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

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

DATE: **April 16, 2020**

RE: **COVID-19 Update – April 16**

The Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo) continues to prioritize the dissemination of useful information to county leaders during the COVID-19 pandemic. Below are some items we would like to share with you today:

Federal Legislative Action Alert – Please Act Immediately!
The National Association of Counties (NACo) is urging counties to contact their members of Congress immediately to advocate for county needs as a fourth COVID-19 relief package is under discussion.

To assist in this effort, NACo has prepared a model letter (available via this link) that can be customized by your county and sent to your members of Congress. The letter requests that Congress make direct funding available to all counties regardless of population (not only counties with more than 500,000 residents) and urges that emergency response funds not be allocated based on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula. The CDBG formula shortchanges COVID-19 emergency response funding to counties compared to cities.

NACo has produced an informative video to highlight the important role counties are playing during the COVID-19 response. The video is available via this link. Counties are encouraged to use this video in their social media feeds, on their websites and in other communications with residents.

State Spending on COVID-19 Response
The Illinois Comptroller's Office announced that Illinois' spending on the COVID-19 response can be tracked on their website. The site is available via this link and will be updated daily.

Revised State Revenue Forecast Projects Losses
The Governor's Office of Management and Budget (GOMB) issued a revised revenue forecast for April 2020 along with updated projections for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2020 and SFY 2021. These revisions are necessitated by the economic impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The revised forecast and updated projections are available via this link. From the report:

> Utilizing recent data forecasts available from IHS Markit, GOMB and the Department of Revenue currently estimate that fiscal year 2020 general funds state source base **revenues will be approximately $2.7 billion below the February estimate of $36.9**

billion, partially offset by expected additional federal revenues and additional interfund borrowing processed by the Office of the Comptroller.

Fiscal year 2021 general funds state source revenue estimates are being revised $4.6 billion down from an estimated state source base revenue estimate of $38.5 billion. This revenue shortfall, combined with additional fiscal year 2020 borrowing, has created a budgetary gap when compared to the fiscal year 2021 spending plan outlined by the Governor in February. **Because the budget for fiscal year 2021 will be impacted by whether the graduated income tax structure in PA 101-0008 takes effect, there are two scenarios for the budget gap in fiscal year 2021. If PA 101-0008 takes effect, the budget gap is approximately $6.2 billion. If the graduated income tax structure in PA 101-0008 does not go into effect, the estimated budget gap is approximately $7.4 billion.**

A press release from the Governor's Office is available via this link.

Midwest Governors to Partner on Re-Opening Economy
On April 16, 2020, Governor JB Pritzker announced that Illinois would join Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Indiana and Kentucky in coordinating how to reopen state economies in the region. The press release with the announcement is available via this link.

Keep Up with New Information!
ISACo has a designated blog post (available via this link) that includes updated news about the public response to the Coronavirus and other relevant information.

ISACo also has a dedicated webpage (available via this link) with federal, state and local resources about the Coronavirus and best practices to avoid transmission while promoting containment.

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.