

# City of Palo Alto

*Office of the Mayor and City Council*

April 6, 2020

The Honorable Anna Eshoo  
United States House of Representatives  
202 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

*Re: Support for direct aid to cities of all populations in the next potential stimulus package*

Dear Representative Eshoo:

On behalf of the City of Palo Alto, I write to you to first thank you for your efforts in securing for the City almost \$300,000 in HUD funding, through H.R. 748 (the CARES Act), to address homelessness and affordable housing.

Second, I write regarding the eligibility of municipalities to directly receive assistance from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (Fund) that was recently established through the CARES Act. The legislative language that creates the Fund (Title IV, Sec. 601) raises significant concerns for the City of Palo Alto.

Specifically, the CARES Act states that only local governments serving populations over 500,000 are eligible for direct assistance through the Fund, which excludes our city. Municipalities across the country of all sizes have been disrupted by COVID-19. We all face new expenses and revenue loss as a result of the pandemic, leading to budgetary pressure unimagined even a few weeks ago. Ultimately, any relief from the Fund will come through the States, which have no mandate to distribute funds to cities.

If there is to be a fourth stimulus package, I urge you to include in it resources for the Fund that will be directly available to cities of all populations. Like other cities, Palo Alto is on the frontlines of addressing COVID-19 with our residents, businesses, and our own workforce. Our staff is working hard to assist residents, share ever-evolving information with businesses, craft new mandated policies for our employees, and all while collaborating with other localities in the region. As we work to help our community, it was disappointing to learn that we would be left out of the direct aid the federal government is sending to only large local governments. We hope any future stimulus package will address this inequity.

Thank you for your assistance and consideration of this important issue as we work to address COVID-19 in Palo Alto and across the country.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Adrian Fine  
Mayor, City of Palo Alto

Cc: Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi  
Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Senator Kamala Harris  
Palo Alto City Council  
Ed Shikada, Palo Alto City Manager