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100 Washington Street
Boonton, NJ 07005

RESOLUTION 20-137

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN SUPPORTING DIRECT STABILIZATION FUNDING TO THE COUNTY OF MORRIS

WHEREAS, the County of Morris Board of Chosen Freeholders has adopted Resolution 2020-298 urging the State to provide funding to counties with populations of less than 500,000 in their efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and work to keep our constituents safe; and

WHEREAS, the County of Morris has to date been severely impacted by this virus with 309 residents who have lost their life thus far during this crisis; and

WHEREAS, due to this pandemic the County of Morris has had to undertake immediate plans of action to both identify those individuals infected with the virus and to initiate unanticipated costly yet critical strategic plans relative to the prevention of the continued spread of the virus inclusive of but not limited to:

- Initiated the Morris County Office of Emergency Management and Public Health Response staff efforts beginning in late February.
- Established outside COVID-19 testing sites at Morristown Medical Center, Chilton Hospital, Dover General Hospital, St. Clare's Hospital, and the Zufall Clinic helping to ensure that potentially infected individuals remain outside the perimeter of those critical facilities.
- Contracted with an Epidemiologist.
- Established a COVID-19 testing site at the County College of Morris last month with no support of personal protection equipment, testing kits, or other materials from the State of New Jersey as supplied to other Counties.
- Supported the needs of both the Atlantic HealthCare Hospital System and the Prime HealthCare Hospital System.
- Accepted and medically treated out of County adult inmates, juvenile offenders, and Children in Crisis, in the respective Morris County facilities, resulting in the spread of the virus within the County's Correctional Facility, Juvenile Detention and Youth Shelter operational staff, further resulting in significant staff illness, significant overtime costs, and significant sanitizing costs.
- Stretched professional resources beyond the realm of reasonability by serving as the Medical Examiner for three Counties.
- Required to accept over 60 COVID-19 positive residents of long-term care facilities from outside of Morris County as directed by the New Jersey Department of Health.
- Established multiple temporary morgues within the various hospitals.
- Responding to the increased demand and associated costs relative to the Morris County 911 Communication Center, processing over 8,132 calls since the initial Executive Order 104.
- Processing, responding to, and incurring the related costs to over 1,937 EMS emergencies of which 901 were determined to be potential COVID-19 responses, requiring full personal protection equipment since the beginning of the pandemic.
- Established and supporting temporary housing facilities for Community Based Human Service residential providers addressing the needs of the Homeless, Division of Developmental Disabilities, and Behavioral Health populations.
- Redirected the Senior Nutrition Program from a congregate and home delivered operation to solely home delivered operation, significantly increasing operational costs.
- Continuing to provide life sustaining transportation services via the County's paratransit program, placing staff at considerable risk as well as incurring significant sanitizing expenses relative to all transportation vehicles.
- Addressed the increased demand for Temporary Assistance services relative to increased applications for programs like Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), while dealing with reduced staff due to COVID-19 and office closures to sanitize their space.
- Because the Federal Government's emergency stockpile of personal protective equipment was depleted and understanding that the State would not be receiving further shipments, required us to expend exorbitant funds to purchase said personal protective equipment for local healthcare and first responder disciplines.
- Provided Emergency Funding to the four local Food Pantries that operate five days per week.
- Provided Hazard Pay to first responders and front-line staff.



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- Established a secure facility for homeless positive COVID-19 individuals who do not require hospitalization, to recover from the virus.
- Further, within this secure facility for homeless COVID-19 individuals, ensured the provision of medical, nutritional, transportation and social services; and

WHEREAS, \$3.44 billion has been allocated to the State New Jersey from the Coronavirus Relief Fund, established by the CARES Act, which was signed into law on March 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Fund provides a direct payment to the State of New Jersey, as well as provided over 1 Billion Dollars of direct payments to New Jersey counties with populations greater than 500,000 individuals; and

WHEREAS, Morris County, with a population that is just 1.6% below the threshold of 500,000, is not expected to receive a direct payment from the federal government, and thus will have to rely solely on a share of the state's allotment; and

WHEREAS, elected officials representing Morris County have expressed this inequity to the State of New Jersey.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Morris strongly urges the State of New Jersey to provide direct stabilization funding to Morris County from the Coronavirus Relief Fund in an amount consistent with the allocation made to counties that have populations slightly over 500,000, by utilizing the formula applied through the CARES Act. This funding is critical to Morris County's ability to continue its efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and work to keep our constituents safe.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal government adopt an aid funding threshold reflecting the true impact of COVID-19 for all future allocations, based on metrics indicative of the negative effects the virus has had on a jurisdiction and the level of actions taken to combat the threats.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Boonton, County of Morris and State of New Jersey support the County of Morris' Resolution. This resolution should be shared with the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and the Leaders of the United States Senate, and the Honorable Senators and Congressional Representatives from the State of New Jersey. This resolution should also be shared with the Governor of the State of New Jersey and New Jersey legislative representatives to the County of Morris. Additionally, the resolution should be shared with the New Jersey Association of Counties for distribution to all of the counties in the State of New Jersey, and to all of all of the mayors of municipalities within Morris County.

I, Cynthia A. Oravits, Clerk of the Town of Boonton, County of Morris, and State of New Jersey, hereby certifies this to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Boonton on May 18, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia A. Oravits", written over a horizontal line.

Cynthia A. Oravits, RMC
Town Clerk