



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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April 13, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

RE: Support for Emergency Fiscal Assistance Using the CDBG Structure for Cities NOW

On behalf of The United States Conference of Mayors, we are writing to strongly urge that the “Interim Supplemental” being negotiated to provide needed funding for small business aid programs also include emergency fiscal assistance for America’s cities. Cities are the front lines of fighting this pandemic, immediately addressing this crisis and taking actions to protect public health and ensure public safety while continuing to provide core services to our citizens.

We strongly support the proposal being offered by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic Leader Charles Schumer that would provide \$53.55 billion in emergency fiscal assistance to be sent to local governments based on the CDBG structure. The CDBG structure has existed since 1974, it works, and we need to get these flexible funds to our cities now. We also greatly appreciate that this proposal would clarify that fiscal assistance provided to local governments through this bill, as well as funding provided through “The CARES Act”, would be available to be used for lost revenues.

Cities are right now being faced with having to make decisions that include laying off employees, cutting budgets, and reducing or eliminating critically needed services – at the very same time when we are being called on to help lead the fight against this pandemic.

We strongly urge that the “Interim Supplemental” provide \$53.55 billion in emergency fiscal assistance through the CDBG structure, and we look forward to working with you on the 4th Supplemental to make sure that all cities fighting this pandemic and experiencing serious revenue losses receive needed federal assistance. These federal actions will empower the nation’s mayors to immediately take the bold steps necessary to protect the American public from the pandemic and recover from the subsequent economic fallout.

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Thank you for your leadership during this time of national crisis, and please feel free to reach out to our CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran at 202-744-9110 / tcochran@usmayors.org or Chief of Staff Ed Somers at 202-744-9223 / esomers@usmayors.org to discuss this priority request.

Sincerely,



Bryan K. Barnett
Mayor of Rochester Hills, MI
President



Greg Fischer
Mayor of Louisville, KY
Vice President



Nan Whaley
Mayor of Dayton, OH
Second Vice President



Steve Benjamin
Mayor of Columbia, SC
Past President



Elizabeth B. Kautz
Mayor of Burnsville, MN
Past President



Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director

cc: All Members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate