

Local Governments Call for Federal Aid to Fight COVID-19

Local governments are on the front lines of the fight against COVID-19 and need immediate assistance to maintain city services, protect public health, and support community rebuilding.

Emergency supplemental funding and long-term economic stabilization assistance for local governments must be central to the federal COVID-19 response and stimulus packages.

Cities and counties provide essential public services, such as water, sewer, solid waste, municipal electricity, and public safety, while also supporting the public health departments and hospitals leading the fight against this global health crisis. Sales tax revenues, utilities payments, and other sources of local government funds are cratering while municipalities scramble to keep utilities open, redirect scarce resources to health centers, prepare for emergency scenarios, and pay wages to employees from budgets that are already strained. Yet the initial federal response overlooks the immediate and longer-term funding needs of local governments in favor of ideas like bailing out casinos. Two federal stimulus bills have been rapidly passed and signed into law. Congress is now working on the next round of stimulus, and local governments must weigh in now.

Congress should direct \$250 billion in federal stimulus funds to ensure local leaders can continue to provide vital public services and proactively support long-term recovery.

National voices for local governments including the [National League of Cities](#), [US Conference of Mayors](#), and the [National Association of Counties](#) are demanding swift action from Congress and the Administration to:

- Increase funding to **block grant programs and direct allocations to localities** that provide flexibility to efficiently allocate relief where it is needed most.
 - E.g., Community Development Block Grants, Social Services Block Grants, Surface Transportation Block Grants, and Community Services Block Grants
- Launch a **municipal operating revenue loss fund** to replace lost municipal revenues and keep the lights on for city, town and county leadership.
- Invest in programs that support emerging public health, education, and broadband infrastructure needs to facilitate **telehealth, remote learning, and teleworking**.
- Promote **long-term economic stabilization** through increasing funding, dropping grant matching requirements, and fulfilling funding requests from proven federal assistance and economic recovery programs that support a strong workforce and create jobs.
 - E.g., EDA Economic Adjustment Assistance Grants, U.S. BUILD Grants, DOT public transit resources, Build America Bonds, HUD affordable housing resources, Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act Funds
 - Get the economy moving again with a robust **infrastructure package** that supports job creation, economic growth and community resilience.

Act now to get local governments the emergency assistance and longer-term support needed to address this unprecedented threat to public health and the economy.



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