

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 5, 2021

The Honorable Janet Yellen
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Madam Secretary:

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has been devastating for Americans. Congress and the previous administration passed five separate, bipartisan bills to deliver trillions of dollars to help provide aid and relief to our nation's citizens. We continue to be committed to working with this administration to deliver yet another bipartisan bill for the American people.

In light of this effort, we write to request details on the U.S. Department of the Treasury's disbursement and recipient use of the funds provided under Title V of the CARES Act's (P.L. 116-136) Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF). The Oversight and Ways and Means Committees have a responsibility to ensure that these direct assistance funds are being used for their congressionally intended purpose of providing emergency relief to state and local governments, which are absorbing the many pandemic-related expenses. Additionally, we seek to understand any remaining gaps in national need related to the current statutorily defined disbursement methodology and allowable use of funds. Any additional congressional funding should be allocated based on an evidence-informed assessment of the current national need, assessment of the performance of prior legislative actions, and Treasury Department management performance. As you are no doubt aware, the recent Congressional Budget Office report demonstrates states' revenues in many cases are much higher than anticipated and therefore the CRF may not need additional funds.

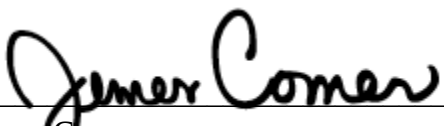
Specifically, we request that you provide the Committees with a full accounting of all funds appropriated to the CRF, including but not limited to the amount of disbursed funds, and which recipients have yet to expend on allowable expenses as outlined by the CARES Act's limitations on the use of funds stipulated in subsection 5001(d), as amended by Title X, Section 1001 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260), and in accordance with guidelines issued publicly by the Department in May of 2020.

Furthermore, we ask you to provide information sufficient to answer the following questions by no later than February 11, 2021:

1. Of the \$139 billion distributed to states and eligible local governments, how much of the funds does the Department estimate remain unspent by the recipients and associated sub-recipients on allowable expenses? If known, please explain why such funds have not been spent.
2. Of the \$8 billion distributed to federally-recognized tribal governments, how much of the funds does the Department estimate remain unspent by the recipients and associated sub-recipients on allowable expenses? If known, please explain why such funds have not been spent.
3. Of the \$3 billion distributed to the District of Columbia and the territories how much does the Department estimate remain unspent by the recipients and associated sub-recipients on allowable expenses? If known, please explain why such funds have not been spent.
4. Please provide an estimation of the total amount of the CRF which the Department anticipates recouping under the CARES Act's subsection 5001(f) directive. If possible, please provide this information with breakdowns by state, the District of Columbia, the territories, and federally-recognized tribal government recipients.

We appreciate your attention and look forward to your response. If you have any questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform Republican staff at (202) 225-5074 or the Ways and Means Committee Republican staff at (202) 225-4021.

Sincerely,


James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform


Kevin Brady
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means

cc: The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Richard Neal, Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means