



## **News from Livingston County, NY**

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### **Livingston County Calls on Federal Government to Protect Jobs and Services**

**Geneseo, NY, September 1, 2020** – Livingston County continues to call on Washington, DC to consider funding for state and local governments through the various stimulus packages under consideration. “Counties have been on the frontline of the COVID-19 response since the very beginning of the crisis,” stated Livingston County Administrator Ian M. Coyle. “We have had to quickly mobilize in order to help contain the spread of the virus while still providing essential services to our residents – public health and safety, emergency operations, child protection, elder care, infrastructure maintenance and small business assistance – just to name a few. As I have said many times, all we are asking for is ‘essential funding for essential services.’ Airlines, small businesses and other enterprises, and I would say rightly so, have been in some ways provided Federal relief. Yet county governments – in terms of direct and flexible aid – have been left out.”

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Livingston County and its peers from across the state are faced with an “economic quadruple threat” of:

- A projected revenue loss of \$14 million statewide
- Higher spending in response to the public health emergency
- Looming cuts of up to 20% in state reimbursement for state-mandated programs
- The loss of jobs, tourism and business activity

Counties are beginning to see temporary cuts to some of their critical programs as New York State works to close its hefty budget gap. Without federal aid, these cuts may become permanent and may grow beyond the floor of 20%.

Livingston County officials are urging President Trump and congressional leaders to seek consensus and develop a plan that provides states and local governments of all sizes with the direct and flexible aid they need to protect and maintain vital services.

“Counties are experiencing a perfect storm of financial stressors – skyrocketing costs and plummeting revenues – because of the COVID-19 crisis. We are encouraging direct and flexible funding to all counties of all sizes so our employees can continue to protect the health and safety of our residents,” said Coyle. “The various plans floating around Washington, DC have bipartisan support, a rarity in these times. It shows the importance of this issue and highlights the severity of the situation.”

For more information on Livingston County’s request for flexible Federal dollars, please contact the County Administrator’s office at 585-243-7040.

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