

May 1, 2020

The Honorable Ron DeSantis  
Governor, State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor DeSantis:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties and 412 cities, the Florida League of Cities (FLC) and the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) want to again thank you for your leadership during this historical time. Our two organizations greatly appreciate the flexibility and authority you have given local governments to deal locally with the issues that are most affecting their neighborhoods and business communities. Furthermore, we look forward to working with you diligently to continue to address not only the continuing health crisis but the strategic maintenance and revival of our state economy through the development and implementation of state and local economic relief and sustainability efforts.

**Securing resources for moving all of Florida forward**

Florida's allocation for specific state and local government expenses, as well as economic relief and sustainability efforts, from the CARES Act was approximately \$8.328 billion. The federal legislation provided that of this amount, 55% was reserved for the state and 45% of the allocation was reserved for direct payments to eligible local government jurisdictions (that exceed 500,000 in population).

|                                 |     |                        |
|---------------------------------|-----|------------------------|
| <b>Total Florida Allocation</b> |     | <b>\$8,328,221,072</b> |
| Reserved for State              | 55% | \$4,580,521,590        |
| Reserved for Local Governments  | 45% | \$3,747,699,482        |

Based on the federal legislative formula determining the sub-allocation of the reserved "local allocation," eligible Florida local governments (500,000+) would be able to receive approximately \$2.472 billion in direct federal assistance. **However, this sum is approximately \$1.275 billion less than the total allocation reserved for eligible Florida local governments of \$3.747 billion.**

**The Florida Association of Counties and the Florida League of Cities respectfully request that this \$1.275 billion be earmarked to provide necessary resources to local governments that were not direct beneficiaries of CARES Act dollars.**

**Funding distribution for eligible local governments**

FAC and FLC jointly propose that all municipal and county governments that did not receive direct or indirect funding as a result of the CARES Act are deemed "eligible" local governments to receive distribution from the total requested allocation of \$1.275 billion. The distribution methodology, similar to the federal formula, would utilize each eligible jurisdiction's total population as a share of the total state population to create a factor that would be applied to the total dedicated allocation.

**Example:**

- A)  $(\text{Jurisdiction Population} / \text{Total State Population}) = \text{Allocation Factor}$
- B)  $\text{Allocation Factor} * \text{Total Dedicated Allocation} = \text{Jurisdiction Distribution}$ 
  - a.  $100/1000 = .10$  or 10%
  - b.  $10\% * \$1,000,000 = \$100,000$

**Under this distribution, a summary distribution of the dedicated allocation would be as follows:**

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| A) Florida's Cities would receive an approximate sum of:       | \$590,154,219.95   |
| B) Florida's Counties would receive an approximate sum of:     | \$430,726,697.19   |
| C) Remaining unspent funds to held for "Contingency Purposes": | \$254,404,872.99   |
| D) Total Local Government Allocation:                          | \$1,275,285,790.12 |

The identified contingency funds could be made available to "eligible" local governments that have incurred expenses that are greater than their jurisdiction distribution, **or a number of other eligible uses that would also address your administration's mitigation and recovery priorities at the local level.**

Our organizations recognize that as Governor, you are working to move Florida forward beyond this crisis. We look forward to working with you in protecting the health and safety of our local citizens ***and taking the necessary actions to ensure the strength of our local economies.*** We greatly appreciate your consideration of this important matter and we look forward to working with you to address the concerns of the 466 local government bodies that did not receive funding from the CARES Act.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Scott Dudley at [sdudley@flcities.com](mailto:sdudley@flcities.com) and Davin Suggs at [dsuggs@fl-counties.com](mailto:dsuggs@fl-counties.com) .

If we can assist you in any way as we begin to try to open up the state for business, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

**Virginia "Ginger" Delegal**



FAC Executive Director



**Michael Sittig**



FLC Executive Director



# SMALL COUNTY COALITION

May 19, 2020

*Transmitted Electronically*

The Honorable Ron DeSantis, Governor  
State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor DeSantis,

This letter is being sent on behalf of the Small County Coalition. Coalition membership consists of 39 county commissions that work together to foster support for Florida's rural and small counties. 29 of our counties are officially designated as "fiscally constrained" based on a low tax base. Many are agriculturally based but many are coastal relying on tourism. We appreciate your support – which is essential for our communities to provide services to the public.

During the past two months, counties across the state have worked to stem the spread of COVID-19. Businesses have shut down and citizens have suffered unemployment. Many have been unable to secure benefits designed to help in these situations. At the same time, local governments have worked with the State Agencies to help navigate through these unprecedented times. We are fortunate, many of our communities have not experienced the level of incidences and deaths at the rate of other counties around the state. According to the State Department of Health, 17 fiscally constrained counties have had no deaths at all.

We appreciate your leadership and the efforts of the state agencies during this time. We request that your office move expeditiously to approve and allot the CARES ACT funding appropriated by Congress for State and Local government stabilization. In review -

- The CARES ACT passed Congress on March 27, 2020.
- The Federal Act provided \$150 Billion for Stabilization of State and Local Governments of which Florida was allocated \$8,328,221,078. \$4,580,521,590 (55%) was allotted to the State and \$3,747,699,482 (45%) was allotted for assistance to Florida local governments.
- ***12 local governments with populations of 500,000 or greater were direct funded by Congress with \$2,472,413,692 of the funds that the State of Florida was allotted for local governments.***
- ***To date, 55 Counties and 411 Cities have yet to receive stabilization funds that were authorized by Congress for local government use. The pressure in our communities is building as we watch 12 large counties address their community needs with their share of CARES ACT funding.***
- There is \$1,275,285,790 remaining in the local government \$3.7 Billion allocated for local government use.
- On May 1, 2020 – the Florida Association of Counties and the Florida League of Cities sent a letter to your office requesting that the \$1.275 Billion in remaining local government funds be earmarked to provide necessary resources to local governments.
- The Small County Coalition supports the proposal for the distribution as recommended by FAC and FLC. In addition, the expenditure of the \$1.275 billion will be done with adherence to the U.S. Treasury Guidelines.

We respectfully send this letter as an urgent request. Please authorize the allotment of the \$1.275 Billion as recommended and expedite the release of the funding to local governments that were not directly funded. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*John Meeks*

John Meeks,  
Commissioner, Levy County  
Chair -Small County Coalition

*Terry Burroughs*

Terry Burroughs  
Commissioner, Okeechobee County  
Vice-Chair – Small County Coalition

*Russell Melendy*

Russell Melendy  
Commissioner, Hardee County  
Secretary- Small County Coalition

***Representing Florida's Small and Rural Counties***