

Resolution: All cities, towns and villages in Vermont are essential, and Vermont local officials support fair and direct federal emergency aid to reopen and rebuild local American economies.

Whereas America's cities, towns and villages face unprecedented threats due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic emergency;

Whereas municipalities are essential to America's economic recovery and without funding support for local governments, municipalities may go from being a critical part of the economic solution, to becoming a major obstacle to long-term stabilization and recovery;

Whereas America's cities, towns and villages will experience budgetary shortfalls of up \$134 billion in fiscal year 2020 alone, and the negative effects of the pandemic emergency on communities will continue long after this year;

Whereas three million critical municipal worker jobs are at risk, threatening cuts to basic community services, including 9-1-1 response, sanitation, economy recovery and maintenance;

Whereas communities have taken extraordinary measures to protect health, safety, and the continuation of essential services throughout the emergency;

Whereas Vermont's municipal leaders are united in helping their communities make a strong comeback after experiencing furloughs among municipal staff, loss of direct municipal revenue and tremendous demand from residents and Main Street and other local businesses for assistance; and

Whereas America's rural communities and small towns, especially here in Vermont, are struggling just as much as big cities and risk being left far behind; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that

1. Vermont local officials call on Congress to allocate fair and direct federal support to all of America's communities, regardless of population size;
2. this funding be flexible and address not only the additional expenses incurred by communities to respond to the pandemic emergency, but also the dramatic budgetary shortfalls resulting from pauses in commerce, tourism, and other economic engines;
3. local governments will ensure federal funds are immediately used to rebuild and reopen the economy;
4. funding will keep workers employed and critical services operating; and
5. Vermont local officials have been part of the emergency response and now call on Congress to build a united national partnership for a safe, healthy, prosperous life.

Submitted by the Town of Richmond, VT

By its duly elected officials and adopted on June 15, 2020

David Sander
Selectboard Chair