

Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Package

Analysis of RCRC Priorities

prepared by American Continental Group (ACG)

Background

In a letter to Congressional leadership on March 17, 2020, RCRC's partner the National Association of Counties (NACo) urged that any response-legislation prioritize funding for public health programs, infrastructure and telecommunications development, human services programs, and stable funding for the Federal Payments in Lieu of Taxes and the Secure Rural Schools program.

This analysis, prepared by RCRC's federal advocates, the American Continental Group (ACG), specifies whether the priorities mentioned in NACo's letter, as well as additional RCRC-specific priorities, were included in the Coronavirus Aid Release and Economic Security (CARES) package passed by Congress, and signed by President Trump, on March 27, 2020.

The document provides a summary and details for each priority. Click the links provided in the Priorities Index to skip to a specific section of the document.

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Priority

ACCESS AND DISTRIBUTION OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR ESSENTIAL COUNTY SERVICE PROVIDERS

Included

Summary

As COVID-19 continues to spread throughout our country, the protection of our local service providers is crucial. Without adequate equipment needed to prevent personal contamination, local health care professionals cannot administer tests and treat infected individuals. In highly impacted areas, counties have seen a spike of local service provider infections, and in some cases, providers have refused to provide services due to the lack of protective equipment. We request additional personal protective equipment for both county and private facilities be made available to preserve the health and safety of these essential employees when their services are needed most.

Details

- ✓ The DOJ appropriations account includes:
 - Federal Bureau of Investigation: \$20 million for the safe return of law enforcement stationed abroad due to coronavirus global impacts; personal protective equipment and necessary supplies; clean work environments; and enhanced telework capabilities.
 - Drug Enforcement of Administration: \$15 million for the safe return of law enforcement stationed abroad due to coronavirus global impacts; personal protective equipment and necessary supplies; clean work environments; and enhanced telework capabilities.
 - United States Marshals Service: \$15 million for the safe return of law enforcement stationed abroad due to coronavirus global impacts; personal protective equipment and necessary supplies; clean work environments; and enhanced telework capabilities.
 - Bureau of Prisons, Salaries and Expenses: \$100 million for Correctional Officer overtime; personal protective equipment and supplies related to coronavirus; clean work and living environments; and inmate medical care and supplies related to coronavirus.
 - Department of Justice Grants, Byrne JAG: \$850 million to assist state, local, and tribal officers in responding to coronavirus. These funds will go directly to state and local governments, with no match required, and will support criminal justice needs related to coronavirus, including overtime for state, local, and tribal officers; personal protective equipment and supplies; and medical needs and other supplies for inmates in state, local, and tribal prisons, jails, and detention centers.

- ✓ The Homeland Security account includes:
 - \$178 million for necessary personal protection equipment for personnel including gloves, garments, goggles, hand sanitizer, respirators, and surgical masks for six months.
- ✓ The HHS account includes:
 - Strategic National Stockpile: \$16 billion to procure personal protective equipment, ventilators, and other medical supplies for federal and state response efforts. When combined with the first supplemental, the Committee has provided approximately \$17 billion for the Stockpile.
- ✓ Department of Veterans Affairs account includes:
 - Medical Services – \$14.4 billion to support increased demand for healthcare services at VA facilities and through telehealth, including the purchase of medical equipment and supplies, testing kits, and personal protective equipment. Also enables VA to provide additional support for vulnerable veterans, including through programs to assist homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless veterans, as well as within VA-run nursing homes and community living centers.

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Priority

CLARIFICATION ON FEMA RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Included

Summary

We believe that it is critically important that FEMA involve local governments in the development and implementation of policy and procedures, and to enact such procedures that will clarify and simplify the local role in national emergency management. As eligible counties access over \$40 billion from the Disaster Relief Fund, we urge Congress to clarify how counties **document** eligible costs and activities. Congress must clarify that counties' public health emergency response activity are eligible for Public Assistance Program funding and reimbursement.

