



*All About Florida*

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PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

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WAKULLA

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SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 13, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of Florida's counties, thank you for your leadership efforts on the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act. This package would provide much-needed assistance by enhancing coronavirus relief assistance for state and local governments. We are extremely appreciative that you included "lost revenue" as an eligible use of funds, both as part of Sec. 601 of the CARES Act and as part of your new preliminary proposal for additional state and local aid.

Counties remain on the frontlines of Florida's response and overall public safety efforts. This is due in large part to the emergency management structure created in state law, which requires counties to have an emergency management agency, an emergency management director, and to maintain and implement a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Our emergency response teams include a wide range of county personnel, including our public and community health professionals, sheriffs, 911 operators, firefighters, EMT/paramedics, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) experts, coroners/medical examiners, child welfare and aging service providers, substance abuse and mental health counselors, veterans service officers, homelessness program coordinators and jail administrators. While county emergency response teams are strong, in times of emergencies, their effectiveness depends on a strong state and federal partnership.

**We strongly urge Congress to allocate resources directly to counties as most states mandate the implementation of public health and emergency response responsibilities to county governments.** Given the reality of the unprecedented resources counties need for COVID-19 response, **we respectfully ask you to modify your use of the traditional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula in the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act.**

The CDBG formula was not designed to allocate funds in a public health emergency. While we agree that the HUD CDBG framework is among one of the best, most efficient ways to award federal aid directly and as a pass-through to local governments, ***the traditional formula is based on low-to-moderate housing and community development conditions.*** Under the context of the COVID-19 public health and overall economic crisis, we strongly urge you to develop a more balanced allocation method that takes into consideration both the skyrocketing costs and declining revenues for America's county governments.

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April 13, 2020

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
S-221, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Dear Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of Florida's counties, thank you for your leadership efforts on the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act. This package would provide much-needed assistance by enhancing coronavirus relief assistance for state and local governments. We are extremely appreciative that you included "lost revenue" as an eligible use of funds, both as part of Sec. 601 of the CARES Act and as part of your new preliminary proposal for additional state and local aid.

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April 13, 2020

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis  
United States House of Representatives  
2227 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Representative Bilirakis:

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April 13, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Vern Buchanan  
United States House of Representatives  
2427 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Buchanan:

On behalf of Florida's counties, thank you for your leadership efforts on the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act. This package would provide much-needed assistance by enhancing coronavirus relief assistance for state and local governments. We are extremely appreciative that you included "lost revenue" as an eligible use of funds, both as part of Sec. 601 of the CARES Act and as part of your new preliminary proposal for additional state and local aid.

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April 13, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Kathy Castor  
United States House of Representatives  
2052 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Castor:

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April 13, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Charlie Crist  
United States House of Representatives  
215 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Crist:

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April 13, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Val Demings  
United States House of Representatives  
217 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Demings:

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**We strongly urge Congress to allocate resources directly to counties as most states mandate the implementation of public health and emergency response responsibilities to county governments.** Given the reality of the unprecedented resources counties need for COVID-19 response, **we respectfully ask you to modify your use of the traditional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula in the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act.**

The CDBG formula was not designed to allocate funds in a public health emergency. While we agree that the HUD CDBG framework is among one of the best, most efficient ways to award federal aid directly and as a pass-through to local governments, ***the traditional formula is based on low-to-moderate housing and community development conditions.*** Under the context of the COVID-19 public health and overall economic crisis, we strongly urge you to develop a more balanced allocation method that takes into consideration both the skyrocketing costs and declining revenues for America's county governments.

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Nick Maddox  
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 13, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
United States House of Representatives  
404 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Diaz-Balart:

On behalf of Florida's counties, thank you for your leadership efforts on the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act. This package would provide much-needed assistance by enhancing coronavirus relief assistance for state and local governments. We are extremely appreciative that you included "lost revenue" as an eligible use of funds, both as part of Sec. 601 of the CARES Act and as part of your new preliminary proposal for additional state and local aid.

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April 13, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Neal Dunn  
United States House of Representatives  
316 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Dunn:

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April 13, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Lois Frankel  
United States House of Representatives  
2305 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Frankel:

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April 13, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Matt Gaetz  
United States House of Representatives  
1721 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Gaetz:

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Alcee Hastings  
United States House of Representatives  
2353 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hastings:

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April 13, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Al Lawson  
United States House of Representatives  
1406 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Lawson:

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 13, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Brian Mast  
United States House of Representatives  
2182 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Mast:

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Let us be clear that we understand and support the important roles and pressures facing both cities and counties. Our ultimate goal is to establish a fair and equitable formula that would create a "win-win" situation for all local governments.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
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**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"  
DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Unfortunately, the CDBG formula creates immense disparities and fails to take into consideration both the overall population served and the frontline responsibilities of counties.

Finally, as counties spend more and more responding to this public health crisis, we believe that more than \$150 billion will be required to protect our residents and continue administering public services. **Expanding the overall amount of relief to local governments to \$250 billion, as proposed now in the House and Senate, would help to ease the disparity between counties and cities and provide counties with the resources we need to fight against COVID-19 into the summer and beyond.**

Again, we are thankful for your incredible leadership and focus on the overwhelming needs and challenges facing state and local governments. We also appreciate your recognition of the challenges that we face with both mounting costs and declining revenues. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further with you team. We are committed to a solution that helps our nation mitigate, respond and recover from these historic times.

Sincerely,



Nick Maddox  
President, Florida Association of Counties





*All About Florida*

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April 13, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Debbie Mucarsel-Powell  
United States House of Representatives  
114 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Mucarsel-Powell:

On behalf of Florida's counties, thank you for your leadership efforts on the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act. This package would provide much-needed assistance by enhancing coronavirus relief assistance for state and local governments. We are extremely appreciative that you included "lost revenue" as an eligible use of funds, both as part of Sec. 601 of the CARES Act and as part of your new preliminary proposal for additional state and local aid.

Counties remain on the frontlines of Florida's response and overall public safety efforts. This is due in large part to the emergency management structure created in state law, which requires counties to have an emergency management agency, an emergency management director, and to maintain and implement a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Our emergency response teams include a wide range of county personnel, including our public and community health professionals, sheriffs, 911 operators, firefighters, EMT/paramedics, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) experts, coroners/medical examiners, child welfare and aging service providers, substance abuse and mental health counselors, veterans service officers, homelessness program coordinators and jail administrators. While county emergency response teams are strong, in times of emergencies, their effectiveness depends on a strong state and federal partnership.

**We strongly urge Congress to allocate resources directly to counties as most states mandate the implementation of public health and emergency response responsibilities to county governments.** Given the reality of the unprecedented resources counties need for COVID-19 response, **we respectfully ask you to modify your use of the traditional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula in the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act.**

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