



**BILL LEE**  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF TENNESSEE

September 17, 2020

Mayor John Cooper  
Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County  
Metropolitan Courthouse  
Nashville, TN 37201

Mayor Cooper:

I am in receipt of your September 8 request for \$82.6 million from the State of Tennessee's Coronavirus Relief Fund award. I would note that this request comes despite the fact the Metro-Nashville area has benefitted from \$2.5 billion of the \$13 billion in Tennessee's COVID-19-related response funds, which at \$3,745 per resident ranks as the highest per capita relief of any other Tennessee county.<sup>1</sup> This includes \$121 million of Coronavirus Relief Fund payments directly to Metro-Nashville government, an amount subtracted from the State's initial CARES Act allocation from the United States Treasury.

I am sharing your original request and this response with my legislative branch partners in the Financial Stimulus Accountability Group, as your request would impact each of their constituencies as well. We have a responsibility for being good and equitable stewards of taxpayer funds for every Tennessean. Any additional funding provided by the State to Metro-Nashville would necessarily result in less funding available for the 94 remaining counties and it would also require us to roll back long-standing priorities for the unemployment insurance trust fund and direct economic relief for Tennessee businesses. My administration has avoided raising taxes in this time of crisis and we are working to significantly reduce recurring state budget outlays fiscal years 2021 and 2022. We also immediately prioritized the use of \$800 million of our Coronavirus Relief Fund award to support the fiscal health and stability of our unemployment insurance program, a decision that required us to set aside other priorities but was necessary to avoid a 300% unemployment tax increase on every employer in the state.

As for your specific request for additional funds, I am concerned that many of the spending decisions you have described may not account for significant federal and state expenditures that serve several of the needs outlined. While many of the expenditures you highlight are well-intentioned, the Coronavirus Relief Fund is most valuable as a last-resort for COVID-19

---

<sup>1</sup> See Financial Stimulus Accountability Group CARES Act Award Public Dashboard at <https://www.tn.gov/finance/looking-for/cares-act-awards-.html>

expenses that cannot be met by other program sources. Those concerns and questions are enclosed.

Indeed, I must share my deep concern that, of the \$93 million in Coronavirus Relief Fund dollars spent to date by your administration, only \$5.7 million has been budgeted for relief to businesses. This concern is heightened by the ongoing challenges ahead for Nashville business owners who have already endured some of the most restrictive limitations on commercial activity, as well as a recently enacted property tax increase.

We do acknowledge the challenge of responding to the pandemic, but my administration has sought to find a more appropriate balance and make decisions based on data while providing resources and guidance for businesses to operate safely. As part of that effort, we have set aside over \$300 million for direct economic relief to businesses affected by the April restrictions.

With that in mind, I respectfully request that you re-prioritize your Coronavirus Relief Fund budget to reflect our shared commitment to economic recovery and allocate the full remainder of your unbudgeted \$27.3 million towards economic relief for businesses. This would match the state's investment of \$26 million in Tennessee Small Business Relief Program payments to Davidson County businesses. I would also strongly encourage you to consider and weigh the impact that locally imposed restrictions will have on the prospects for Nashville's future.

I agree that Nashville's pace of recovery is influential to Tennessee's economic recovery, and I appreciate your partnership towards achieving this shared goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Lee", with a stylized, cursive script.

