawos, Mayor
City of Glendora

Laurie Davies, Mayor
City of Laguna Niguel

Eddie De La Riva, Mayor
City of Maywood

Robbie Pitts, Mayor
City of Villa Park

Brian Goodell, Mayor
City of Mission Viejo

Beth Haney, Mayor
City of Yorba Linda

Tom Adams, Mayor
City of Monrovia

John Dutrey, Mayor
City of Montclair

Dr. Yxstian Gutierrez, Mayor
City of Moreno Valley

Gene Wunderlich, Mayor
City of Murrieta

Mark Murphy, Mayor
City of Orange

Deborah Robertson, Mayor
City of Rialto

Allan Bernstein, Mayor
City of Tustin

John Valdivia, Mayor
San Bernardino

Frank Gonzalez, Mayor
City of Sanger

Kevin McKeown, Mayor
City of Santa Monica

Jewel Edson, Mayor
City of Solana Beach

Rudy Mendoza, Mayor
City of Woodlake