



KATE BROWN
Governor

May 12, 2020

The Honorable Kathryn Harrington
Chair, Washington County
155 N. First Avenue
Hillsboro, OR 97124

The Honorable Deborah Kafoury
Chair, Multnomah County
501 SE Hawthorne Boulevard
Portland, OR 97214

The Honorable Ted Wheeler
Mayor, City of Portland
1221 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Chair Harrington, Chair Kafoury, and Mayor Wheeler,

Thank you for your leadership during these challenging times. We value our partnership with local government and know that we will only succeed in keeping Oregonians safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic if there is close collaboration among all levels of government. You have a tremendous role to play in the state's success as the leaders of our most populous counties and the largest city, protecting the lives of more than 1.4 million Oregonians.

The recent allocation of \$246.8 million total to your jurisdictions from the federal CARES Act through the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) is an important tool in the statewide fight against the virus. As we seek to utilize strategically the state's portion of CRF funds to address pandemic-related costs, we believe that any additional state support for counties and cities should be prioritized for jurisdictions that did not receive CRF funds directly from the federal government last month.

We also believe that it would be advantageous for the City of Portland (\$114 million), Multnomah County (\$28 million), and Washington County (\$104.8 million) to blend or align their CRF funds as much as possible, within the allowable uses, to maximize their impact in the Metro area. Clackamas County, as you know, did not receive any CRF funds and will therefore be able to request funds from the state for eligible expenses in the coming months.

Finally, our expectation is that for the foreseeable future at least 75 percent of your CRF funds will be expended for public health purposes in the following ways: personal protective equipment, contact tracing, testing, and isolation/quarantine for vulnerable populations. These are the priority activities that the State of Oregon will pay or reimburse local jurisdictions for in the months ahead from the state's CRF funds.

Chairs Harrington and Kafoury, Mayor Wheeler
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We appreciate each of you and look forward to continuing to work together to fight the pandemic and restart Oregon's economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Brown" with a horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Governor Kate Brown

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter Courtney" in a cursive style.

Senate President Peter Courtney

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tina Kotek" in a cursive style.

Speaker of the House Tina Kotek