Bill Lee  
Governor of Tennessee

Attachment A

Non-Exhaustive List of State and Federal Support for Metro-Nashville

<b><u>Payments Supporting Health and Social Safety Net Services within Davidson County</u></b>	<b><u>\$376,695,312</u></b>
Child and Adult Care Food Program (providers)	\$903,837
Child Care and Development Fund (providers)	\$36,944,310
COVID-19 Behavioral Health Care Response Funds (non-profits)	\$162,726
Emergency Food Assistance Program (2 <sup>nd</sup> Harvest Food Bank)	\$1,144,000
Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (non-profits)	\$80,961
HHS Provider Relief Fund (for medical providers)	\$290,642,546
Immediate Crisis Counseling Program (Centerstone of Tennessee)	\$202,150
Sexual Assault Services Formula Grant Program	\$18,387
Summer Food Service Program (non-profits)	\$2,777,905
TennCare Relief Payments (Behavioral Health Care Providers)	\$422,184
TennCare Relief Payments (Community Mental Health and SUD providers)	\$1,113,694
TennCare Relief Payments (Home and Community Based Services Providers)	\$776,401
TennCare Nursing Home Payments	\$1,889,854
Tennessee Community CARES Program (144 local non-profits)	\$33,369,614
FEMA Public Assistance Claims for PPE	\$528,932
FEMA Public Assistance Claims for Non-PPE expenses	\$717,811
Metro Drive-Thru Testing Invoices Paid by State	\$300,000 <sup>3</sup>
Metro Drive-Thru Testing Invoices in Process	\$5,000,000

---

<sup>3</sup> This is in addition to the Department of Health's in-kind contributions to Nashville's health response, including the monitoring/tracing of over 3200 individuals by state TDH staff.

<b>Payments Supporting Economic Relief for Employers within Davidson County</b>	<b>\$1,380,894,374</b>
---	------------------------

Airport Improvement Program (BNA)	\$54,963,454
Airport Improvement Program (John C. Tune)	\$69,000
EDA Recovery Assistance Funds (Greater Nashville Regional Council)	\$3,139,000
Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds	
Nashville State Community College	\$4,689,356
TCAT Nashville	\$512,269
Tennessee State University	\$23,451,094
Paycheck Protection Program Loans (Over \$150k in size)	\$873,350,000
Paycheck Protection Program Loans (Under \$150k in size)	\$416,270,064
Federal and State Unemployment Insurance benefits (displaced workers)	\$825,992,232 <sup>4</sup>
State of Tennessee Business Relief Program	\$26,150,000 <sup>5</sup>
Tourism Industry Recovery Support (Destination marketing organization)	\$4,450,137

<b>Payments to Government Entities within Davidson County</b>	<b>\$224,296,769</b>
---	----------------------

Coronavirus Relief Fund payment (Metro Govt) <sup>6</sup>	\$121,000,000
Education and Secondary School Relief (Metro Nashville Public Schools) <sup>7</sup>	\$26,007,293
DOJ Bureau of Justice Assistance	\$1,551,648
DOT CARES Act §5307 Urbanized Area Apportionments <sup>8</sup>	\$75,737,828

<sup>4</sup> This represents over 16% of the state's unemployment insurance payments to date.

<sup>5</sup> This represents over 19% of the state's total Tennessee Business Relief Program payments to date,

<sup>6</sup> N.B: Along with the direct payment to Memphis and Shelby County, this amount was subtracted from the state's original allocation of \$2.648 billion (See Treasury Guidance on Eligibility of Local Governments, p.3, available at <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Census-Data-and-Methodology-Final.pdf>)

<sup>7</sup> This is over 10% of the state's total Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund award.

<sup>8</sup> Federal Transit Administration, Table 2, FY 2020 CARES Act Section 5307 Urbanized Area Apportionments, available at <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/apportionments/fiscal-year-2020-apportionment-tables-full-year>

## Attachment B

### Review of Nashville Coronavirus Relief Funds Spent to Date (Attachment 3 of Sept 8<sup>th</sup> Request)

Beginning Balance	\$121.1 million
Expended or Obligated	\$93.8 million
Remaining/Unobligated	\$27.3 million

### City's Emergency Response Expenditures from Nashville's Coronavirus Relief fund

Staffing and temp labor (OT, testing sites, homeless shelters, etc.)	\$24.8
Hazard pay for critical infrastructure employees	\$20.0
PPE, safety supplies, building prep, etc	\$6.5
TANS interest	\$2.6
Technology, remote work	\$1.5
Health Dept: At-Risk Plan, outreach, communications	\$1.4
Net impact of FEMA claim for COVID-eligible expenses	(\$8.0)
	\$48.8

