



ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

GERRY GEIST
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Serving Towns Since 1933

April 30, 2020

To the Honorable Members of New York's Congressional Delegation:

The Association of Towns of the State of New York, which represents New York's 933 towns and their 9 million residents, asks that you support providing direct funding to local governments, regardless of population size, as part of your next federal stimulus package so that we may continue providing essential public services.

Like so many others, towns are dealing with substantial fiscal challenges because of coronavirus; sales tax revenue is significantly down, as are lost permit fees, justice court fines and mortgage recording taxes, among other sources of revenue. Towns provide services critical to the community, like water and sewer, highway maintenance and repair, waste collection and recycling, parks and recreational programs, animal control, and youth and senior programs, just to name a few. Providing federal funding directly to local governments will help ease financial stress without forcing us to transfer costs to real property tax payers, cut services, or lay off employees.

Furthermore, much of the federal relief has focused on cities and counties with a certain population threshold, and while we support and collaborate with all local governments, it would be faulty to exclude towns simply based on their designation as such or their population size. New York has a number of towns that are major population centers; however, if direct funding is provided only for municipalities with populations of 50,000 or more, **this would leave 912 towns without funding** despite the fact that they, too, provide essential services to New Yorkers and U.S. citizens.

Thank you for your work and commitment to protecting New York and its residents. If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this issue further, please do not hesitate to contact me. We are all in this together. Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,