- ✓ The Homeland Security appropriations title includes:
 - \$45 billion to continue FEMA's entire suite of response and recovery activities and reimbursements provided to states and localities nationwide by the Disaster Relief Fund for emergency and major disaster declarations, as well as funding for FEMA facilities and information technology required to support FEMA's lead role in coordinating federal response activities.
 - \$400 million for grants that can be disbursed in a timely manner for firefighters, emergency managers, and providers of emergency food and shelter.

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Priority

DEPLOYMENT OF TESTING EQUIPMENT

Included

Summary

Counties need sustained federal investments and flexibility at the local level to help us protect our residents from the spread of this virus and lessen the impact of this pandemic on our local communities. Local governments cannot adequately respond to the threat of the virus without the essential tools required to measure the spread of the disease in our communities. The shortage of test availability, and the lack of testing has contributed to a false sense of security in states and counties where there are currently no reported cases. We urge Congress to increase the availability of testing materials, and grant flexibility to state and local governments so that we can quickly identify and treat individuals impacted by COVID-19. Furthermore, counties request that any future legislative packages include adequate funding to address lab capacity issues and provide adequate technical support and equipment to meet growing demands for testing.

Details

The Labor HHS appropriations title includes:

- ✓ \$4.3 billion for the CDC to support federal, state, and local public health agencies to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus, including: purchase of personal protective equipment; surveillance for coronavirus; laboratory testing to detect positive cases; contact tracing to identify additional cases; infection control and mitigation at the local level to prevent the spread of the virus; and other public health preparedness and response activities.

- ✓ State and Local Preparedness Grants: \$1.5 billion in designated funding for state and local preparedness and response activities.

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Priority

ENSURE THAT ROBUST BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ARE MAINTAINED

Included

Summary

This is essential to reduce the severe disruptions associated with the coronavirus pandemic. In an epidemic, many new cases of mental illness are likely to develop, which will exhaust an already fragile local behavioral health safety net. We urge Congress and the administration to work together to assist with planning for mental health care with specific attention given to essential personnel. Additionally, we request that Congress reprogram federal funds for urgent mental health services and create mechanisms to waive any legal and regulatory barriers to obtaining care for residents.

Details

The Labor HHS appropriations account allocates \$425 million to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, including:

- ✓ \$250 million to Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics.
- ✓ \$50 million for suicide prevention.
- ✓ \$100 million in SAMHSA Emergency Response Grants. This flexible funding intends to address mental health, substance use disorders, and provide resources and support to youth and the homeless during the pandemic.

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Priority

FUNDING AND FLEXIBILITY FOR ELECTIONS

Included

Summary

The unprecedented nature of the rapid spread of COVID- 19 has fundamentally altered the current phase of the 2020 election cycle. With concerns over transmission of the virus, counties are closely working with federal, state and local election officials to ensure the highest level of safety, security and integrity in our elections. While the health and safety of our residents are a top priority for local election officials, counties urge Congress to maintain local flexibility over elections or provide dedicated funding to assist counties with meeting new federal voting requirements as there are ongoing negotiations.

Details

The Financial Services and General Government appropriations account:

- ✓ Provides \$400 million to the Election Assistance Commission to provide grants to the States in response to the coronavirus for the 2020 election cycle.

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Priority

MUNICIPAL BOND ASSISTANCE

Included

Summary

Municipal bonds allow state and local governments to immediately finance critical projects that support our nation's infrastructure needs while protecting the economy during a crisis. Restoring governments' ability to advance refund tax- exempt municipal bonds would free up billions of dollars state and local governments could spend on other critical infrastructure projects, such as hospitals and other public health facilities, during a pandemic. To ensure that local governments can adequately respond to immediate infrastructure needs as a result of COVID-19, America's counties urge you to restore advance refunding, thereby providing debt service savings for taxpayers which can be put to immediate community needs and priorities.

Details

Although the bill does not address NACo's specific request to restore governments' ability to advance refund tax-exempt municipal bonds, section 4003 of the bill does make at least \$454 billion available for the federal government to purchase municipal bonds in order to provide liquidity to the financial system that supports lending to municipalities. Specifically, the legislation provides the opportunity to:

- ✓ Purchase obligations or other interests directly from issuers;
- ✓ Purchase obligations or other interests in secondary markets or otherwise; or
- ✓ Make loans, including loans secured by collateral.