#### Questions:

1. Staffing and temporary labor for emergency response are eligible for FEMA Public Assistance to the degree these costs are overtime costs or not covered within an existing budget item. Of the \$24.8 million budgeted here, how much is a direct reimbursement of the city's budgeted payroll for over-time labor costs and if so, why have those not been submitted to FEMA for public assistance reimbursement?
2. Hazard pay is a permissible expense for the Coronavirus Relief Fund but only when it can be shown that the employee performed "*hazardous duty or work involving physical hardship, in each case related to COVID-19.*" This is a narrow definition and "*across-the-board-hazard pay*" is specifically cited as an ineligible expense under current US Treasury guidance (FAQ #38.)<sup>9</sup> Accordingly, regardless of whether the employee is substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to COVID-19, only the hazard pay related to their COVID-19 specific duties is eligible for reimbursement using Coronavirus Relief Fund dollars. To help ensure uniform state compliance with these federal guidelines, please provide Metro's detailed and case-specific findings of physical hardship and relationship to COVID-19 that was used to justify each instance of hazard pay to support this \$20 million budget.
3. Similar to #1 above, PPE, safety supplies, and building prep may be eligible for FEMA Public Assistance. Of these expenses, what has been submitted for FEMA PA reimbursement?

<sup>9</sup> US Treasury, Coronavirus Relief Fund Frequently Asked Questions (Updated as of September 2, 2020), available at <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Coronavirus-Relief-Fund-Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf>

Support for Public School Children from Nashville's Coronavirus Relief fund

Laptops for all 3rd-12th graders & teachers	\$20.0
Nurses in every school (Sept - Dec)	\$2.0
Internet hotspots, service through 12/30/20	\$1.4
Translation support, other reserve for technology	\$0.6
	\$24.0

Questions:

1. Regarding the \$20 million budgeted for laptops for all 3<sup>rd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders and teachers can you please provide (a) an accounting or description of the impact of the \$26 million received from the US Department of Education under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund; and (b) an accounting or description of the impact of the one-third cost-share provided by the State of Tennessee Department of Education's through the District Technology Grant program launched on July 7, 2020?

Other Expenditures from Nashville's Coronavirus Relief fund

Rent, Mortgage and Utility Assistance	\$10.0
Small Business Grants and Technical Support	\$ 5.7
Essential Metro Services conducted through Nonprofits	\$ 2.8
Funding to Reduce Food Insecurity	\$ 2.5

Questions:

1. Rent, mortgage, and utility assistance falls within the eligible programming of activities supported by the State of Tennessee Community CARES program (overseen by DHS). What steps has Metro-Government taken to ensure these funds do not duplicate or overlap with the activities supported by the Community CARES Program, which includes 144 grant awards supporting over \$33 million in eligible programming administered by Davidson County non-profits?
2. The state has administered the following programs to address food insecurity statewide, with the amounts listed specifically benefitting Davidson county. How does this \$2.5 million add or complement each of the state activities in Davidson County listed below?
  - a. Child and Adult Care Food Program: \$903,837 to Nashville providers
  - b. Emergency Food Assistance Program: \$1,144,000 to 2nd Harvest Food bank
  - c. Summer Food Service Program: \$2,777,905 to providers and non-profits
3. What essential metro services are being conducted through non-profits funded with Coronavirus Relief Fund payments, and how are these services substantially dedicated to the city's COVID-19 response?



## **METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY**

**JOHN COOPER  
MAYOR**

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
METROPOLITAN COURTHOUSE  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37201  
PHONE: (615) 862-6000  
EMAIL: [mayor@nashville.gov](mailto:mayor@nashville.gov)**

September 11, 2020

Dear Friend:

Yesterday, I hand delivered the attached letter to Governor Lee requesting an additional \$23.5 million to assist Nashville's small businesses during this time of special emergency.

