




Maryland Municipal League  
*The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns*

## MEMORANDUM

**TO: Maryland Municipal Leaders**  
**FROM: Scott A. Hancock, Executive Director**   
**SUBJECT: IMPORTANT COVID-19 RESPONSE FUNDING INFORMATION**  
**DATE: April 20, 2020**

The Maryland Department of Budget and Management (DBM) recently provided information on how the State plans to distribute the first round of Federal funds to the 19 counties, and municipalities within, that will not receive funding directly from the federal government. I am attaching the [letter](#) with more details from the Secretary Brinkley of DBM, but here is what you need to know:

1. \$182 million will be distributed to and allocated through the 19 Maryland county health departments, (*not including Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties which will receive direct funding from the federal government*) **a portion of which will also be available to municipalities and "must be directly related to expenditures incurred to address the COVID-19 pandemic."**
2. If your municipality is within Anne Arundel, Montgomery and Prince George's counties, you are encouraged to reach out to your county administration for guidance on how your county plans to share direct Federal funding with the municipal governments.
3. For the applicable 19 Maryland counties, a second distribution of \$182 million in funding from the State will require a county plan be submitted to the State regarding how it will be used. I encourage you to ask for "a seat at the table" when those plans are being developed.

## To prepare to access round one funds, MML recommends:

- Every municipality within the non-direct funded counties *with COVID-19 related expenses* should reach out to your county health departments **NOW** to inquire
  - how municipal requests will be accepted, processed, and funds distributed from their first allocation of funding, and
  - how future municipal needs will be accounted for in county plans for the second half of the fund allocation.
- Organize the documentation of your *direct COVID related expenditures*, such as receipts for purchases or payments for overtime/hazard pay, pursuant to guidance provided by your local health department.

At this point, the State of Maryland is awaiting further guidance from the U.S. Treasury on what they deem to be “COVID-19 related” spending, but the State suggests that could include “things such as additional staff or staffing hours, cleaning or disinfection supplies, medical supplies like masks and personal protective equipment, and testing.” MML has been told that more specific Federal guidance should be coming within the next week and we will share that guidance immediately upon receipt.

Finally, please know that MML has been actively participating in the dialogue with Congress on another Federal allocation of funding for the purpose of backfilling municipal revenue and budgetary shortfalls. This is separate and apart from the current CARES Act funding allocation to the State. I therefore encourage you to reach out to our congressional delegation to let them know that “direct and flexible relief to municipal governments of all sizes is desperately needed NOW as local governments continue to fight the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic”.

Thank you for everything you are doing on behalf of Maryland’s residents during this pandemic. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

#MunicipalMarylandStrong

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