



May 1, 2020

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Governor of Maryland
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Hogan,

We write as county leaders with one voice seeking your support to release federal CARES funding to the 19 Maryland counties who did not receive a direct federal block grant. Every county and every resident in Maryland has been impacted by the coronavirus. During this health pandemic, local and state leadership have been working together to protect public health and welfare, support our local economies, and meet the unique needs of our constituents.

It has recently become clear that the State wants to establish a reimbursement model for the 19 counties with populations under 500,000 people. Not only does this model treat counties differently, it costs critical time in putting these dollars to work in our community to help people. The reimbursement model will require smaller counties to forward-fund expenses, something many counties will find difficult - if not impossible - to do. Smaller counties will be unable to stand up programs to accelerate testing, to purchase needed PPE, and to support local businesses without having the flexibility to plan a program and to know there will be reimbursement. Rural and suburban counties need the same flexibility as the larger urban counties to meet the unprecedented needs of our communities.

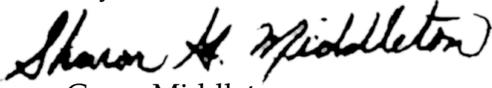
All county leaders are committed to accountability and to following the federal guidelines. We are always accountable for the use of taxpayer money.

In the spirit of collaboration, we suggest a practical solution to allocate half of these distributions as an upfront preliminary distribution, to enable rapid responses across communities. The remaining county and health department allocations could be managed through further applications or distributions consistent with the county's funding plan. The counties are willing to enter grant agreements that require any misspent monies to have to be paid back.

We stand united to express the urgent need for these federal dollars to be made available to all counties immediately to allow us to better help the people we collectively serve. Local governments have the ability to meet the needs of our community quickly and effectively.

We ask for your immediate attention to release these funds and to ensure that all Maryland residents are helped quickly as intended by the federal CARES legislation. Together, we are Maryland Strong.

Yours truly,



Sharon Green Middleton
President, MACo
Council Vice President, Baltimore City



Michael Sanderson
Executive Director, MACo



Jacob Shade
Commission President,
Allegany County



Steuart Pittman
County Executive,
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Mayor,
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John Olszewski
County Executive,
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Larry Porter
Commission President,
Caroline County



Stephen Wantz
Commission President,
Carroll County



Alan McCarthy
County Executive,
Cecil County



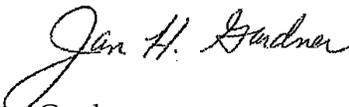
Robert Meffley
Council President,
Cecil County



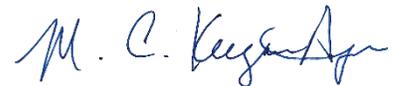
Reuben Collins
Commission President,
Charles County



Jay Newcomb
Council President,
Dorchester County



Jan Gardner
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Frederick County



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Barry Glassman
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Patrick Vincenti
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Calvin Ball
County Executive,
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Deb Jung
Council Chair,
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Marc Elrich
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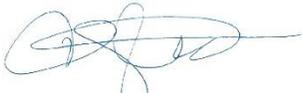
Angela Alsobrooks
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Prince George's County



Todd Turner
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James Moran
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Queen Anne's County



Craig Mathies
Commission President,
Somerset County



James Guy
President,
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County



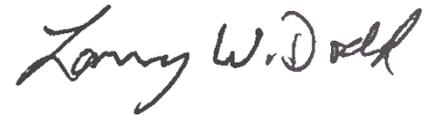
Corey Pack
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CC:

David Brinkley, Secretary, Maryland Department of Budget and Management

Steve Schuh, Executive Director, Opioid Operational Command Center, Maryland Emergency Management Agency

Jordan Butler, Chief Financial Officer, Maryland Department of Health