



INTERGOVERNMENTAL
COOPERATION COUNCIL

Glendale Mayor Bryan Kennedy, Chair & Secretary, 5909 N. Milwaukee River Parkway, Glendale, WI 53209; (414) 228-1700
West Allis Mayor Dan Devine, Vice-Chair, 7525 West Greenfield Avenue, West Allis, WI 53214; (414) 302-8290
Greenfield Mayor Michael Neitzke, Treasurer, 7325 W. Forest Home Avenue, WI 53220; (414) 329-5200

November 11, 2020

Governor Tony Evers
Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald
Senate Majority Leader-elect Devin LeMahieu
Speaker of the Assembly Robin Vos
Senate Minority Leader Janet Bewley
Assembly Minority Leader Gordon Hintz

Dear Distinguished State Leaders:

On behalf of the twenty local governments within Milwaukee County and the local health departments we support, we write to ask for increased state assistance as we battle the coronavirus pandemic. Local governments like ours have been and continue to lead this response, with no end in sight. However, we do so despite great policy and funding challenges that have impacted our capacity and ability to scale up for the inevitable surge that we are now experiencing. This work is incredibly resource and time intensive, requiring strong funding, staffing, and infrastructure.

Unfortunately, as this pandemic continues to grow and affect every corner of our state, local governments continue to struggle to find the resources to support their response efforts. We need state help in developing and funding a plan that will continue these efforts into 2021. Your support for the Public Health State of Emergency Declaration and subsequent statewide policy interventions to decrease disease transmission is vital. Additionally, there is a critical need to commit to funding local and state public health infrastructure to develop and carry out a coordinated strategic plan.

More urgently, we are specifically requesting state leaders work together to provide immediate appropriation of GPR until an ongoing source of COVID-specific funds is identified. We do not yet have a specific dollar amount, but Milwaukee County staff will reach out with a specific ask for our local health departments in the coming days.

Bayside - Brown Deer – Cudahy - Fox Point – Franklin – Glendale - Greendale
Greenfield - Hales Corners – Milwaukee - Milwaukee County - Oak Creek - River Hills - St. Francis
Shorewood - South Milwaukee – Wauwatosa - West Allis - West Milwaukee - Whitefish Bay

This GPR appropriation would pay for:

1. Increased testing capacity through development of a coordinated state and local strategic testing plan, including increased staffing at community testing sites and expanded testing availability.
2. Increased contact tracing capacity, specifically aimed at our schools and targeted concentrations of positive cases in our communities.
3. Increased staffing for case management of the increasing number of positive cases in the state and region.
4. We also ask you to commit to a specific amount of funding that will be made available to local governments through the Routes to Recovery program for community economic recovery.

Local governments are the chief strategists of the COVID-19 response in communities across the Wisconsin. Through our front-line agencies, we provide emergency response efforts, testing and contact tracing services, mental health and housing services, and support to the aging population of our communities, all while working to support the economic recovery of our region.

The Intergovernmental Cooperation Council has already called on Congress to act quickly to provide substantial additional direct and flexible investments to the local governments who remain steadfast partners in restoring our public and economic health. We now call on our state officials to act, as well. Congress has appropriated specific funding to support the COVID-19 response at state and local governments, and local health departments. The state has made those resources available to municipal governments, local health departments, and emergency management agencies. As you know those funds must be spent by year-end.

Local governments, health departments, and emergency management agencies in Milwaukee County have exhausted our resources responding to the pandemic. Without additional assistance, we will be unable to conduct the basic mitigation and prevention efforts critical to addressing the pandemic. We need your help.

Respectfully,

The Members of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Council of Milwaukee County



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Mayor Bryan Kennedy – Glendale, ICC Chair

Mayor Stephen Olson - Franklin

Mayor Dan Devine – West Allis, ICC Vice Chair

Village President James Birmingham - Greendale

Mayor Michael Neitzke – Greenfield, ICC Treasurer

Village President Daniel Besson – Hales Corners

County Executive David Crowley– Milwaukee County

Mayor Tom Barrett – Milwaukee

Village President Eido Walny – Bayside

Mayor Dan Bukiewicz – Oak Creek

Village President Wanda Montgomery – Brown Deer

Village President Stephen Anderson – River Hills

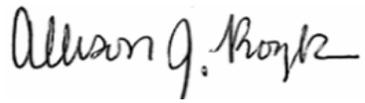
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