

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
S 230, U.S Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
S 221, U.S Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
H-232, U.S Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
H-204, U.S Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

On behalf of the thousands of communities, business owners, workers and constituents our members present in communities large and small across the nation, we thank you for your leadership and action in response to the public health and economic crises caused by COVID-19. Representing tourism, economic development, and main streets in communities of all sizes and backgrounds, our organizations are on the frontline of the economic crisis we face today. We deeply appreciate your work to address the economic crisis communities are facing through the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020. We ask that you continue to support the important role of economic development groups, destination marketing organizations, convention and visitors' bureaus, and the small towns, urban commercial districts and communities who are leading the economic recovery in their states. The federal response must remain substantial, sustained, and swift.

Specifically, we write to ask for additional resources for the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). The CARES Act provided EDA with \$1.5 billion in funding for assistance to communities responding to the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. EDA has rapidly deployed these resources through the Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program. We are seeing more communities than ever before access this funding to support their economies. It is clear now that a great and growing need to support our economic recovery requires an additional investment in EDA and we request \$2 billion for these efforts.

Since 1965, EDA has worked directly with local and regional stakeholders to address the economic needs of communities across the country. As you can see, EDA is well-positioned to assist communities as they respond to sudden and severe economic dislocations such as COVID-19. In fact, the National Disaster Response Framework identifies the EDA as the lead agency to assist communities with economic recovery following a disaster. We need to continue to provide funding and allow for the flexibility communities need to respond and recover from the current health pandemic. These efforts will be crucial to the recovery of our country.

We ask Congress to provide greater access to resources for economic development professionals as they lead their communities through both response and recovery efforts.

Thank you for your consideration of our requests. We look forward to working with you and your staff to help communities respond and recover.

Sincerely,

Destinations International (DI)

International Economic Development Council (IEDC)

National Association of Development Organizations (NADO)

Main Street America

Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP)