



## California Mayors Coalition

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September 11, 2020

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

### **RE: CARES Act Funding**

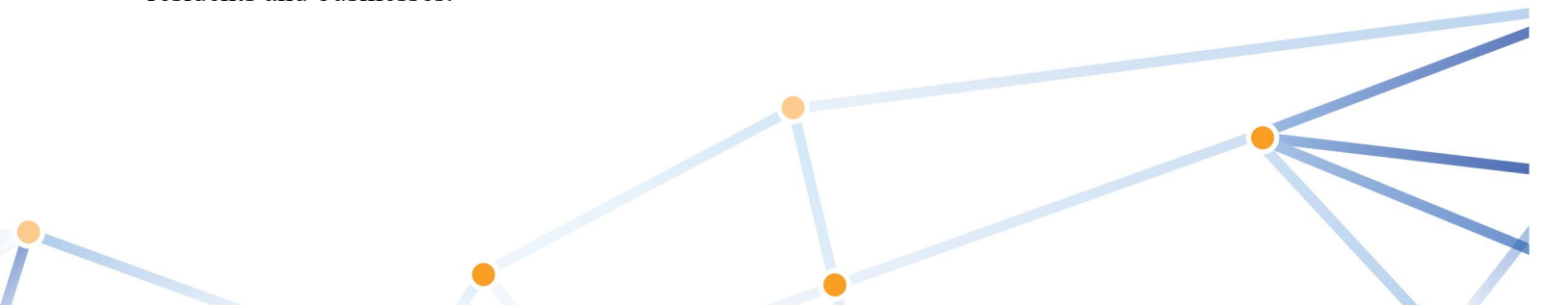
Dear Governor Newsom,

We would like to thank you for the tremendous efforts that you are making during the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of this letter is to respectfully, but urgently, request equitable financial relief from the State for California for cities with less than 300,000 residents.

As you know, the State of California's 2020/2021 budget recently allocated \$500 million of federal CARES Act funding to cities for homelessness, public health, public safety, resident support, business assistance, and other services related to the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of that allocation, \$225 million went to thirteen California cities with a population greater than 300,000 that did not receive a direct allocation from the federal CARES Act. That allocation was based on population. In addition, another \$275 million was allocated to cities with populations less than 300,000, again based on population. However, the thirteen larger cities were allocated significantly more funding per resident than the rest of the cities.

Six of those thirteen cities with populations over 300,000 received funding in the amount of \$174 per resident. The other seven cities with populations over 300,000 received funding in the amount of \$85 per resident. However, the remaining cities with populations less than 300,000, which are where 72% of Californian reside, received funding in the amount of only \$12.28 per resident. For example, the City of Riverside comprises only 16% of the population of Riverside County yet received 57% of the funding for the same County. That is just one example of the disparities that have resulted.

We find it troubling that the State would place the value of our residents at \$12.28 per person, while valuing residents of other California cities as high as \$174 per person. This is especially impactful to cities that have large revenue losses and are spending significant funds enforcing the State orders related to COVID-19. In addition, while the larger cities have been able to cover their staffing costs and provide critical support for their business and residents including rent relief, provision of PPE, homeless services, and other programs, smaller cities have not been provided sufficient resources to do the same for our residents and businesses.



From a public service provision perspective, this is manifestly unfair and poor policymaking by the State.

Therefore, we respectfully request that the State immediately provide equitable financial relief to cities. If financial relief is provided based solely on the number of full-time residents, as opposed to impacts resulting from COVID-19, we ask that it be done equally per resident regardless of where in the City they live. We also request that the State immediately allocate additional funds to cities, especially those with large revenue losses related to COVID-19, that received 12 times less per person than the largest 13 cities.

We would appreciate the opportunity for representatives from some of the undersigned cities to speak with you. Thank you for your consideration of the disparity in funding and this urgent request for equal and fair treatment.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Fitzgerald  
Founder, California Mayor's Coalition  
Mayor, City of Fullerton

Rick Herrick, Mayor  
City of Big Bear Lake

Katrina Foley, Mayor  
City of Costa Mesa

Dale Reynolds, Mayor  
City of Blythe

Scott Matas, Mayor  
City of Desert Hot Springs

Marty Simonoff, Mayor  
City of Brea

Acquanetta Warren, Mayor  
City of Fontana

Fred Smith, Mayor  
City of Buena Park

Cheryl Brothers, Mayor  
City of Fountain Valley

John Aguilar, Mayor  
City of Cathedral City

Steve Jones, Mayor  
City of Garden Grove

Larry Schroeder, Mayor  
City of Claremont

Michael Allawos, Mayor  
City of Glendora

Steven Hernandez, Mayor  
City of Coachella

Ty Peabody, Mayor  
City of Indian Wells

Glenn Miller, Mayor  
City of Indio

Laurie Davies, Mayor  
City of Laguna Niguel

Tom Beamish, Mayor  
City of La Habra

Linda Evans, Mayor  
City of La Quinta

Mikke Pierson, Mayor  
City of Malibu

Eddie De La Riva, Mayor  
City of Maywood

Brian Goodell, Mayor  
City of Mission Viejo

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 A. Murphy, Mayor  
City of Orange

Gina Nestande, Mayor  
City of Palm Desert

Geoffrey Kors, Mayor  
City of Palm Springs

Ward Smith, Mayor  
City of Placentia

Rhonda Shader, 2019 Mayor  
City of Placentia

Bradley J. McGirr, Mayor  
City of Rancho Santa Margarita

Frank Gonzalez, Mayor  
City of Sanger

Miguel A. Pulido, Mayor  
City of Santa Ana

Kevin McKeown, Mayor  
City of Santa Monica

Jewel Edson, Mayor  
City of Solana Beach

David John Shawver, Mayor  
City of Stanton

Allan Bernstein, Mayor  
City of Tustin

Robbie Pitts, Mayor  
City of Villa Park

Lindsey P. Horvath, Mayor  
City of West Hollywood

Tri Ta, Mayor  
City of Westminster

Beth Haney, Mayor  
City of Yorba Linda