



STATE OF FLORIDA

# Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

Ron DeSantis  
GOVERNOR

August 12, 2020

The Honorable James E. Clyburn  
Chairman of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6143

Dear Chairman Clyburn,

The Executive Office of Governor Ron DeSantis is in receipt of your July 29, 2020 letter requesting documents and information related to the White House Coronavirus Task Force. The request is currently under review. Florida's public records law—Chapter 119, Florida Statutes—provides for broad public access to state records. Any records produced to the Committee will be produced in accordance with our obligations under Chapter 119, Florida Statutes.

Much of the information requested by the Committee has already been made available to the public by the Executive Office of the Governor. Information and resources related to Florida's COVID-19 response can be found at: <https://www.flgov.com/covid-19>. And past COVID-19 briefings can be found at: <https://thefloridachannel.org/programs/coronavirus-covid-19/>.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor DeSantis quickly activated Florida's emergency response network and infrastructure to leverage all resources for the State's response to this unprecedented emergency. As a result, Florida's state and local partners have proactively coordinated efforts and taken extraordinary steps to serve and protect our citizens as events evolve. Since March, Governor DeSantis has been focused on protecting the vulnerable, including the elderly and those with underlying health conditions, expanding testing, promoting social distancing, supporting hospital and health care workers, preventing the introduction of COVID-19 from outside of the state, and supporting the state's economic recovery.

Florida has initiated and successfully deployed a significant number of response actions. Some of those actions include, but are not limited to:

- Expending over \$1.0 billion on emergency response, mitigation, and public assistance activities which will qualify for either Stafford Act or Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) reimbursement.

- Allocating \$1.275 billion of CRF to 55 counties with a population less than 500,000, and making 25 percent, or \$318.8 million, available immediately.
- Ramping up testing sites from 7 to 72 over six months.
- Directing \$250 million for statewide mortgage and rental relief.
- Enacting a Safer at Home strategy for businesses and residents, including teleworking for state employees to ensure continued operation of essential services.
- Deploying executive agency staff to assist in processing the influx of reemployment assistance claims for individuals.
- Establishing 23 COVID-dedicated nursing home facilities to contain the spread and enacted comprehensive, biweekly screenings of staff.
- Convening a task force and developing the “Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step.” Plan for Florida’s Recovery.
- Conducting a Business Assessment and activating the Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program.
- Enhancing services to elderly nursing home residents to increase communication and contact with loved ones.
- Providing \$138 million to increase contact tracing, epidemiology, nurses, data clerks, health educators, and call center staff.
- Convening a task force to explore the safe and limited reopening of long term care facilities.

On July 17, 2020, the State submitted its Interim Report on Costs Incurred through Coronavirus Relief Fund Proceeds committed through June 30, 2020. As explained in that report, Florida is committed to maximizing the use of all federal relief sources for their intended purposes to strategically aid businesses, serve communities and support individuals impacted by COVID-19. In accordance with Department of the Treasury guidance, Florida will submit the next interim report on September 21, 2020.

Respectfully,



Chris Spencer  
Policy Director,  
Office of Policy and Budget,  
Executive Office of the Governor

cc: The Honorable Steve Scalise, Ranking Member