



May 13, 2020

The Honorable Kate Brown
Governor, State of Oregon
900 Court Street NE, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301-4047

The Honorable Peter Courtney
President, Oregon Senate
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

The Honorable Tina Kotek,
Speaker, Oregon State House
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Governor Brown, President Courtney, and Speaker Kotek,

Thank you for your letter dated May 12, 2020 regarding the COVID-19 Relief Fund.

With the passage of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”), Oregon received over \$1.6 billion through the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF.) As one of the jurisdictions with a population over 500,000, Washington County received \$104.8 million dollars directly. We understand that we are held to the guidelines provided within the CARES Act legislation as well as the additional guidance provided by the United States Treasury. And I am sure, like us, you and your staff are working around the clock to develop internal goals and guidelines to help you get these dollars into the community.

Here in Washington County we have over 600,000 community members, 13 cities, and 15 Special Districts. In an effort to be sure we serve all of our constituents with these dollars, earlier this week our Board adopted two goals that will guide our own program:

1. to provide the most positive impact for the most amount of people and
2. to maintain adherence to the CARES Act and guidelines provided by the Treasury.

We understand that we will not be receiving any additional funds out of the State’s \$1.6 billion disbursement and that that the other 34 counties and the cities outside of Washington County will be prioritized for state funds over those within our borders.

That is why we are creating a Rapid Response Fund that will directly reimburse Washington County’s cities and special districts for eligible expenditures incurred due to the public health crisis as well as eligible business grant programs they have created.

Board of County Commissioners

155 North First Avenue, Suite 300, MS 22, Hillsboro, OR 97124-3072

phone: (503) 846-8681 • fax: (503) 846-4545

It is our feeling that 100% of the dollars disbursed will be for COVID-19 related public health expenses. In order for Washington County to fully recover we need to put every dollar into our community whether it is for PPE, for business recovery dollars or for mental health programs.

We appreciate the leadership you all have provided during these difficult times. Thank you for your thoughtful letter. We will continue to work with our staff, our community and our region -- in addition to the State -- as we continue our battle against this virus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kathryn Harrington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Kathryn Harrington, Chair
Washington County Board of Commissioners