



<i>City Manager</i> 707-822-5953	<i>Environmental Services</i> 707-822-8184	<i>Police</i> 707-822-2428	<i>Recreation</i> 707-822-7091
<i>Community Development</i> 707-822-5955	<i>Finance</i> 707-822-5951	<i>Engineering</i> 707-825-2128	<i>Transportation</i> 707-822-3775

June 2, 2020

The Honorable Jim Wood
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mike McGuire
State Capitol, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: COVID-19 Funding for California Cities

Dear Assemblymember Wood and Senator McGuire:

The City of Arcata thanks you for your efforts to protect and support Californians during this unprecedented public health crisis. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, cities have been coordinating across jurisdictional lines, enacting emergency measures to slow the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, taking action to protect individuals and small businesses, and incurring significant unplanned expenses to protect public health and the economy. These actions have saved lives and serve as a model for the country. But, these actions come at a cost.

The City of Arcata appreciates the May Revision allocation of \$450 million of the state's CARES Act funding to cover COVID-19-related costs by cities. However, under the current formula our city will only receive \$182,505. This is not nearly enough to provide adequate levels of personal protective equipment to front line workers, to disinfect and sanitize public facilities, or to take other needed public health actions to begin the process of reopening.

We are calling on the Legislature and the Governor to increase the state's CARES Act funding allocation to cities to \$500 million and establish a floor allocation of \$50,000 per city. Cities need additional funding and a minimum allocation to ensure that CARES Act funding is distributed fairly and equitably, and is a meaningful amount for all jurisdictions.

CARES Act funding will help our city recover from this pandemic faster, and reopen our communities without furthering city revenue shortfalls and threatening core city services.

It is important to note that CARES Act funding is only for COVID-19-related expenses. Our city still needs direct state and federal funding to address the devastating impact stay-at-home orders have had on our budget and local economy. In total, cities around the state are facing a nearly \$7 billion revenue shortfall over the next two years, and this shortfall grows by billions of dollars as modified stay-at-home orders extend into the summer months and beyond.

The City of Arcata appreciates your consideration of our budget requests and looks forward to further discussing how together we can continue to best protect Californians and reopen our economy. Thank you again for your leadership and partnership during these uncertain times.

Respectfully,



Michael Winkler, Mayor
City of Arcata

cc:

Governor Gavin Newsom, ExternalAffairs@gov.ca.gov

Congressman Jared Huffman, John.Driscoll@mail.house.gov

Sara Sanders, League Regional Public Affairs Manager, sanders@cacities.org

Meg Desmond, League of California Cities, cityletters@cacities.org