



Illinois State Association of Counties

May 15, 2020

The Honorable JB Pritzker
Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Pritzker:

The Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACO) respectfully requests your support for the distribution of a portion of the state's Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to counties that were below the population eligibility threshold for direct funding. Counties in receipt of direct funding under the CARES Act included Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake and Will.

It is our understanding that states have discretion to share CARES Act funding for COVID-19 related expenses with local governments that have 500,000 or fewer residents.

As you know, counties are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 emergency response. Counties provide for public safety, operate health departments, emergency response centers, nursing homes and other critical public services. These county services are frequently relied upon by our most vulnerable residents.

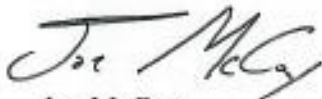
Counties find themselves financially strained by the need to meet elevated service demands during the pandemic. To alleviate this financial strain, ISACO proposes that the state share a portion of its CARES Act funding with counties. We recognize the amount of this funding would be determined by your office and the General Assembly and respectfully offer the following guidelines for how funding can be equitably shared:

- Each county that was not eligible for direct federal funding under the CARES Act should receive a percentage of total funds allocated for distribution to local governments equal to that county's proportionate percentage of the state's population.
- Funding provided to each county should be distributed on a per capita basis predicated on the total population of the county and not just the number of residents living within unincorporated areas of the county. County services are available to all residents and not only those residing outside of municipal boundaries. This is particularly the case with public health departments and emergency response centers coordinating the pandemic response for an entire county.

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Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Please feel welcome to contact me at (217) 836-9164 or at jmccoy@isacoil.org if your office would like to discuss this issue or if ISACo can be of service.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe McCoy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J" and "M".

Joe McCoy
Executive Director