

**From:** [Sara Sanders](#)  
**To:** [Sara Sanders](#)  
**Subject:** Cal Cities Update on COVID-19 Federal Relief Plan & Action Alert 3-1-21  
**Date:** Monday, March 1, 2021 12:37:59 PM  
**Attachments:** [SAMPLE COVID-19 Relief Letter-Senate Vote 3-1-21.docx](#)  
[State and Local Allocation Output 02.25.21.xlsx](#)  
[Notes on State and Local Allocation Output 02.25.21.pdf](#)

---

Mayors, Councilmembers, and City Managers:

On early Saturday morning, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to pass H.R. 1319, [The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#). This is good news for California cities because it includes \$350 billion in **direct and flexible** funding for state and local governments. The American Rescue Plan will now be going to the U.S. Senate with an expected Senate Floor vote no later than March 14, 2021. You can find the National League of Cities (NLC) statement [HERE](#).

As Cal Cities begins its advocacy efforts this week in the U.S. Senate, I have included an action alert requesting that all cities send letters of support to Senators Feinstein and Padilla.

Also, attached are the updated estimated city-by-city allocations that the House Committee on Oversight has provided as of 2/25/21. Additionally, we have attached a reference guide associated with these estimates for your review.

I also want to thank you for sending letters and making phone calls to your congressional representatives. Your advocacy efforts ensured that the \$350 billion in state and local emergency relief funds stayed in the American Rescue Plan.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

-  
-  
-

**ACTION ALERT!!**  
**\$350 Billion COVID-19 Relief Bill**  
**State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds**  
**SUPPORT**

**BACKGROUND**

On early Saturday morning, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to pass H.R. 1319, The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. This is good news for California cities because it includes \$350 billion in **direct and flexible** funding for state and local governments. The American Rescue Plan will now be going to the U.S. Senate with an expected Senate Floor vote no later than March 14, 2021.

**As of today, direct and flexible state and local aid is continues to be included** in the legislation that has been transmitted to the U.S. Senate through the reconciliation process. The U.S. Senate is expected to have a Floor vote no later than March 14, 2021.

### **URGENT ACTION:**

Please call U.S. Senators Feinstein and Padilla **THIS WEEK** to let them know that you support the \$350 billion in state and local government funding in the American Rescue Plan that includes \$65 billion direct and flexible funding for cities.

Your city can also submit a letter supporting the \$350 billion Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Relief Fund (see attached sample letter).

- Senator Dianne Feinstein: 202-224-3841
  - David Grannis, Chief of Staff: [david\\_grannis@feinstein.senate.gov](mailto:david_grannis@feinstein.senate.gov)
  - Jim Lazarus, State Director: [jim\\_lazarus@feinstein.senate.gov](mailto:jim_lazarus@feinstein.senate.gov)
- Senator Alex Padilla: 202-224-3553
  - David Montes, Chief of Staff: [david\\_montes@padilla.senate.gov](mailto:david_montes@padilla.senate.gov)
  - Joshua Esquivel, Legislative Director: [joshua\\_esquivel@padilla.senate.gov](mailto:joshua_esquivel@padilla.senate.gov)

### **TALKING POINTS**

- **Please support the \$350 billion COVID-19 relief bill that includes \$65 billion for cities.**
- **California's cities are facing dual crises: billions in expenses addressing the pandemic in their communities, and devastating declines in tax revenues.**
- **Since the beginning of the pandemic, cities have lost \$5 billion in revenue, and expect to lose another \$1 billion over the next year.**
  - **More than half of the shortfall is attributed to the decline in hotel occupancy taxes and has devastated cities dependent on tourism dollars** (51% loss in transient occupancy tax (TOT) revenue).
  - **Nearly one-third of the shortfall is attributed to the decline in sales tax revenue following the shuttering of businesses and local economies during the pandemic** (28% loss in sales tax revenue).
- Cities have remained on the front lines for months working to protect public health and deliver essential public services that residents and small businesses depend on, distributing personal protective equipment, ensuring the most vulnerable in our communities have access to food and shelter, and helping small businesses survive with local grant programs.
- The actions cities have taken to support and protect their communities and workforce during the pandemic have saved lives but also resulted in significant unplanned expenditures that are depleting city budgets. **(Explain how this relief will help pay for these unplanned expenses)**
- City revenues have been decimated by the shuttering of businesses and local economies during the pandemic, and in order to maintain essential services to residents, protect people from the pandemic, and lead the recovery in our communities, cities need assistance now. **(Explain how this direct and flexible relief will help alleviate these revenue losses)**