We know the requested amount will not be sufficient to mitigate the pain and disruption caused by the pandemic. We will continue to seek out opportunities to secure additional funding in the coming months. Our administration has worked prudently and swiftly address Nashville's legacy financial challenges as well as to deploy CARES Act funds received to date. However, the financial needs of our county during the pandemic are almost unimaginable. We want to help you through this very difficult period.

Nashville's international entertainment and hospitality brand is dependent upon a vibrant, diverse ecosystem. Our music industry alone employs 46,000, and many of those work in our 18,000 small and micro-businesses that have been completely shut down or that may remain hampered indefinitely. We know that many small businesses have had a difficult time accessing state and federal assistance, affording PPE and other safety measures, and addressing pressing financial concerns relating to rental and mortgage relief. We want to help.

Thank you for the important work you do every day. We strive to be a good and worthy partner for you in your work. You have my gratitude.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "John Cooper", is positioned above the printed name.

John Cooper  
Mayor of Nashville





## METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

JOHN COOPER  
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
METROPOLITAN COURTHOUSE  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37201  
PHONE: (615) 862-6000  
EMAIL: mayor@nashville.gov

September 8, 2020

Honorable Bill Lee, Governor of Tennessee  
State Capitol, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
600 Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Blvd.  
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Governor Lee,

**Tennessee's economic recovery begins in Nashville. Right now.** Tennessee's economy relies heavily on Nashville, and Nashville's economy relies heavily on the hospitality and entertainment industry, which has been crushed by COVID-19. As evidence of the bruising impact of COVID-19 on our local finances, we note that Nashville's hotel and short-term rental occupancy tax revenues have dropped by more than 80%. Similar revenue crashes affect Nashville's air travel and bar and restaurant revenues. The State of Tennessee will feel that same impact on the \$377 million in annual sales taxes collected from Davidson County tourism in 2019.

In its first year, our administration has demonstrated its ability to prudently and swiftly address Nashville's legacy financial challenges as well as deploy CARES Act funds (CRF) received to date. However, Nashville requires a robust, speedy federal and state response in order to effectively jumpstart its economy, and the economy of the entire state along with us.

To assist Nashville in addressing its near-term needs and poise it to recover swiftly, we are requesting an additional \$82.6 million in relief funds to assist Nashville with a portion of its response through the end of the calendar year. Critical local services are overwhelmed while Nashville's ability to meet those needs is impeded by insufficient local tax revenues generated by Nashville's previously booming hospitality and entertainment economy.

The remainder of this letter, and the attachments hereto, will set forth:

1. Our current, urgent needs necessitating our request for a \$82.6 million allocation of the State's CRF;
2. A description of our ongoing emergency response costs for which Nashville will shoulder the burden unless additional funds are made available; and
3. A summary of our prudent, strategic use of federal funds to date.

Nashville's pace of recovery will determine the trajectory of Tennessee's economic recovery, and we seek to work with you to achieve those shared goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Cooper", written over a horizontal line.

John Cooper  
Mayor of Nashville





## METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

JOHN COOPER  
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
METROPOLITAN COURTHOUSE  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37201  
PHONE: (615) 862-6000  
EMAIL: mayor@nashville.gov

1. **Current, Urgent, Unfunded Needs - \$82.6 million** (See Attachment 1).

**a. Supplemental Relief for Tourism-Related Businesses - \$35.2 million.** Tourism in Nashville contributed \$377 million in sales tax revenue to the State in 2019. Nashville's international entertainment and hospitality brand is dependent upon a vibrant, diverse ecosystem of creative enterprises, restaurants, and non-profit organizations dedicated to music, arts, and culture. However, the core businesses of "Visit Music City" are reeling and at risk of permanent harm without intervention. They need additional resources to protect staff and to welcome the world back to a safe, healthy Nashville.

