

1 **2021 NYSAC Legislative Conference**
2 **NYSAC Board of Directors**
3 **Resolution #1**

4
5 **Resolution Calling on the New York State Congressional Delegation to Vote**
6 **in Support of Legislation that Provides Counties with Direct Federal Aid to**
7 **Support the County Role in the COVID-19 Disaster Response and Recovery**

8 **WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every aspect of our society for a
9 year now and counting; and

10 **WHEREAS**, even as vaccines have been developed, approved, and deployed, the
11 pandemic continues to spread across our nation, growing worse as measured by the loss
12 of life, infections, infection rates and economic harm; and

13 **WHEREAS**, while Congress has enacted several important COVID response bills, there
14 is still a tremendous need in every corner of the country and our state for more federal
15 resources; and

16 **WHEREAS**, New York State remains one of the most deeply impacted states, in both
17 the loss of life and economic harm; and

18 **WHEREAS**, counties and New York City are still projecting lost revenues in excess of
19 \$10 billion over the 2020 and 2021 fiscal years; and

20 **WHEREAS**, counties face an unprecedented quadruple threat of

- 21 • A significant decline in local revenues, especially sales tax, but also hotel
- 22 occupancy taxes, mortgage recording taxes, gaming revenues, and other locally
- 23 derived fees;
- 24 • Higher spending necessary to respond to the national public health emergency;
- 25 • Multiple years of reduced state reimbursement; and
- 26 • The potential of significant losses for small businesses on our main streets that
- 27 could threaten jobs and the property tax base over the longer term; and
- 28

29 **WHEREAS**, without further federal assistance, the fiscal outlook for counties could
30 become more dire; and

31 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) thanks the New York
32 Congressional Delegation for its unwavering advocacy in support of providing more
33 federal resources including unrestricted direct aid to the state and its localities; and

34 **WHEREAS**, President Biden has submitted a new COVID response and recovery
35 package that includes \$350 billion in direct unrestricted aid to states and localities; and

1 **WHEREAS**, counties and New York City are the primary governmental units providing
2 the “boots on the ground” to protect and deliver services to New Yorkers during this
3 pandemic; including:

- 4 • Maintaining public health facilities such as hospitals, clinics and nursing homes;
- 5 • Administering and partially funding Medicaid on behalf of the state;
- 6 • Disease surveillance, monitoring, testing, and providing education to the public
7 on how to practice social distancing and proper hygiene;
- 8 • Providing and coordinating the acquisition of PPE and other equipment;
- 9 • Providing mortuary services;
- 10 • Providing mental health educational resources to the public;
- 11 • Ensuring access to counseling and substance abuse services;
- 12 • Staffing and managing emergency operations centers that organize disaster
13 response;
- 14 • Maintaining and staffing 9-1-1 systems that respond to urgent calls for help;
- 15 • Providing families in need with services including childcare, cash assistance,
16 emergency housing, responding to domestic violence situations, child abuse
17 prevention and protective services, elder abuse prevention and protection
18 services, food assistance (including SNAP enrollment and senior meals), energy
19 assistance (including LIHEAP enrollment), foster care, among others;
- 20 • Assisting small businesses with bridge loans and working capital;
- 21 • Employment training for those who are unemployed;
- 22 • Ensuring vulnerable seniors continue to receive essential services; and
- 23 • Coordinating meals on wheels, medical supplies and prescriptions.

24
25 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, NYSAC calls on the New York State
26 Congressional Delegation to vote in support of providing all counties and states direct
27 unrestricted federal aid to combat COVID-19 and assist in the economic recovery; and

28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the goal should be to provide funding to address
29 expected revenue losses over the next two years for New York state and its localities; and

30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that additional direct aid will need to be made
31 available for the City of New York for its unique responsibilities as a city and county
32 under New York state law; and

33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, population, with no minimum thresholds, should be
34 a key distribution criterion for this county direct federal aid; and

35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, federal stimulus legislation must also grant states
36 and large counties that received funding under the Coronavirus Relief Fund as part of
37 the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) the ability to use
38 those funds to supplant revenue losses; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of
2 New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
4 Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature encouraging them to
5 support these and other federal recovery efforts, the New York State Congressional
6 Delegation and all others deemed necessary and proper.