

August 15, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker McCarthy, Leader Schumer, Leader Jeffries and Leader McConnell:

I am writing on behalf of the National League of Cities (NLC) to urge you to prioritize and expedite the approval of emergency supplemental appropriations for disaster relief funding. The current situation demands swift action to ensure the safety and well-being of our communities across the nation.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has recently issued a statement that has sent shockwaves through the emergency response community. According to their latest estimates, FEMA's disaster assistance funds are perilously close to depletion. If current trends persist, these funds are projected to be completely exhausted by the end of August, leaving a staggering \$10 billion deficit by the close of September. This alarming scenario would severely undermine our nation's ability to effectively respond to and recover from disasters, putting countless lives and communities at risk.

Furthermore, on August 10th, President Biden submitted a request to Congress for supplemental appropriations, with a focus on critical areas such as Ukraine, federal disaster funds, and border and migration concerns. The \$12 billion for federal disaster funds is particularly relevant to our request. This funding is urgently needed to address the recent surge in natural disasters that have wreaked havoc across our nation. The onslaught of devastating wildfires in Hawaii and other western states, intensifying heatwaves leading to potential droughts, and a series of extreme weather events affecting the Midwest and East Coast have pushed our local government emergency response and recovery systems to their limits.

Our local communities are bearing the brunt of these disasters, and they require substantial financial support to respond to and recover from the aftermath effectively. The strain on resources, infrastructure, and personnel has been unprecedented. Without immediate and sufficient funding, the road to recovery for these communities will be prolonged and fraught with challenges.

By providing the necessary emergency supplemental appropriations, you will not only alleviate the immense financial burden faced by local governments but also ensure our communities' safety,

security, and resilience. Timely assistance will expedite recovery efforts, bolster emergency response capabilities, and safeguard the lives and livelihoods of our constituents.

The National League of Cities stands ready to work alongside you in addressing this critical issue. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We eagerly anticipate your leadership and dedication to securing the necessary funding for disaster relief. Together, we can help our communities rebuild and thrive in the face of adversity.

If you have any questions, please contact Yucel Ors, NLC's Program Director for Public Safety, at (202) 626-3124 or via email at [ors@nlc.org](mailto:ors@nlc.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clarence E. Anthony', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Clarence E. Anthony  
CEO and Executive Director  
National League of Cities