

April 27, 2020

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor

Dear Governor Inslee:

Washington's cities and towns appreciate your support and leadership during this unprecedented public health emergency. Needless to say, this crisis has impacted every city and town in Washington in some form. Cities and towns are our communities' first responders and first line of defense to help keep everyone safe and protect public health.

Like the state, all cities and towns are experiencing extraordinary increased costs in responding to the emergency for things like overtime pay, personal protective equipment, quarantine housing, and remote work technology. Additionally, like the state, cities and towns are experiencing dramatically decreased revenues and are expecting further declines due to the extreme impact this emergency is having on our economy.

We understand that the state is facing similar fiscal challenges in responding to and recovering from this emergency. We are all watching our budgets closely and adjusting as guided by new information and projections. We were grateful to see that the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) in the federal CARES Act provided much-needed funding relief to state and local governments; however, that direct funding relief was limited to jurisdictions over 500,000 in population, which means that 280 of Washington's 281 cities and towns were left out.

We are coming together to ask you to help all of our state's cities and towns by providing funding relief to cover the costs of responding to the public health emergency using the state's portion of the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund as soon as possible.

With a strong continued partnership between the state and cities, Washington can emerge from this stronger than ever.

We are all in this together.

Sincerely,