

Timeline of Senator Manchin's efforts to support local governments during COVID-19 pandemic

March 23, 2020: Senator Manchin spoke on the Senate floor advocating for funding for states and hospitals at the front line of responding to the crisis. At the time, Senate Majority Leader McConnell had released a first draft of what would become the *CARES Act*, which did not include any direct funding for states.

March 27, 2020: Congress passed the *CARES Act*, which thanks to Senator Manchin's efforts included \$150 billion for the Coronavirus Relief Fund for states to respond to the crisis, with funds distributed based on population and a small state minimum of \$1.25 billion.

April 16 & 20, 2020: West Virginia received \$1.25 billion in two installments.

April 17, 2020: Senator Manchin led 32 Senators in a letter to Senate Majority Leader McConnell and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin advocating for funding for local and state governments in the next COVID-19 relief package.

April 22, 2020: Treasury Department released the initial guidance on how states can use funds provided through the Coronavirus Relief Fund, restricting their ability to use these funds to address revenue shortfalls.

April 26, 2020: Senator Manchin joined 46 Senators in a letter to Treasury Secretary Mnuchin urging him to revise guidance to allow states and local governments to use funds received through the *CARES Act* to cover revenue shortfalls.

May 6, 2020: Senator Manchin joined Senator Gillibrand and others in introducing the *Direct Support for Communities Act* to provide local governments with direct federal relief through a formula based on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

May 7, 2020: Senator Manchin sent a letter to House and Senate leadership advocating for priorities for the next COVID-19 response package, calling on them to remove restrictions on funding for local governments.

May 12, 2020: House Democrats released the *HEROES Act*, a \$3 trillion COVID-19 package that among other things includes \$915 billion in funding for state and local governments, including \$500 billion to states, \$375 billion to localities, and \$40 billion to tribal governments and territories, as well as language clarifying that all new and previous allocations may be used to offset revenue shortfalls.

May 18, 2020: Senator Manchin joined Senators Menendez and Cassidy in introducing the *SMART Act*, which will provide \$500 billion in funding for states, municipalities, and counties to address the COVID-19 crisis through a formula based on population, infection rates, and lost revenue.

May 21, 2020: Senator Manchin spoke with Secretary Mnuchin to clarify that the funding provided through the Coronavirus Relief Fund can be used to cover eligible salaries and benefits of public safety, public health, and similar employees who are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

May 29, 2020: U.S. Treasury Department released additional guidance that states should transfer funding allocations to local governments within the state with a population of 500,000 or less in the same manner that funding was distributed to local governments over 500,000.