




MEMORANDUM

Date: February 19, 2021

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry 
County Administrator

Re: **Correspondence from Board of Supervisors Chair Sharon Bronson to the Chair of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors**

Please see the attached letter Chair Bronson recently sent. The letter is an inquiry to the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors regarding their interest in joining with Pima County in asking the Congressional Delegation to inquire with the Biden Administration for the purpose of directly allocating funds to large urban counties in Arizona for the purpose of COVID-19 vaccination and testing as well as allocate vaccine to the two largest counties in Arizona who have a public health responsibility.

CHH/anc

Attachment

c: Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,
Health and Community Services
Terry Cullen, MD, MS, Public Health Director, Pima County Health Department



PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DISTRICT 3

33 N. STONE AVENUE, 11TH FLOOR

TUCSON, ARIZONA 85701

(520) 724-8051

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SHARON BRONSON
CHAIR

February 18, 2021

Jack Sellers, Chairman
Maricopa County Board of Supervisors
District 1
301 W. Jefferson, 10th Floor
Phoenix, Arizona 85003

Re: Joint Appeal to our Congressional Delegation for Direct Allocation of Vaccine Supply and Funding to Continue the COVID-19 Pandemic Response

Chairman Sellers:

The purpose of this letter is to inquire about the possibility of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors joining with Pima County to request direct allocation of vaccine supplies as well as funding for the COVID-19 pandemic response from our Congressional Delegation. The redirection of vaccine to state run vaccination sites at the expense of County public health agency allocations undermines the entire purpose of a county wide strategy to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act, the State received \$416 million for COVID-19 testing and \$66 million for COVID-19 vaccinations. They received this funding in either late December 2020 or early January 2021 and have not made any allocations to any county public health agency engaged in combating the pandemic.

Pima County continues to incur considerable expenses daily in both testing and vaccination without any apparent consideration by the State to share these funds provided by the federal government to the State. We have made two letters of request to the State regarding this matter which I have enclosed. To make matters worse today we were informed our request for COVID-19 testing reimbursement was essentially denied by the State Health Department. Apparently they are using the money for other purposes.

We would be interested in learning whether the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors has any interest in joining us in such a request to our Congressional Delegation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Bronson".

Sharon Bronson, Chair
Pima County Board of Supervisors

c: Joy Rich, Maricopa County Manager
Chuck Huckelberry, Pima County Administrator
Craig Sullivan, Executive Director, County Supervisors Association of Arizona



January 29, 2021

The Honorable Douglas Ducey, Governor
State of Arizona
1700 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: **COVID-19 Funding Assistance for Vaccination and Testing**

Dear Governor Ducey:

We very much appreciate your leadership and that of the Arizona Department of Health Services in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic in Arizona, which began in February 2020 is now nearing the one-year mark and it has left many communities devastated.

The Federal Coronavirus Relief Act was a great assistance in allowing local communities, including counties, cities and towns to respond to this public health crisis. The most recent act of Congress, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 provided significant additional funding to the State to carry on our efforts against the Coronavirus. Specifically, the \$416 million received by the State for COVID-19 testing and \$66 million received for vaccination. Our efforts and obligations are increasing, not decreasing, particularly in areas of vaccination and COVID-19 testing.

We would appreciate your earliest possible decisions on distribution of federal funding from the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 to assist our local communities in both the vaccination process and to continue important and urgently needed COVID-19 testing.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Sharon Bronson
Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors

The Honorable Regina Romero
Mayor, City of Tucson

The Honorable Bob Teso
Mayor, City of South Tucson

The Honorable Ed Honea
Mayor, Town of Marana

The Honorable Joseph Winfield
Mayor, Town of Oro Valley

The Honorable Tom Murphy
Mayor, Town of Sahuarita

Governor Ducey

Re: **COVID-19 Funding Assistance for Vaccination and Testing**

January 29, 2021

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c: Chuck Huckelberry, Pima County Administrator
Michael Ortega, City Manager, City of Tucson
Veronica Moreno, City Manager, City of South Tucson
Terry Rozema, Interim Town Manager, Town of Marana
Mary Jacobs, Town Manager, Town of Oro Valley
L. Kelly Udall, Town Manager, Town of Sahuarita



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SHARON BRONSON

CHAIR

February 16, 2021

The Honorable Douglas A. Ducey, Governor
State of Arizona
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: COVID-19 Funding Assistance for Vaccination and Testing for Pima County

Dear Governor Ducey:

On January 29, 2021, I and the Mayors in Pima County wrote to you requesting the distribution of the 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act to the State, specifically for the purpose of COVID-19 testing and vaccination.

Since January 1, 2021, Pima County has administered and paid for 55,441 COVID-19 PCR tests at our five regional testing sites throughout metropolitan Pima County. In fact, the County has paid for 65 percent of all COVID-19 PCR testing since inception of the pandemic; much of these costs were paid for through the first Coronavirus Relief Act by the County. This funding source has been exhausted since December 31, 2020. We believe a portion of the funding appropriated from the 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act, specifically the \$416 million received by the State for COVID-19 testing should be used to support our COVID-19 testing.

We would appreciate your expedited distribution of these funds so we may continue our COVID-19 testing programs until the pandemic is over. Unless we are able to secure a funding source for our testing, we must discontinue testing on March 2, 2021.

The County also operates five regional mass vaccination sites, one of which, the University of Arizona site, is being taken over by the State as a State-operated 24/7 vaccination site. We appreciate the State's assistance in assuming responsibility for the University of Arizona site.

In operating our other vaccination sites, we spend approximately \$50,000 each day and have done so since January 15, 2021. As of February 10, 2021, our five regional mass vaccination centers have provided 80 percent of all vaccinations given in Pima County. The Arizona Department of Health Services initially stated the County would receive \$7.1 million in vaccination assistance and this is appreciated. We certainly hope this amount is sufficient. We would also appreciate expedited transfer of at least this base amount of

The Honorable Douglas A. Ducey
Re: **COVID-19 Funding Assistance for Vaccination and Testing for Pima County**
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funding so we can continue our regional vaccination sites simultaneously with your 24/7 vaccination POD at the University of Arizona.

Our expenses are mounting daily in the fight against COVID-19. We need financial assistance and assurances that our expenses related to COVID-19 testing and vaccination will be reimbursed and we hope that reimbursement comes quickly.

I very much appreciate your assistance in responding to this Statewide public health emergency, the Coronavirus pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Bronson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sharon Bronson, Chair
Pima County Board of Supervisors

c: The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva, Congressman, Arizona District 3
The Honorable Mark Kelly, US Senator, Arizona
The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick, Congresswoman, Arizona District 2
The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema, US Senator, Arizona
The Honorable Regina Romero, Mayor, City of Tucson
The Honorable Bob Teso, Mayor, City of South Tucson
The Honorable Ed Honea, Mayor, Town of Marana
The Honorable Joseph Winfield, Mayor, Town of Oro Valley
The Honorable Tom Murphy, Mayor, Town of Sahuarita
Chuck Huckelberry, Pima County Administrator
Jan Leshner, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,
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Terry Cullen, MD, MS, Public Health Director, Pima County Health Department