



Council District 8
Manny Peláez

Federal & State Government Relations Working Group – COVID Response
Co-Chairs: Commissioner Kevin Wolff, Councilman Manny Peláez

Meeting Summary
April 20, 2020

Contact Information:

Chief of Staff, Lauren Mandel - 713-859-2487, lauren.mandel@bexar.org

Chief of Staff, Pat Wallace - 210-454-1474, pat.wallace@sanantonio.gov

Five Strategic Goals:

- Identify existing City/County revenue streams that have new “added” dollars
- Identify newly established revenue streams that don’t have an existing pipeline
- Categorize dollars based on the other committees
- Track all revenue streams to include dollar amounts and destination of allocations
- Create a communications system with other committees in order to best disseminate information

Overall Goal: To acquire as much funding as possible for San Antonio/Bexar County and have a solid plan in place for distribution.

Ground Rules: For the sake of expediency, it’s important to allow our city and county staffs to focus on the work at hand as well as managing the lobbyists and reporting to our group with updates or challenges. If you have ideas or suggestions, please send them to our Chiefs of Staff (Lauren Mandel or Pat Wallace).

COSA & County Updates:

Sally Basurto – City of San Antonio

§ Stimulus Funding Tracker update

- Education Stabilization Fund, the State of Texas allocation will be approximately \$307 million. Public, private, charter schools and institutions of higher education are eligible for funding. The U.S. Department of Education announced that governors will have great discretion and authority on how they roll out the funding and what the funding is spent on.
- FAA announced the grants for Airport, the allocations are as follows: San Antonio International Airport (\$39.7M); Stinson Airport (\$30K); Kelly Airfield (\$20K)

- National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) competitive grants, we identified 16 San Antonio arts organizations eligible to apply and prepared letters in support for their applications. This grant will help cover salaries, fees to artists, rent and utilities.
- GPA continues to be engaged in extensive collaboration with NLC and the U.S. Conference of Mayors in support of key city and community funding priorities.

The City’s priorities are as follows:

1. **Flexibility in the CARES Act, State and Local Relief Fund to allow local governments to cover revenue losses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic as allowable expenditures.**
2. **\$150 billion in additional funding for the State and Local Relief Fund for direct, flexible spending for local governments to address revenue losses related to COVID-19.**
3. **\$250 billion in additional funding for the SBA Paycheck Protection Program to include extended eligibility for nonprofits, local redevelopment agencies (LRA) and 501-C6 organizations.**
4. **\$100 billion in direct aid for hospitals.**

- In response to Councilwoman Viagran’s question last week, I confirmed that the San Antonio Chamber, the North Chamber and other local community partners sent letters to the SBA and Congress in support of extending PPP eligibility for 501-C6 entities. Additionally, the U.S. Hispanic Chamber also sent a support letter for 501-C6 eligibility for PPP.
- NLC and the NLC Board, Councilwoman Viagran is part of has been actively advocating for a COVID-19 stimulus package #4. NLC is advocating for inclusion of transportation infrastructure, water infrastructure and broadband infrastructure for the 4th package.
- In response to Councilman Perry’s remarks about the lack of CARES Act funding for veterans. I included details via the link below that provides information about the services covered through the CARES Act. It includes, housing, homelessness and healthcare and tele-health services.
- [CARES Act helping VA boost protections for Veterans](https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5415)
<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5415>

Melissa Shannon – Bexar County

Counties Priorities:

1. **Loss/Revenue due to property taxes**
2. **Reimbursement of all COVID expenses**
3. **Elections Assistance (Under the CARES Act, \$400 Million was allocated but the County’s portion was only \$136K)**
4. **Family’s First Corona Response Act covering FMLA and Payroll tax credits**

[Other Updates:](#)

Councilwoman Adriana Rocha-Garcia

- In the CARES Act, \$955M will be provided to existing grantees in the aging and disability networks.

- For Senior Living Facilities: \$100 million in the CARES Act for aging and disability networks and under Section 3222, additional funding includes an increase for home delivered meals and a waiver for dietary guidelines.
- \$85M in supplemental funding for Centers for Independent Living directed at immediate responses and safety needs
- There are great resources available through the National Council on Aging
- Overall, there's not much direct support yet for seniors and healthcare facilities caring for seniors, but there are some increases to programs and services. Healthcare facilities can apply for grants and reimbursements IF they are Medicare A providers.

Councilwoman Rebecca Viagran and Mayor Dennis:

- NLC estimates 76% of municipalities of 500K or greater will have to cut services and they anticipate that police departments will be affected.
- NLC is working with Sen. Schumer and Speaker Pelosi office to ensure Cities of all sizes will get direct relief from Federal Govt.
- Fighting for language that says any loss of revenue seen in Cities can be considered a “COVID Related Expense”.
- *See attached:* The Economy and Cities: WHAT AMERICA’S LOCAL LEADERS ARE SEEING

Councilman Perry

- The military is already covered by the federal government. Other than Veteran-owned businesses that qualify for SBA disaster loans, there is no specific Veterans funding. Keep in mind, Veterans are an at-risk population and Bexar county has the largest Veteran population of any county.

General Linderman (JBSA):

- CM Perry got it perfect. Not in need of any funding for the federal government. Can always use more for installations, but that’s always the case independent of COVID. The General is happy help the City and County.

Vic Boyer:

- VIA secured 93 Million from the federal government
- FAST act (Surface transportation reauthorization expires in September). There’s discussion of a \$2 trillion infrastructure bill (mixed opinions on whether this will pan out, but we are monitoring)
- State revenues streams are hurting and transportation projects may be delayed.

Action Items:

- CM Pelaez: We will combine City & County priority list for citywide lobbyists and distribute.
- Walter Serna: City & County should identify city & county losses; \$500 billion-dollar bipartisan bill is being sponsored by Menendez and Cassidy. The bill makes it allowable for state and local government to get lost revenues.
- John Hughes: Discuss unique needs of Veterans to target these areas and ask that the other working groups provide this direction.
- Kevin Wolff and CM Perry will talk to other military departments to get some specifics about the needs for Veterans.
- Noe Garcia: Think about alternatives for the future workforce; What will our city and county need moving forward and the strategy to recover?
- City and County will continue to monitor funding and lobbyists will begin to work from a priority list to take to the Hill.

- CW Rocha-Garcia: will work with partners like AACOG on leveraging advocacy for more resources, and to promote any opportunities to our seniors and senior living facilities/rehab centers/nursing homes, etc., that provide care for seniors.
- CW Viagran: Please contact the White House Intergovernmental Affairs representative for local governments, William Crozer at William.F.Crozer@who.eop.gov to share your own municipalities story.
- CW Viagran: Send the NLC COVID-19 Action Tracker to our working groups for them to review and gain insights. It is the most complete collection of municipal responses to COVID-19. The information was collected through active research and direct submissions from local leaders. <https://covid19.nlc.org/resources/covid-19-local-action-tracker/>
- **Updated Stimulus Tracker: *See attached.***

Next Meeting:

Monday, April 27th at 3pm. Summaries will be sent after every meeting.

Sally Basurto will be maintaining and sharing the main dashboard to all the working groups. Keep in mind, the document changes every day so it's imperative that we use the document for reference only and Sally will provide future updates during our meetings