



## United Counties Council of Illinois

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**W. Michael McCreery, Executive Director**

### Officers/Executive Committee Members

- **David Meyer, President** (Washington County)
- **David Zimmerman, Vice President** (Tazewell County)
- **Joseph Payette, Secretary** (Carroll County)
- **P.E. Cross, Treasurer** (Hamilton County)
- **Matthew Prochaska** (Kendall County)
- **Mark Kern** (St. Clair County)
- **Samuel L. Newton** (Stephenson County)

May 11, 2020

The Honorable JB Pritzker  
Governor of Illinois

Dear Governor Pritzker:

United Counties Council of Illinois (“UCCI”) is a statewide association of county boards that provides numerous services to counties and county officials. UCCI membership consists of 73 Illinois counties geographically dispersed throughout the state, both rural and suburban.<sup>1</sup> UCCI’s Executive Committee is asking for your support in ensuring that counties, as the local hubs for emergency response throughout the state of Illinois, receive an equitable share of the Illinois allocation of the Coronavirus Relief Funds as provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”).

As you are aware, the CARES Act, enacted March 27, 2020, amends the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 *et seq.*) by providing for the Coronavirus Relief Fund (the “Fund”) and directing the Treasury Secretary to pay each state its allocation of the \$150 billion. The amount allocated to Illinois is \$4.914 billion. However, the CARES Act provides no requirements or guidance on how the allocation should be distributed to units of local government with populations of less 500,000. In Illinois, all counties, except Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, and Will, fall below this threshold. Yet, all Illinois counties bear the same burden of establishing and maintaining an Emergency Services and Disaster Agency (“ESDA”) that is responsible for developing and implementing its respective emergency operations plan. Moreover, coordination among units of local government within its boundaries has fallen to counties as a result of public health departments being functions of county government. All of these efforts consume considerable resources and funding of a county, a unit of local government that has far fewer tools to increase revenues due to its status as non-home rule.

We would propose that Illinois identify a proportion of the state’s total allocation for distribution to units of local government. The distributions to units of local government then should be based upon the population of each unit of local government in proportion to the total population of the state, *i.e.*, a county that has 10% of the state’s population within its borders would receive 10% of the funding to be distributed to units of local government. Because of counties unique role with ESDA’s,

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<sup>1</sup> For your reference and convenience, enclosed please find a list of the member counties of UCCI.

*Hon. JB Pritzker*

*May 6, 2020*

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health departments, nursing homes (where county owned), and in coordinating and serving their respective municipalities, we believe that the total population of a county should be considered regardless of whether that population resides within a municipality or in the unincorporated portions of the county.

The Executive Committee, or its designee(s), would welcome a meeting with you **in the very near future**, in whatever manner is acceptable in light of the current pandemic (teleconference would be perfectly acceptable to our committee), to further discuss Coronavirus Relief Funds and the proposal herein.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

David Meyer, President  
Washington County

David Zimmerman, Vice President  
Tazewell County

P.E. Cross, Treasurer  
Hamilton County

Joseph Payette, Secretary  
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