



NYSAC

— NEW YORK STATE —
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

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October 3, 2023

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
New York State Senator
Leo O'Brien Building, Room 827
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Senator Schumer:

The counties of New York have long appreciated your dedication to local governments across the state and how you have championed so many of our causes over the years. You have worked tirelessly to make sure local governments in New York, and elsewhere, are not left behind in an emergency.

We are seeking your assistance again to provide federal resources to areas impacted by our broken immigration system. Today, New York counties are calling on federal representatives to provide resources nationwide for local communities managing large influxes of migrants and asylees. The federal government provides Impact Aid to certain school districts whose ability to provide services is negatively impacted by the actions of the federal government, such as the removal of federal government property from property tax rolls. With this request, we are asking you and your congressional colleagues to expand this Impact Aid to include the counties, school districts, cities and other localities that are currently addressing the large influxes of migrants and asylees across the country.

The large influx of migrants and asylees is a direct result of the federal government's unwillingness or inability to fix our outdated federal immigration laws. The lack of action by federal officials to fix the broken immigration system has simply shifted the burden onto local governments and school districts across the nation. Congress must act, and if they can't or won't, then they need to expand the impact aid to be available to the local jurisdictions that are bearing the brunt of their inaction.

Until such time that the federal government resolves this federally created crisis, this is one way that Congress can provide sufficient resources on a formula basis to all communities impacted by the federal lack of action to date. Local taxpayers and communities should not be left alone in handling this responsibility.

Your commitment to local governments has been a financial lifeline for decades to counties and New York City, starting with your efforts to ensure additional federal Medicaid resources provided to states during economic crisis were shared with county taxpayers that pay part of the bill. You also ensured federal resources flowed directly to counties during the COVID-19 crisis. These funds provided the resources we needed to maintain essential services during the public health emergency. They are also being used to bolster our economic recovery and lay the foundation for economic opportunity for generations to come.

The counties and New York City want to continue our strong partnership with you and all of our federal representatives to ensure our communities have the resources we need to address this crisis, just as we have successfully done so many times before.

Sincerely,



Stephen J. Acquario
NYSAC Executive Director

Committed to counties since 1925

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