- **Legendary Venues and Keeping Music Alive - \$11.7 million.** Nashville's major tourism non-profits, such as the Country Music Hall of Fame (1.29 million visitors in 2019), Nashville Symphony (646,000 visitors), Zoo (1.26 million visitors), and the Frist Center for the Arts (359,000 visitors), form the backbone of the entire arts and culture ecosystem for Nashville and the region. Similarly, Nashville's live music venues draw tourists from around the world to hear world-class music in Tennessee. While some of these arts and entertainment venues are completely shut down, the remainder are open with attendance down 80-90%. We are seeking \$11.7 million to shore up these core non-profits, to assist live music venues, and to put musicians safely back to work.
- **Restaurants and Hotels - \$23.5 million.** Our internationally acclaimed hospitality industry employs more than 150,000 people from Davidson County and surrounding counties in the 2501 restaurants and 246 hotels in Nashville. While revenues at these businesses have plummeted by 60-80%, health mandates require that they provide PPE to staff and modify their facilities and practices to protect staff well-being and to foster public trust. Frequent and rapid testing is also key to keeping these establishments open safely. While welcomed by responsible establishments eager to reassure the public that "open for business" means "open safely for business," these measures are costly.
  - i. We seek State assistance in saving these core businesses. Specifically, we propose a fund to help assist our restaurants and hotels so that Nashville can once again welcome the world to Music City.
  - ii. Our homeless population has grown considerably due to COVID-19. Our shelters have reduced capacity and many more homeless residents are seeking shelter and assistance in our downtown core. Our hard-hit tourism economy is struggling to effectively address the needs of our homeless population and the pandemic simultaneously. In order to provide meaningful services to this vulnerable population and to enhance the recovery of our tourism economy, we seek the State's assistance with these needs.

**b. Expanded Relief for Small and Micro-Business Assistance - \$33.5 million.** Nashville's international entertainment and hospitality brand is dependent upon a vibrant, diverse ecosystem of creative enterprises, restaurants, and non-profit organizations dedicated to music, arts, and culture. Our music industry alone employs 46,000, and many of those work in our 18,000



## METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

JOHN COOPER  
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
METROPOLITAN COURTHOUSE  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37201  
PHONE: (615) 862-6000  
EMAIL: [mayor@nashville.gov](mailto:mayor@nashville.gov)

small and micro-businesses that have been completely shut down or that may remain hampered indefinitely.

- **Small and Micro-Business COVID-19 Relief - \$23.5 million.** Small businesses and Mom-and-Pop businesses have had a difficult time accessing state and federal assistance. While 6,785 of our small businesses qualified for the State's small business relief program, many need additional support to sustain them during this extended pandemic. We are seeking to assist these businesses with PPE and other safety measures, to provide some rent/mortgage assistance, and to provide a measure of help with lost operational revenues due to restricted capacity.
- **Arts - \$10 million.** An additional 16,000 Nashvillians work for music, arts, and cultural organizations. Those entities generate \$50 million in state and local tax revenues annually. These arts organizations provide direct services to more than 100,000 school children each year, and they are hurting. Some will not survive.

**c. Expanded Social Safety Net – \$13.9 million.** While certain sectors of the social safety net are receiving the resources they need to respond adequately to the pandemic and to the needs of 100,000 unemployed Nashvillians, other sectors are not receiving critical resources. Stretched pre-COVID-19, the pandemic is highlighting the weaknesses in essential services that are critical to our speedy recovery:

