



April 15, 2020

To: Colorado Local Governments

Re: DLG's Relief Package

Hello,

Thank you for your partnership and collaborative efforts over the last several weeks as we deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. Looking forward during these unprecedented times, DOLA is developing solutions to support you in planning, housing, long-term recovery, and resilience. The Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) is partnering with local governments, state agency partners, and the philanthropic community to develop resources to address needs and make plans for how to best support your long-term recovery.

DOLA is focused on what the future will look like for Colorado communities and how to make strategic changes and coordinated actions for everyone. The initial plan includes DOLA's Division of Local Government's programmatic support for transition from COVID-19 with deployment of technical assistance and a relief package to local governments. The following highlights the details of the package:

- The Colorado Resiliency Office (CRO) and your Regional Managers will develop long-term recovery efforts to help communities navigate state and federal resources to support the community needs.
 - We are coordinating the use of state resources to create streamlined funding, educational resources, and utilize staff time to help address COVID-19 issues across the state.
 - We are available to work with partners to hold regional workshops to support development of recovery roadmaps.
- Provide immediate access to financial assistance for relief and recovery through:
 - Expediting the Severance Direct Distribution by three months to assist you in receiving this revenue more quickly.
 - Colorado Main Street communities across the state will be able to access up to three years' of mini-grant funds and scholarship money to address critical projects related to downtown businesses' recovery.
- Focusing on long-term continuity of operations for local governments:
 - The CRO will participate and coordinate the COVID-19 Rural Economic Adaptation and Futures Committee to focus on strategies to build business and workforce resilience.
 - Colorado Main Street consultants will be available to support relief efforts and develop recovery strategies for downtown Main Street reactivation.
 - Providing technical assistance to help navigate fiscal uncertainty and determine a long term financial recovery plan.





- Reduce administrative reporting burdens with all programs by:
 - Extension of the current Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) status report deadline from March 31 to December 31, 2020.
 - Local governments will not have their property taxes ordered withheld for failing to file their adopted 2020 Annual Budget.

Finally, the DOLA team is evaluating how best to adjust the regular and upcoming Energy Impact Assistance Fund application cycles to be in position to better address the capital project needs the COVID-19 pandemic has presented to local governments. It is important to me to keep the lines of communication open as DOLA continues to respond to your needs. Please contact your DOLA Regional Manager with questions, concerns, and ideas regarding your community needs as we maneuver the recovery phase brought to us by this pandemic. We are here to assist you with recovery and getting back to our new normal as quickly as possible.

Best wishes and thank you for your partnership,

Rick M. Garcia
Executive Director

