

***Dear Members of Clackamas County's Congressional Delegation:***

***Given the number of announcements this week asserting that a coronavirus relief package may surface or be negotiated, and signals from President Trump for a willingness to sign, we feel the need to weigh in again on the importance of funding relief for local governments.***

***In particular, we are requesting you support proposals that include funding for state and local governments, and to negotiate that any funding of the sort exclude populations thresholds. Any funding relief to local governments should be allocated **directly to agencies.*****

***Funding now can support shelter in the rainy and cold months, economic relief to businesses, and increase public health support to track the virus. The demand for services in the county is very high, especially now as we see historic spikes in cases since the beginning of the virus. We know this is a trend across the state and our nation. Anything you can do to ensure that any new virus relief bill not only provides new funding for state and local governments, but also ensures that local governments receive direct allocations will be greatly appreciated.***

***As you will recall, the CARES Act provided much needed relief for state and local governments. However Oregon's distribution model of state and local funding from the CARES Act for agencies below 500,000 left most communities with inequitable funding to what larger agencies received, thereby limiting the response of local governments in 34 of Oregon's 36 counties. Clackamas County has nearly 430,000 residents, not far off from the 500,000 criterion set by the CARES Act. This is 10% of the state's population, and roughly 20% of the population for Oregon's largest metropolitan region. While the region received nearly \$250 million in CARES Act state and local funding, Clackamas County received only \$17 million, and that through a burdensome and unnecessary reimbursement model established by the state. Direct funding should be equitable to all jurisdictions to serve people quickly and dedicate funding to the individual and unique needs of each jurisdiction.***

***We know the discussions are on a tightrope and difficult to influence, but if we can provide any additional information please let us know.***

***Thanks for everything you are doing, stay safe, and know we appreciate your service and assistance.***