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Priority

PROVIDE GREATER CERTAINTY FOR TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)

Included

Summary

We urge Congress to extend the authorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant program past its current deadline of May 22, 2020. Counties are responsible for administering TANF in 10 states, using the program's flexible funding to support basic cash assistance for low-income families, child welfare system expenses, childcare, work supports and more. Extending the program will provide greater certainty and ensure access to this critical component of the safety-net during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Details

Section 3824 of the bill extends TANF and related programs through November 30, 2020.

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Priority

STRENGTHEN THE LOCAL HEALTH CARE SAFETY NET

Included

Summary

We urge you to repeal or delay the statutory Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) payment reductions scheduled to take effect on May 23, 2020. As the local health care system works to provide care for infected residents regardless of socioeconomic status, Medicaid DSH payments are a critical means for local hospitals to serve our nation's most vulnerable citizens, by enabling them to make up for those losses and continue to provide high-quality care to all patients.

Details

Section 3813 delays scheduled reduction on Medicaid disproportionate share hospital payments through November 30, 2020.

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Priority

MAINTAIN PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Included- RCRC-Specific (not part of NACo Letter)

Summary

Keeping California's rural communities connected and informed is important for rural safety and education outreach during any emergency.

Details

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting is being provided with \$75 million for stabilization grants to maintain programming services and to preserve small and rural public telecommunication stations.

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Priority

U.S. FOREST SERVICE FUNDING

Included- RCRC-Specific (not part of NACo Letter)

Summary

Many of California's rural counties have large forested or wildland areas under state and federal ownership. These publicly owned lands include state parks, national parks, and national forests, all of which are an important element of the rural economy.

Details

Funding for the U.S. Forest Service (\$70.8 million) includes:

- ✓ FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH – \$3 million to re-establish scientific experiments impacted by travel restrictions, such as the Forest Inventory and Analysis program, which is a critical forest assessment tool for states.
- ✓ NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM – \$34 million for daily cleaning and disinfecting of recreation facilities, increased supply of personal protective equipment, and baseline testing for first responders.
- ✓ CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE – \$26.8 million for cleaning of the Forest Service's administrative facilities and other facilities needs related to the coronavirus outbreak.
- ✓ WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT – \$7 million to cover costs associated with additional personal protective equipment and baseline testing for first responders.

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Priority

WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES

Included- RCRC-Specific (not included in the NACo Letter)

Summary

RCRC-member counties are the local government that have land use and public trust responsibilities over this rich landscape that provides much of California's drinking water and recreational opportunities all while maintaining a diverse biological ecosystem. In addition, California's reputation as the Nation's breadbasket is largely found in the rural counties of the state.

Details

The Water and Related Resources account includes \$12.5 million to support remote access, teleworking, cleaning and disinfection of facilities; incident management and liability; and medical services and equipment related to coronavirus prevention, preparation, and response.

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Priority

EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR PUBLICLY FUNDED CHILD CARE, HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START

Partially Included

Summary

Maintaining and expanding access to childcare and early learning programs is critical as demand for childcare increases in the wake of widespread school closures. Further, childcare for emergency and essential personnel is a critical public health concern as these workers lack options for paid leave and telework. Counties urge Congress to provide flexible emergency funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), Head Start and Early Head Start to ensure minimal disruptions in these critical services for low-income families with children. Flexible application of these emergency funds should include: direct assistance to programs based on enrollment, rather than attendance; the purchase of additional supplies or services necessary for keeping centers and homes safe and sanitary; paying staff in the event of closures; hiring additional staff and otherwise supporting providers as they deploy various emergency flexibilities to maintain operations. Congress should direct HHS to allocate this emergency funding based on need, rather than statutory formulas, to ensure maximum effectiveness at responding to the crisis.

