



July 29, 2021

Dear County and City Leaders:

Thank you for your continued dedication to combatting COVID-19 and building a path towards economic and public health recovery. Though the state has maintained a low number of cases for a number of months, the recent numbers require renewed efforts on all of our parts. We are especially focused on amplifying the availability of vaccinations and the importance of other safe practices to ensure Texans can continue to make the best choices for themselves and their loved ones.

The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) and the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) stand ready to assist you to increase vaccination rates. We are currently increasing the number of vaccination events across the state. If your community would like testing or vaccination teams, drive-thru clinics, or other vaccination assistance, please let us know.

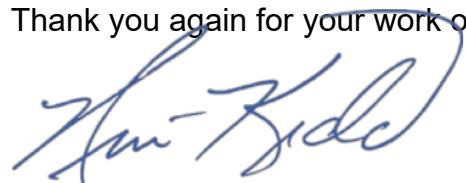
The increase in COVID cases, particularly the DELTA variant, has led to an increase in hospitalizations. As a result, the demands on the health care system will need additional resources. As we enter a new phase in the response to COVID in Texas, there are many resources and tools to assist that response, including community awareness, therapeutics, vaccines, as well as federal funding.

The federal funding for COVID response is substantial. The American Rescue Plan made significant funding available for all counties and cities in Texas through the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CLFRF). The Treasury Department has determined all of the eligible units of government and made the allocations for each based on population. Of the \$10.5 billion total allocated for Texas local governments, the Treasury Department sent \$5.7 billion directly to all 254 Texas counties and \$3.4 billion directly to 75 Texas cities, and the state will soon distribute the remaining \$1.39 billion to the Non-Entitlement Units (NEU), which are primarily cities with populations less than 50,000. The substantial funding from the CLFRF is available to support urgent COVID-19 response efforts to continue to decrease the spread of the virus, including enhanced staffing expenses at hospitals, and premium pay for essential workers. If you have trouble accessing these funds to arrange and pay for medical staff and hospitalization costs, please let us know.

As we send this letter, 43% of NEUs have completed their certification with TDEM to receive their CLFRF funds. We encourage any remaining NEUs to [complete the certification process](#) with the Texas Division of Emergency Management so that funds can be passed on to your government units in a timely manner. As previously noted, we will certify to draw down the CLFRF on August 2, and will begin distributing funds to those who have completed the process as soon as the funds are deposited.

Though the Treasury Department has ultimate oversight of these funds, Texans expect us to use their tax dollars judiciously. Given the significant amount of funding, these dollars provide an opportunity for both COVID-19 response discussed in this letter and any other allowable use the local government may be interested in as defined by the attached guidance provided by the US Treasury.

Thank you again for your work on behalf of Texans.



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