NASBO Statement on Coronavirus Relief Fund Interim Report
July 29, 2020

The Treasury Department yesterday released its Interim Report of Costs Incurred by State and Local Recipients through June 30, which includes state and local accounting of Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) expenditures. Greater detail on CRF activity will be provided in the quarterly report submission required by the Treasury Inspector General. While this interim report shows that states and localities have incurred or expended approximately 25% of the funds received, a survey of NASBO members shows states and territories have allocated nearly 75% of funds.

Faced with increased costs associated with the pandemic and an economic crisis, as well as a December 30 deadline to expend the funds, states developed and are now implementing their allocation plans for spending CRF monies. These allocation plans address critical public health needs, provide economic support to their residents, and promote a robust recovery. Once allocated, these funds are considered committed and no longer available for other uses by the state.

These allocations represent commitments to local governments; healthcare, long-term care, and residential treatment providers; businesses anticipating economic support grants; individuals anticipating grants for housing assistance; broadband projects in the works to support telemedicine, distance learning, and working from home; educational expenses that will not be incurred until school starts; and more. The reimbursements for these expenses may not have been submitted and paid, or the invoices may not have been received and paid, but states have allocated the funds and made commitments that cannot be easily broken.

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