



*Jim Justice*  
*Governor of West Virginia*

April 15, 2020

Barbour County Commission  
26 North Main Street  
Philippi, West Virginia 26416

Re: COVID-19 Pandemic County Block Grants

Dear Commissioners:

On Friday, April 10, 2020, I announced that—in addition to asking President Trump to allow state, county, and municipality expenses related to COVID-19 response activities to be reimbursed by the forthcoming federal funding—I would be issuing block grants in the amount of \$100,000 to each county in West Virginia to help pay extraordinary costs that your county and the municipalities within your county are incurring for the first responders and true soldiers right on the front lines of this pandemic.

Therefore, enclosed, please find a check in the amount of \$100,000 to be used to help pay for those extraordinary costs that your county and the municipalities within your county are incurring for the first responders and frontline soldiers fighting to stop the spread of this pandemic. This block grant funding, while first directed to your county for initial receipt of funds, should be shared with affected municipalities within your county.

As I said on Friday, the determination of how best to use this money is best made at the local level, but note that there is not unlimited discretion or latitude for how these funds may be used. These block grant funds may only be expended for purposes allowable under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (H.R. 748, the CARES Act), which means that these funds may only be used to cover expenses that:

- (1) are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (2) were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 (the date of enactment of the CARES Act) for your county or municipality; and
- (3) were or will be incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020.

These block grant funds are NOT meant to backfill local budgets or to pay ordinary expenses of the county or municipalities. Rather, these block grant funds are meant to help pay the extraordinary expenses being incurred in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in your county and the municipalities within your county, including, without limitation and by way of example only, overtime pay for law enforcement, paramedics, and other first responders; extraordinary emergency operations center costs; and costs of personal protective equipment procured in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Your county must provide to this Office an itemized accounting of the allowable expenses for which these block grant funds have been used for each month in which these block grant funds are expended by the county or the municipalities within your county. This itemized accounting should be directed to the attention of:

Office of the Governor  
Ann Urling  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
Charleston, WV 25305

I know and trust that these block grant funds will be a useful tool to local governments in making sure our first responders and frontline soldiers can effectively respond to this pandemic. I also know that these block grant funds are only one piece of the puzzle to fighting through this pandemic, and I will continue to work with our President and federal agencies to secure as much funding as possible to help our state, our counties, our cities, and our communities to respond to and recover from this awful pandemic.

Sincerely,



Jim Justice  
Governor