# Federal Advocacy: Report from Washington

CML 2021 Legislative Workshop

#### Mike Wallace

Legislative Director, Community and Economic Development Federal Advocacy, National League of Cities



## NLC's FEDERAL PRIORITIES

- COVID-19 Response and Recovery
- Advancing Workforce Readiness
- Increasing Fair and Affordable Housing

- Stabilizing Local Government
   Operations
- Digital Equity
- Building Sustainable Infrastructure
- Reimagining Public Health and Safety



## **Next COVID-19 Relief Package**

- Municipal governments still facing \$90 billion revenue shortfall
- Promising "rescue" plan from President Biden

#### **ASK**

- Fair and appropriate funding with no minimum population threshold
- Direct allocation through proven government revenue sharing programs
- Minimal entanglement of state and local funding
- Flexible spending on expenses to address widespread health and economic consequences
- Appropriate guardrails
- Adjusting FEMA cost-share



### **State and Local Government Relief**

Federal aid for all 19,000 municipal governments will be a FIRST for Washington

House Oversight Committee released reconciliation text for State and Local

\$350 billion for states, municipalities, counties, tribes, and territories.

- \$130 billion is for local governments split evenly between municipalities and counties.
  - \$65 billion allocated through modified CDBG formula
    - \$45.5 billion for entitlement communities (+50k)
    - \$19.5 billion for non-entitlement communities (-50k)

No deadline to spending funds

Can be used for replacing lost revenue.

Can be transferred between jurisdictions or to non-profit partners



## **Other Critical Relief**

#### Housing

- \$25 billion for rent and utility assistance
- \$5 billion for homeless intervention
- \$10 billion for homeowner mortgage assistance
- \$100 million for housing counseling

#### Education

• \$128.5 billion for grants to State and Local Educational Agencies

#### Transportation

- \$50 billion for FEMA to reimburse for PPE
- \$30 billion for transit
- \$8 billion for airports
- \$3 billion for Economic Development Administration

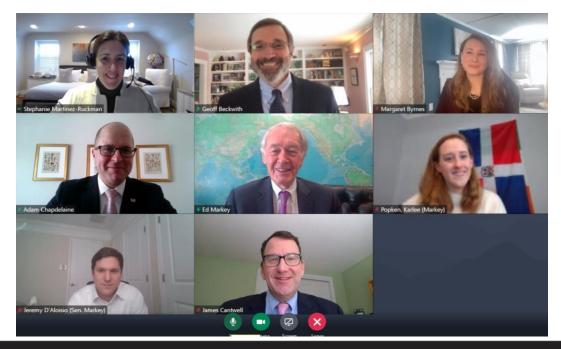


## **Advocating for Relief**

71 advocates from 30 states visit with over 92 congressional offices

Direct meetings with members of Congress

City Hall 101: The Role of Cities in Moving America Forward







## **Testifying to Congress**

Clarence Anthony, CEO and Executive Director, National League of Cities | House Committee on Financial Services

Joe Buscaino, NLC's Immediate Past President and Los Angeles Councilmember | House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure







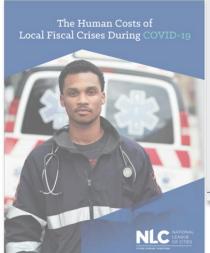
## **Meeting with USDOT**





## **Take Action!**





The House Oversight and Reform Committee is anticipating a markup of the bill next week on the Biden administration's plan with funding for states, local governments, Tribes, and territories but are calling on YOU to help making the strongest case possible

Democrats are moving through the reconciliation process.

NLC's revised estimate, based on the most recently available fiscal data and updated survey results, is that municipal governments are still facing a \$90 billion blow to their current year revenues.

NLC has shared the principles that must be included in the next package to support local governments, but we need your help! We need you to send a letter of support to your Representative to reiterate the need for local relief and to provide examples of fiscal impact in your community. Please review these editable template letters to your Congressional delegation and insert an example of fiscal impact in your municipality where prompted before submitting each of these letters.

		My Officials	Sign Up	r survey of OVET 900 of America's cities, towns of fiscal crises with real, lasting human impact.
Act now!				E Expenditures On average, expenditures encreased by 17%.
f Sign	up with Facebook			On average, revenues decreased by 21%.
	egister Below			If not just go away, erica on the road to economic recovery, sand Villages believe their government's condition will snot pass another stimulus.
First Name	Last Name  Last Name			is into pass amotiver stamulus.  American cities, towns and villages indicated they believe namic outlook includes significant challenges in providing sents.  It received CRF funds indicated that the funds adocuately a shortfalls and unforeseen expenses.
Address  Street Address, City, and State	<b>Email</b> Email			I 9 Recession merica's cities will continue to oth arms tied behind their backs.
Submit			s revenue is decreasing due to the navirus pandemic, expenditures keep reasing for cities across the nation.	
				Dacted by COVID-19:  75 % have experienced are experienced as a supplemental experienced by 21%.  The experience are experienced are experienced by 21%.  The experience are experienced as a supplemental experienced by 21%.

NLC HARRIE

The COVID-19 Recession

mericans will continue to fight this pandemic

based on our survey results.

With less revenue and more expenses, cities have been forced to make cuts.



## CONGRESSIONAL CITY CONFERENCE

RESPOND. RECOVER. REBUILD.

March **7-10**, 2021

VIRTUAL

New Administration, New Congress, New Virtual Experience

**LEARN MORE**