



To: Chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees
CC: Members of the N.C. General Assembly
From: Kevin G. Leonard, NCACC Executive Director
N.C. Association of County Commissioners
Date: June 22, 2020
RE: Request for Appropriation of Local Government Coronavirus Relief Reserve

As the legislature works to conclude the short session and makes decisions to appropriate funds, respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and consider other pieces of legislation, we request that you appropriate the \$150 million held in the Local Government Coronavirus Relief Reserve Fund. Counties continue to react to the public health crisis, working to protect public health and public safety, as well as continue to provide mandated services and programs.

At this time, it is unknown whether or when Congress will amend the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security ("CARES") Act to specifically allow local governments to use Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) monies for revenue shortfalls. In the meantime, the CARES Act requires all CRF allocations be spent by December 30, 2020. Time is of the essence. The \$150 million in the Local Government Coronavirus Relief Reserve Fund should be appropriated so counties can reasonably plan and expend the funds in a timely manner to assist the county and community response.

We respectfully request the N.C. General Assembly appropriate the \$150 million held in the Local Government Coronavirus Relief Reserve Fund before adjourning or recessing the legislative short session so counties can reasonably plan and timely spend the funds within the requirements of the CARES Act.

Thank you.