

October 22, 2020

Members of the Joint Legislative Emergency Board
Submitted via electronic mail.

Dear Members of the Joint Legislative Emergency Board:

In conjunction with Item 7 on your agenda for the Friday, October 23, 2020, meeting of the Joint Legislative Emergency Board relating to Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) and Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Securities (CARES) Act Expenditures Report, I want to fill you in on a discussion I had during a meeting with a number of county commissioners, judges, and chairs last Friday afternoon. During the meeting, we discussed options for expenditures to ensure the county share of CRF resources are utilized by December 30, 2020, the federal deadline to use CRF allocations. Here are some key points that are important to share with you:

1. Counties are grateful for the communication with the State in deciphering all the pieces of the puzzle in getting CRF dollars out to the counties.
2. Every county that participated in the meeting indicated they had a plan to expend all of their dollars by December 30, 2020.
3. Several counties indicated they were being cautious and measured because they understood they had to make these dollars last throughout the rest of the year as there was likely to be no additional resources made available.
4. Every county indicated that they needed substantially more funding ([see county needs report](#)) and their spending rate was not indicative of not knowing how and where they were going to spend it.
5. Some county delays are related to getting contracts in place.
6. Counties feel it is the responsibility of the State to pay for the public health costs related to COVID-19 out of the State CRF resources.
7. CRF resources support critical response efforts by counties for local public health, economic, and other needs related to the pandemic, including supporting statewide mitigation efforts.

Thank you for your support in distributing CRF resources to counties, your partners. We look forward to working with you and continuing the conversation on support to ensure counties are delivered the resources they need to continue to provide critical services to Oregonians and uplift our most vulnerable populations as we continue to work through response efforts.

Sincerely,


Gina Firman Nikkel, Ph.D.

AOC Executive Director