- **Behavioral Health - \$5.2 million.** The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered brutally high levels of behavioral health distress that are exacerbating our public health crisis. Fatal overdoses are up 42% over last year's rates, with an average of eleven deaths *per week*. Requests for mental health counseling for children have doubled during the pandemic. Depression and anxiety screening requests are up more than 370% since January. Telemedicine behavioral health therapies have increased from 2% to 85% as a result of the pandemic and they are working. The long-term financial and societal implications for schools, employers, law enforcement, and our State of failing to address the current mental and behavioral health crisis are well documented. A minimum of \$5.2 million is urgently needed to expand services to children and adults so that they are prepared for work and school.
- **Workforce Development - \$5 million.** Nashville's unemployment has leaped from 2.4% in February to 12.1% now. This quintupling of unemployment, together with a shift to remote and automated work, will permanently displace many of our most vulnerable, low-skilled workers. To address this, Metro seeks to bolster existing workforce development efforts, but also to implement a rational, comprehensive, and effective structure to rapidly assist with job training and job placement. Employers of good-paying jobs are calling our office weekly for this assistance and we can provide it with additional resources.
- **Childcare/Distance Learning - \$2 million.** 42% of Nashville families lived in a childcare desert *before* Covid, and that statistic has only become worse during the pandemic. Numerous centers have closed or dramatically reduced capacity, despite state and federal efforts. The YMCA typically provides childcare to 2,000 Metro school children during the summer. This summer, they could only serve 700 children. We are seeking to grow the number of childcare centers as well as to increase the capacity of currently licensed providers. We also seek your



## METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

JOHN COOPER  
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
METROPOLITAN COURTHOUSE  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37201  
PHONE: (615) 862-6000  
EMAIL: mayor@nashville.gov

assistance for a pilot program that would temporarily modify regulatory measures applicable to childcare centers.

Alarming, recent reports indicate that more than 3,500 MNPS students are not logging into school daily. As a result, our remote learning necessitates the creation of safe study/learning spaces where children can readily access suitable technology under the supervision of caring, capable adults. Without this intervention, these most vulnerable children will fall further behind. The Nashville Afterschool Zone Alliance has a program in place but cannot serve those seeking the service due to lack of funds.

- **Interpersonal Violence - \$1.3 million.** In the first half of 2020, Nashville has seen a 250% increase in domestic violence homicides, a 280% increase in requests for telephonic and in-person advocacy assistance for victims of domestic violence by advocates at our community based Family Safety Center, and a 30% increase in professional partners needing additional domestic violence prevention and response training. We attribute this to pandemic-related difficulties for victims accessing services. The assistance requested here would enable the hiring of four case managers, four therapists, and one professional development trainer to undertake a robust public education and outreach campaign. This also will provide significant additional funding to nonprofits to partner with Metro to provide the services at scale.
- **Eviction Mediation - \$0.3 million.** Thousands of evictions are expected in Nashville as eviction moratoria expire. In order to reduce the numbers of evictions (and the ensuing long-term consequences to tenants of an eviction history), we propose providing free mediation services to landlords and tenants. While the goal of mediation would be to prevent evictions (and ensuing homelessness) by establishing a viable payment path for landlords and tenants, mediation can also devise a move-out and re-payment plan without a formal court-ordered eviction. This will go a long way toward ensuring that our struggling families will eventually be able to secure new housing and avoid homelessness. The funds requested here would enable the hiring of four trained mediators by Nashville Conflict Resolution Center.
- **Pandemic Indigent Burial Assistance - \$0.3 million.** Sadly, no more needs to be said here.

In summary, immediate financial assistance is imperative to jump-start our economy, save our hard-won and easily-lost brand, and preserve the tax revenues on which Nashville, and indeed the entire State, rely. Without the robust tax revenues generated by Nashville's tourism and entertainment industries, Tennessee's low-tax attractiveness will be imperiled.

### **2 A Summary of our Ongoing Emergency Response Costs for which Nashville will Shoulder the Burden Unless Additional Funds are Made Available – \$169.1 million.** (See Attachment 2).

Our existing \$121 million CRF allocation is covering only about 40% of our current and projected CRF-eligible expenses. When our urgent needs described in Section 1 of this letter are included, our CRF allocation totals only 32% of our urgent pandemic response costs. We need help.



## METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

JOHN COOPER  
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
METROPOLITAN COURTHOUSE  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37201  
PHONE: (615) 862-6000  
EMAIL: mayor@nashville.gov

Attachment 2 sets forth our on-going pandemic response projected costs. It is daunting.