Details

The Labor HHS appropriations account includes:

- ✓ Head Start: \$750 million for grants to all Head Start programs to help them respond to coronavirus- related needs of children and families, including making up for lost learning time.
- ✓ Child Care and Development Block Grant: \$3.5 billion in grants to states for immediate assistance to child care providers to prevent them from going out of business and to otherwise support child care for families, including for healthcare workers, first responders, and others playing critical roles during this crisis.
- ✗ Early Head Start is NOT included in the bill.

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Priority

FULLY FUND PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT LOCAL AIRPORTS

Partially Included

Summary

Any legislation that addresses the effects of COVID-19 should mitigate impacts on already disadvantaged small and rural airports by fully funding the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) at \$3.35 billion; the Essential Air Service (EAS) Program at \$165 million; and the Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASDP) at \$10 million, as authorized by P.L. 115-254. Counties also urge

lawmakers to appropriate additional funds from the Treasury's general fund for these programs, as was the case for AIP in FY 2020 (\$400 million general fund transfer), as the air travel industry continues to face a decline. EAS and SCASDP provide critical support for local airports that often act as economic generators for entire regions, while AIP funds capital projects at county-supported airports both big and small.

Details

The legislation includes the following:

- ✓ Federal Aviation Administration, Airport Improvement Program (AIP) – \$10 billion to maintain operations at our nation's airports that are facing a record drop in passengers. AIP funds will be distributed by formula.
- ✓ Essential Air Service (EAS) – \$56 million provided to maintain existing air service to rural communities. This funding is necessary to offset the reduction in overflight fees that help pay for the EAS program.
- ✗ SCASDP is NOT included in the bill.

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Priority

FUNDING FOR CRITICAL HOUSING PROGRAMS

Partially Included

Summary

Counties nationwide will be experiencing housing and economic challenges. Additional investments in federal programs like Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnerships programs, Homeless Assistance Grants, Economic Development Administration, Small Business Administration, USDA Rural Development and emergency housing rental and mortgage assistance will allow counties to best serve those in need. Funding these programs will provide direct funding to localities to help mitigate the local economic crisis for small businesses, build infrastructure and ensure residents can maintain their housing and prevent an increase in homelessness.

Details

The bill includes the following:

- ✓ Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – \$5 billion. CDBG is a flexible program that provides communities and states with funding to provide a wide range of resources to address COVID-19, such as services for senior citizens, the homeless, and public health services. Funding will be distributed using formula.
- ✓ Homeless Assistance Grants – \$4 billion. These funds will enable state and local governments to address coronavirus among the homeless population. These grants, in combination with additional waiver authority, will provide effective, targeted assistance to contain the spread

of coronavirus among homeless individuals. These grants will also provide state and local governments with homelessness prevention funding for individuals and families who would otherwise become homeless due to coronavirus.

- ✓ Emergency Solutions Grants – \$4 billion is included to address the impact of COVID-19 among individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and to support additional homeless assistance, prevention, and eviction prevention assistance. Eviction prevention activities including rapid rehousing, housing counseling, and rental deposit assistance will mitigate the adverse impacts of the pandemic on working families.

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Priority

INCREASE ACCESS TO CAPITAL FOR SMALL BORROWERS

Partially Included

Summary

We urge you to include temporary extension and permanent restoration of proven financing tools utilized by state and local governments, schools, hospitals, airports and special districts and other public sector entities to provide efficient and low cost financing of critical investments in infrastructure that will move this country forward immediately. Specifically, counties urge Congress to increase the bank qualified borrowing limit from \$10 million to \$30 million, and have it apply at the borrower level, which would ensure that small local governments could provide access to capital for immediate infrastructure.

Details

The Disaster Loans Program Account includes \$562 million for administrative expenses and program subsidy for the SBA Disaster Loans Program.

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Priority

INCREASE BROADBAND ACCESS

Partially Included

Summary

As we transition to a large-scale remote work and school platform, the demands on our nation's broadband infrastructure are being tested. For many, particularly those living beyond the last mile, connectivity is simply not an option. To bridge this divide, Congress should dedicate resources to help schools provide remote broadband access points, such as encouraging school busses equipped with public Wi-Fi capabilities to be parked in areas to expand the connectivity footprint for residents in communities unable to travel the distances to other public hotspots. Additionally, Congress should

allocate resources to empower local governments to create public-private partnerships to provide expanded access to temporary broadband connectivity in unserved and underserved areas.

Details

The bill does the following:

- ✓ Provides \$25 million in additional funding for the Distance Learning, Telemedicine (DLT), and Broadband Program, which supports rural communities' access to telecommunications-enabled information, audio, and video equipment, as well as related advanced technologies for students, teachers, and medical professionals.
- ✓ Provides \$100 million for the Reconnect Pilot, which provides grants for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service in eligible rural areas.
- ✓ Authorizes the VA to expand mental health services delivered via telehealth and enter into short-term agreements with telecommunication companies to provide veterans with temporary broadband services.

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Priority

RETURN SOLVENCY TO THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND (HTF)

Partially Included

Summary

In addition to funding highway programs, public transit agencies are also funded by revenues from the HTF, including the 78 percent of those that are directly supported by counties. Continued insolvency of the fund compounds the effects of declining ridership as a result of COVID-19, and threatens the ability of local governments to adequately support public transit systems that our residents rely on to access critical institutions, such as businesses, schools and hospitals.

Details

The legislation provides:

- ✓ Federal Highway Administration – Language to clarify that states can issue special permits for overweight vehicles and loads to allow for the free flow of critical relief supplies during the current coronavirus epidemic for the duration of the fiscal year.
- ✓ DOT Administrative Accounts – \$6 million for the Department of Transportation to cover increased administrative expenses as a result of the coronavirus.

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Priority

TAX CREDITS FOR PAID SICK AND PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE FOR EMPLOYERS

Partially Included

Summary

As the COVID-19 pandemic grows, public health officials recommend that individuals who are sick should stay home and that employer should consider implementing a telecommuting program when possible. However, since the United States does not have a national standard on paid family or sick leave, these policies are determined by employers, and state and local laws. While we appreciate that H.R. 6201 expands paid leave benefits for workers affected by COVID-19, the legislation imposes substantial new sick leave and family medical leave requirements on government employers of all sizes. As Congress continues to engage in ongoing negotiations, counties request that Section 70001(d)(4) and Section 7003(d)(4) be removed from H.R. 6201 and language is inserted to clarify that state and local government employers fully qualify for paid sick leave, family leave, and medical leave credits.

Details

Section 3605. Paid Leave for Rehired Employees:

- ✓ Allows an employee who was laid off by an employer March 1, 2020, or later to have access to paid family and medical leave in certain instances if they are rehired by the employer. Employee would have had to work for the employer at least 30 days prior to being laid off.

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Priority

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE 2020 CENSUS

Not Included

Summary

Additional Funding for the 2020 Census: The decennial census, which aims to count every United States resident each decade, is critical to county governments. With the rapid spread of COVID-19, counties are concerned that this will weaken outreach efforts for a complete count of our nation's residents. While counties applaud the U.S. Census Bureau's response to the outbreak, we urge lawmakers to allocate additional funding and reevaluate the current timelines needed to ensure a complete count for the 2020 Census.

Details

- ✗ NOT included in bill.

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Priority

ALLOW FLEXIBILITY IN HIRING

Not Included

Summary

We urge Congress to grant the authority to the Department of Labor to work with state and local governments to provide flexibility to hire back retirees who possess special skills to deal with the pandemic in a way that will not affect their benefits.

Details

- ✘ NOT included in bill.

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Priority

AUTHORIZE AND APPROPRIATE FUNDING FOR THE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
EMERGENCY RELIEF (PTER) PROGRAM (49 U.S.C. 5324)

Not Included

Summary

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) estimates that fares make up a third of the funds that local governments use to support public transit systems. As ridership declines, Congress should consider providing relief to local public transit agencies by authorizing and appropriating funds for the PTER program. Congress should also consider directing the DOT Secretary to waive the local match for projects performed under 49 U.S.C. 5324.

Details

- ✘ NOT included in bill.

