

**TO: County Board
Presidents/Executives/Chairpersons/Board
Members/Administrators**

**FROM: Joe McCoy, Executive Director
Illinois State Association of Counties**

DATE: April 20, 2020

RE: County Federal Funding Action Alert!

**OVER \$1 BILLION WOULD GO DIRECTLY TO ILLINOIS COUNTIES IN PROPOSED COVID-19
SUPPLEMENTAL PACKAGE**

As local governments in Illinois and nationwide continue to fight the COVID-19 pandemic on the frontlines, Congressional leadership and the White House are currently negotiating an interim emergency coronavirus relief package, known as the COVID-19 3.5 Supplemental Package. One issue being debated is whether funding for local governments will be included in this relief package being constructed around funding for small businesses.

The Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo) is working alongside the National Association of Counties (NACo) to ask Illinois counties to reach out to our congressional delegation as soon as possible to support the inclusion of local government funding in the relief package.

A COVID-19 3.5 Package put forth By Senator Chuck Schumer and Speaker Nancy Pelosi would direct \$29.5 billion to counties and over \$1 billion of that amount would be a direct payment to Illinois counties. This proposal is the best option for counties at the present moment and the objective is to have this proposal included with the funding for small businesses being discussed.

[See the NACo projections for the Illinois county-by-county breakdown of payments in the COVID-19 3.5 supplemental package here.](#)

The COVID-19 3.5 Package Includes:

- \$150 Billion for State and Local Fiscal Relief for lost revenue and budget needs.
- \$80 billion for states and District of Columbia
- **\$29.5 billion for counties**
- \$29.5 billion for cities, towns, townships and villages
- \$8 billion for tribal governments
- \$3 billion for territories
- The package would also make the \$150 billion previously awarded through the CARES Act for Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) available to be used for lost revenues.

PLEASE CONTACT OUR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION VIA EMAIL OR PHONE CALL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO SUPPORT THIS PACKAGE. THIS FUNDING WOULD RESULT IN A DIRECT PAYMENT TO COUNTIES FOR USE AT THEIR DISCRETION.

TALKING POINTS

We urge you to use the following NACo Talking Points when reaching out to our Congressional Delegation:

- We call on Congress and the administration to work together ASAP to pass additional aid for state and local governments NOW – we cannot miss this opportunity and wait and hope for another aid package that includes local governments.
- New NACo estimates peg county budget losses to COVID-19 at \$144 billion through fiscal year 2021.
- The COVID-19 3.5 plan offered by the congressional Democratic leadership is the best and only offer on the table for state and local governments right now. This plan would ensure that all county governments are treated fairly and equitably with our state and municipal counterparts – and they are making lost revenue as an eligible use under the CARES Act and this new package.
- Additional federal aid for state and local governments should be an area of bipartisan agreement – counties are literally on the frontlines working to protect and serve local communities. By investing in counties, Congress and the administration would be investing in local economies and workforces.
- Investing in counties is a “win-win” investment since counties are often one of the largest employers locally and provide essential public health, public safety and economic recovery support for unemployed, local businesses and nonprofits.
- The COVID 3.5 plan would provide \$150 billion for state and local governments, including \$29.5 billion for America’s counties, and **over \$1 billion for Illinois Counties.**
- Counties are losing revenue, combined with skyrocketing costs, at record rates now. With 22 million new unemployed, the demand for county safety net services is climbing exponentially.
- It is unrealistic to demand and expect counties to double down on their local public services without the revenue support to make it happen – again, county costs are skyrocketing while revenues are plummeting.

Please feel welcome to contact ISACo with any questions for which we may be helpful. My e-mail address is jmccoy@isacoil.org. I can also be reached on my cell phone at 217/836-9164. ISACo’s website is www.isacoil.org. Thanks.