We know that the challenges of our community will not go away on December 30th when the use of federal funds expires. The secondary impacts of this virus will be far reaching and long lasting. We are eager to get our residents back to work and school and to return Nashville to its role as the economic engine for our State.

### **3 A Summary of Our Use of Federal Funds to Date - \$93.8 million.** (See Attachment 3).

**Nashville has mounted an integrated, robust, compassionate emergency response to the pandemic. We have been careful stewards of our direct allocation of CRF funds.** While Nashville accounts for 10% of Tennessee's population, 17.2% of Tennessee's COVID-19 cases have been reported here. While maddeningly high, a potentially catastrophic loss of life was averted due to our assertive public health response. The public health measures we have taken have constrained parts of our economy in order to preserve the health of our residents and maintain our regional hospital capacity. Nashville's medical centers have been able to serve COVID-19 patients from across the Middle Tennessee region and beyond because Metro Nashville's public health actions prevented our hospitals from being overwhelmed. **We are proud to report our efforts to date:**

- **Emergency Staffing and PPE- \$51.3 million.** Nashville has conducted over 200,000 COVID-19 tests. As a city government, we have facilitated mass testing by operating three assessment sites in addition to mobile testing, operating phone hotlines, and encouraging residents to get tested. Nashville's focused, comprehensive approach to our pandemic response includes labor costs and hazard pay for more than 3,000 critical infrastructure employees who are exposed to coronavirus in their daily duties. These workers include our first responders as well as temporary staff at our testing sites and emergency homeless shelters. We also are incurring substantial overtime pay for our public safety and public health workers.
- **Education - \$24 million.** Nashville has committed \$24 million to support distance learning for pupils in traditional public schools and charter schools. Metro also has committed to provide extra nurses in schools when students resume in-person instruction. With the assistance of the State grant and these Metro funds, MNPS will be able to provide a laptop to all students in grades 3-12, as well as to teachers. 17,000 students without internet access will be provided that access. Metro also is covering approximately \$10M in PPE needs for schools in a separate filing to FEMA.
- **Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Assistance - \$10 million.** With nearly 100,000 Davidson County residents unemployed, the need for rent, mortgage, and utility assistance has skyrocketed.
- **Small Business Assistance Fund - \$5.7 million.** With more than 18,000 employees, small businesses undergird Nashville's economy. Their limited access to capital and dependence on weekly cash flow constrain their ability to adapt to the financial whipsaw of this pandemic. It is our sincere hope that this modest fund, together with supplemental technical support, will help many businesses survive the pandemic and come out stronger. This fund is modeled after and will complement the State Small Business Relief Fund.



## METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

JOHN COOPER  
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
METROPOLITAN COURTHOUSE  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37201  
PHONE: (615) 862-6000  
EMAIL: [mayor@nashville.gov](mailto:mayor@nashville.gov)

- Non-Profit Assistance to Extend our Public Health Response - \$2.8 million. We have provided existential financial assistance to critical nonprofit partners such as the Sexual Assault Center and YWCA, that are experiencing increased demand for critical services due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Food Security - \$2.5 million. This additional funding to Second Harvest to help ensure our residents will not go hungry. In a collaborative approach, local non-profits, religious congregations, and Metro Nashville departments are working together to provide food boxes, hot meals, school lunches, and community refrigerators to Nashvillians in need. We are reaching young and old, marginalized communities, and the disabled.
- Needs Assessment and Response - \$0.5 million. We have partnered with The Equity Alliance to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the needs of our communities of color that have been particularly hard hit by the pandemic. Based upon preliminary findings, we have committed to the \$10 million in rent/mortgage and utility assistance as well as \$2.5 million in food assistance described above. These latter two allocations are made in accordance with various [Metro Council resolutions](#) and with the "Our Fair Share" needs assessment, which was produced in partnership between the Mayor's Office and The Equity Alliance. The assessment was produced by surveying historically underserved communities in Nashville to ensure that the needs of Black and Brown residents, people experiencing homelessness, and minority-owned small businesses are equitably represented in the consideration of CARES Act distributions.