

CITIES ARE ESSENTIAL

The COVID-19 Recession

Without direct local aid, Americans will continue to fight this pandemic with both arms tied behind their backs.

According to a recent NLC member survey of **over 900** of America's cities, towns and villages, communities are facing fiscal crises with real, lasting human impact.

Of those negatively impacted by COVID



90%

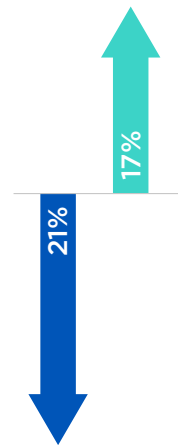
have experienced a revenue decrease this year.



76%

have experienced an expenditure increase due to COVID.

This includes the cost of PPE and paying essential workers for overtime.



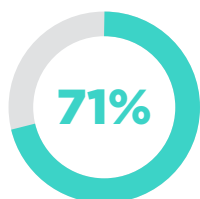
Expenditures

On average, expenditures increased by 17%.

Revenues

On average, revenues decreased by 21%.

The problems of this pandemic will not just go away. We need federal action to put America on the road to economic recovery.



71% of Cities, Towns and Villages believe their government's condition will worsen if Congress does not pass another stimulus.

More than half of all American cities, towns and villages indicated they believe their government's economic outlook includes significant challenges in providing needed services to residents.

Only **7% of cities** that received CRF funds indicated that the funds adequately addressed their revenue shortfalls and unforeseen expenses.

How much longer must America's communities and families wait for federal relief? There is a lack of funding AND a lack of flexibility.

29%, or an estimated **6,000 Cities, Towns and Villages**, did not receive any aid or funding from the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund based on our survey results.



62% of cities did not receive ANY funds from a federal agency or program, including FEMA or HUD.



69% of cities indicated their financial health has been negatively impacted by COVID-19.

Our hometowns are struggling. The road to economic recovery runs through America's Cities, Towns and Villages.

90% of all American cities negatively impacted by COVID indicated they've experienced revenue decreases.

On average, revenue decreased by **nearly a fifth**.

Local leaders and economists have been **warning about economic catastrophe** for months.

The need for local relief isn't an issue based on ideology, population size or geographic location. This is America's issue.

Democratic and Republican Congressional districts made it clear that the coronavirus pandemic is **hurting their residents equally**.

The vast majority of local elections are nonpartisan – local leaders are committed to their residents' issues and concerns **regardless of party affiliation**.

Cities of all sizes will face **significant challenges** in providing the fundamental services their residents rely on every day:



89% of Large Cities



71% of Mid-sized Cities



52% of Small Cities

Congress must prioritize a new emergency package to address the immediate need for local budget relief for communities of all sizes BEFORE adjourning this year.

For nearly a year, local governments have taken bold action to meet their duties and obligations despite substantial unanticipated expenditures and losses.

Americans are calling on Congress and the Administration to **help communities maintain essential operations** and protect public health and safety in the face of the pandemic.

Methodology: NLC's member survey was conducted between November 11 and November 20, 2020, with 901 individual cities responding. Responses divided evenly between Democratic and Republican districts and represented 49 states and the District of Columbia. Large cities = 300,000+; Mid-size cities = 50,000-299,999; Small cities = less than 50K

Learn more www.nlc.org/CitiesAreEssential