

February 10, 2021

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Governor Inslee,

Clark County is requesting additional funding from the CARES Act Title V funding that was unspent by or returned to the State based on the original Department of Treasury deadline of December 30, 2020. While Clark County was given only until November 30, 2020 to spend the \$48.8M allocated to the county by the state, recent Congressional legislation extended the date to expend the state's funding to December 31, 2021.

Clark County continues to incur significant expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the first three months of 2021, Clark County's public health expenses alone related to the pandemic are expected to be \$5.0M; this is a cost that will not be covered by any new federal funding. In addition to the public health expenses, Clark County residents are in desperate need of support for businesses impacted by the state shutdown and re-opening requirements, as well as support for individuals experiencing homelessness or impending housing crisis due to the upcoming end of the eviction moratorium.

An important component of the CARES Act funding was direct relief to states, as well as local governments. Washington State received \$2.2B CARES Act Title V money, of which 45 percent was intended for local governments. For counties and cities with a population less than 500,000, including Clark County, the state initially appropriated less than \$297.0M (30.5%) of the \$975.2M that should have been distributed based on the Department of Treasury guidance. The State subsequently allocated an additional \$150.0M, however, the total distributed is still far short. Based on the recommended formula, Clark County should have received \$88.4M of the CARES Act Title V funding to combat the local impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. To date the County has received only \$48.8M, a deficit of almost \$40.0M. The County quickly spent the funding it did receive and was not able to pay for the level of relief necessary in addition to incurring an expense deficit. There is no remaining funding left to cover continuing expenses into 2021.

We look forward to continuing to partner with you as we address this unprecedented situation, and anticipate your response to these important concerns.

Sincerely,

Eileen Quiring, Council Chair

Temple Lentz, Councilor District 1

Karen Bowerman, Councilor District 3

Julie Olson, Councilor District 2

Gary Medvigy, Councilor District 4