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Priority

EXPAND USE OF SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS (SRS)

Not Included

Summary

Counties appreciate the two-year reauthorization of SRS included in the FY 2020 appropriations package. However, counties request that important additional reforms be included to provide greater stability for national forest counties facing potential revenue shortfalls, such as stopping the annual 5 percent reduction in SRS payments, and allowing counties to elect whether to receive SRS payments or timber harvest receipt sharing payments. Additionally, with many schools experimenting with online

coursework in response to coronavirus quarantines, it is imperative that Congress also expand the allowable uses of SRS funds to include broadband connectivity for educational purposes. These policies were agreed to by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee during their markup of S. 430 in December 2019.

Details

- ✘ NOT included in bill.

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Priority

INCREASE THE LOCAL SHARE OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (STBGP)

Not Included

Summary

STBGP provides the most flexible federal funding source to counties and can be utilized to deliver critical infrastructure projects that may be delayed due to the necessity to reallocate funds to other measures to address more immediate consequences of COVID-19. This reallocation of funds is likely to result in a domino effect on local infrastructure that already faces a significant backlog. As owners and operators of 45 percent of public roads and 38 percent of the National Bridge Inventory, counties support increasing the amount of direct funding available to local governments through modifications to STBGP to facilitate the delivery of important transportation projects that support local economies, including the construction, improvement and maintenance of transit and rail infrastructure.

Details

- ✘ NOT included in bill.

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Priority

MANDATORY FUNDING FOR PAYMENTS IN-LIEU OF TAXES (PILT)

Not Included

Summary

The PILT program helps to offset costs incurred by counties in 49 states for services provided to federal employees, the public and to the users of federal public lands. Approximately 61 percent of counties nationwide have nontaxable federal public lands within their jurisdictions and use PILT funding to pay for public health crisis management and emergency responses, among other key services. County governments need stable revenue streams in these times of economic stress, so counties request full, long-term and mandatory funding of the PILT program, as laid out in legislation such as H.R. 3043, the

Permanently Authorizing PILT Act, or S. 2480, the PILT Reauthorization Act. Further, counties under 5,000 in population are not on a level playing field due to the monetary and population caps in the PILT formula. We urge Congress to adopt legislation to help these smaller population counties to receive appropriate PILT payments without impacting counties with larger populations through the minor formula change laid out in the Small County PILT Parity Act, S. 2108 and H.R. 3716.

Details

- ✘ NOT included in bill.

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Priority

MEDICAID FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY REGULATION (MFAR) MORATORIUM

Not Included

Summary

While we applaud the proposed increase to Medicaid Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) included in H.R. 6201, which will provide counties with additional federal funding to test for and treat the virus, we urge Congress to suspend changes to Medicaid financing. As we stated in our March 13 letter, counties support a moratorium on the CMS Medicaid Fiscal Accountability Regulation (MFAR) because it would reduce the ability of localities to finance the non-federal share of Medicaid, resulting in a reduction in federal Medicaid funding for the public health and hospital system. If finalized, this rule would destabilize our county public health systems at the same time we are responding to a global pandemic.

Details

- ✘ NOT included in bill.

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Priority

PRESERVE LOCAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS

Not Included

Summary

Currently, eleven major metropolitan municipalities rely on the T-Band spectrum for their emergency communications networks. These public safety networks connect emergency services being delivered to over 90 million Americans. However, the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 has forced the Federal Communications Commission to reallocate and auction this portion of the spectrum

by 2021. Under the current circumstances, it is imperative that Congress act to prevent local governments from having to relocate their emergency communications networks from the T- Band spectrum.

Details

- ✘ NOT included in bill.

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Priority

UNCAP THE PASSENGER FACILITY CHARGE (PFC) AND INDEX IT TO INFLATION

Not Included

Summary

The drop in passenger traffic as a result of COVID-19 has resulted in a corresponding drop in the amount of PFCs collected at airports. Counties directly support 34 percent of public airports and utilize PFCs to fund projects that can increase competition and enhance the safety, security or capacity of local airports. Uncapping the PFC and indexing the fee to inflation will aid local airports in modernizing infrastructure, meeting current bond obligations and providing travelers with access to a safer and more efficient aviation system.

Details

- ✘ NOT included in bill.

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