

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT OFFICE:
10055 WEST ROOSEVELT ROAD
WESTCHESTER, ILLINOIS 60154
PHONE: 708/450-1000
FAX: 708/450-1104

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:
249-E STRATTON BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
PHONE: 217/782-8120
FAX: 217/524-0448



COMMITTEES:

- EXECUTIVE-CHAIRPERSON
- REVENUE & FINANCE
- INSURANCE
- HIGHER EDUCATION
- COUNTIES & TOWNSHIPS
- CITIES & VILLAGES

EMANUEL "CHRIS" WELCH
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 7TH DISTRICT

July 15, 2020

COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on communities across the country, and in Cook County, the toll is weighting heavy on local governments. Suburban Cook County municipalities are experiencing unprecedented losses of revenue and increases in providing services to residents despite the incredible challenges being faced each day.

In Washington D.C., Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, providing financial relief to local governments across the country. Specifically, the CARES Act allows for reimbursing of direct COVID-related costs like PPE purchases and other operational initiatives to facilitate return to work arrangements. I commend Cook County on its decision to allocate these fund to local cities and villages by using an equity lens.

Cook County received approximately \$429 million from the U.S. Treasury from the CARES Act. Under the Act, units of local government with a population exceeding 500,000 are eligible to receive this funding and may distribute these funds to municipalities under this threshold for direct expenses related to coronavirus. Cook County has chosen to allocate \$51 million of this relief among the suburban municipalities located within Cook County.

I want to applaud President Preckwinkle and her team for putting together a comprehensive and considerate process to distribute CARES Act money to municipalities through a formula which provides dollars based on need. The equity model developed by Cook County is thorough and fair and helps the communities in Cook County being disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus.

The people of Cook County are well served by Cook County's demonstrated commitment to providing COVID-19 relief in a fair and equitable manner.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emanuel C. Welch".

Emanuel "Chris" Welch
State Representative, 7th District