

Federal Funding Letter Template

Date

The Honorable (Insert Federal Representative Here)

Title

Address

Dear XXX,

On behalf of all residents in XXX County, we would like to thank you for your leadership on obtaining critical COVID-19 aid. California's counties were the first to react and respond to COVID-19 and our efforts have been successful in "flattening the curve" to reduce the number of positive cases and deaths in the state. While the COVID-19 aid packages have brought a measure of relief to States, small businesses, and some local governments, California's counties are facing unprecedented demands on public health and critical safety net services at the same time that our ability to fund them is rapidly deteriorating.

To help us alleviate the twin pressures of COVID-19 expenses and lost revenues, we strongly and respectfully urge Congress to allocate resources directly to counties. Specifically, California's 58 counties request **\$5 billion in additional Federal funds to mitigate direct and indirect COVID-19 costs, revenue losses, and temporary expansions of benefits. Additionally, we request added flexibility in how funds from the CARES Act can be used and 3-year expenditure authority.**

Fewer than one-third of California's counties received funding under the CARES Act via the Coronavirus Relief Fund, yet every California County is on the front line of responding to the COVID-19 crisis and needs immediate, flexible, and direct relief for both expenses and lost revenues. This is certainly true for XXX County. *(Insert detail on your county, how many hospitals, how many cases, lost revenue, anticipated budget cuts, etc.)*

Federal funding is urgently needed to ensure County public health departments can adequately monitor COVID-19 as California reopens. We need funding for the frontline workers, for sheriffs who protect public safety and health, social workers securing the hotel rooms for those experiencing homelessness, and behavioral health staff to respond to and help all constituents in need. Reserves are being exhausted as we protect our residents, and we must make budget decisions in the next 45 days that will impact the services we provide to those most in need. *(Add any local detail on specific needs or losses in your county.)*

California's counties will be absolutely critical in kick-starting the economy. California won't be able to recover without additional direct funding. If XXX County's public health department lacks funding to access testing or coordinate trained workers it will be nearly impossible to meet key testing metrics to reopen California, much less track and isolate cases as restrictions are lifted. The direct funding is just as necessary for the much needed social services we provide to protect our at-risk elderly, youth, and disabled populations, in addition to those experiencing homelessness. Direct aid to counties is an investment in restarting the economy. Federal dollars will be spent locally, aiding small businesses, retailers, and residents right here in XXXX County.

Again, we are thankful for your incredible leadership and focus on the overwhelming needs and challenges facing state and local governments. We are committed to a solution that helps our nation, our state and XXX County mitigate, respond and recover from these historic times. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further with your team.

Sincerely,