



# THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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URL: [www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org)

January 19, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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

## **RE: Urgent Action Needed on President-Elect Biden's American Rescue Plan**

On behalf of The United States Conference of Mayors, we urge you to take immediate action on comprehensive coronavirus relief legislation, including providing direct fiscal assistance to all cities, which is long overdue. President-elect Biden's American Rescue Plan contains such assistance as part of an aggressive strategy to contain the virus, increase access to life-saving vaccines, and create a foundation for sustainable and inclusive recovery.

American cities and our essential workers have been serving at the frontlines of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic for nearly a year. We have been charged with executing herculean public health efforts and an unprecedented emergency response. Despite immense fiscal pressure, your local government partners oversaw those efforts, while trying to maintain essential services and increase our internal capacity to provide support for residents and businesses who have been crippled by a tanking economy.

And yet, as the economic engines of our country, local governments will be relied upon to lead the long-term economic recovery our nation so desperately needs, even as, with few exceptions, cities have been largely left without direct federal assistance. The lack of adequate support has resulted in budget cuts, service reductions, and job losses. Sadly, nearly one million local government jobs have already been lost during the pandemic. Our essential workers deserve federal relief like any other sector.

The \$350 billion in direct relief to state and local governments included in President Elect Biden's American Rescue Plan would allow cities to preserve critical public sector jobs and help drive our economic recovery. Providing direct, flexible aid to cities is the most efficient and immediate way to help families and their communities who have been suffering for far too long.

Furthermore, cities must be central to a deliberate strategy to accelerate vaccinations throughout the country. We support President-elect Biden's proposal to mount a national vaccination program and the provision of additional resources to cities to bolster our efforts to contain the spread of the virus.

Your quick action on President-elect Biden's plan is a crucial step to making meaningful progress in one of the most challenging moments in our country's history. The United States Conference of Mayors is eager to work with Congress and the incoming Administration to meet this challenge. We encourage you to take up the President-elect's rescue plan as soon as possible in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress.

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](mailto:tcochran@usmayors.org) or Chief of Staff Ed Somers at 202-744-9223 / [esomers@usmayors.org](mailto:esomers@usmayors.org) to discuss this priority request.

Sincerely,



Greg Fischer  
Mayor of Louisville, KY  
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Mayor of Dayton, OH  
Vice President



Francis X. Suarez  
Mayor of Miami, FL  
Second Vice President



Bryan K. Barnett  
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Mayor of Burnsville, MN  
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Tom Cochran  
CEO and Executive Director

(Additional mayoral signatories are listed on the following pages.)

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