

# NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

*County Government with a Unified Voice!*

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## **NJAC URGES GOVERNOR MURPHY TO RELEASE CARES ACT FUNDING**

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(Trenton) Along with Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Mercer, Morris, Salem, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren counties, the New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC) is urging Governor Murphy to reimburse these 12 counties with federal monies from the from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act for the extraordinary expenses incurred in combating the COVID-19 public health crisis.

During this once in a generation pandemic, county governments have led the way on the front lines and played a vital role in providing essential services and protecting the public health, safety, and welfare of residents across the Garden State. As a result, county governments have also incurred substantial costs in responding to and managing the COVID-19 public health crisis by operating test centers, purchasing and distributing personal protective equipment, hiring public nurses and health professionals, implementing mitigation measures, disinfecting county facilities, collecting and sharing public health data, sheltering homeless and at-risk individuals, managing correctional facilities, administering welfare and social service programs, conducting elections, and much more.

Unfortunately, under the CARES Act, these 12 counties did not receive direct federal aid from the CRF simply because their populations fell below 500,000 residents but continue to spend millions in limited property taxpayer dollars in battling the COVID-19 public health crisis. Moreover, although the United States Department of Treasury authorized states to provide much needed relief for local governing bodies that did not meet the above noted population threshold, the State of New Jersey has yet to release any CRF monies for COVID-19 related expenses under the \$250.0 million allocated by the Treasurer to the Local Government Relief Fund in the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). For these reasons, NJAC is once again urging Governor Murphy to release this critical funding in a timely manner to help alleviate the daunting fiscal burden imposed on local governing bodies and property taxpayers. Please contact us at (609) 394-3467 with any questions or concerns.