



**COUNTY OF LAKE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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May 5, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of the State of California
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of Lake County and our shared constituents, 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 our 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 the State Legislature and Administration to allocate resources directly to counties. Specifically, California's 58 counties request:

- \$1.1 billion in residual CARES Act funds based on direct service responsibilities (80% to counties with less than 500,000 population);
- State to cover deferred revenue caused by the Sales Tax Layaway Program;
- Immediate authority to waive property tax delinquencies caused by COVID-19;
- Protections and mitigations for 1991 and 2011 Realignment programs and funding;
- Assistance to counties with cash flow solutions to address short term needs.

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 Lake County, where extreme revenue losses resulting from COVID-19 come as part of the 12th major disaster here, since 2015. As you are well aware, Lake County's financial resources have been severely impacted by these repeated disasters, with the coronavirus now pushing us to an all new, unanticipated brink.

Counties are exhausting resources to protect our residents and we must make budget decisions in the next 45 days that will impact the services we provide. Counties need state funding because we are incurring extraordinary expenses for quarantining and isolation, special equipment necessary for continuity of operations during the shelter in place order, Emergency Operations Center operations and much more.

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 state and Lake County mitigate, respond and recover from these historic times. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further with your team.

Respectfully submitted,

COUNTY OF LAKE

Moke Simon, Chair