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Governor Evers Announces \$200 Million Local Reimbursement Program For Local Governments

MADISON – Today, Governor Evers rolled out the "Routes to Recovery" program, a \$200 million effort to reimburse local governments for costs incurred during the COVID-19 crisis. Rep. Stubbs (D-Madison) released the following statement applauding this important program for counties, cities, tribes, towns, and villages:

"Our local governments are on the frontlines of responding to COVID-19. Our state government must do its part in supporting our local partners across Wisconsin. I support this much needed funding being directed toward our counties, cities, towns, tribes, and villages who need this financial support to ensure they are able to continue serving their communities during and after the public health crisis."

Rep. Stubbs specified, "The Routes to Recovery Grants will provide reimbursements for a number of categories, including emergency operations activities, purchases of personal protective equipment, cleaning/sanitizing supplies and services, temporary isolation housing for infected or at-risk individuals, FMLA and sick leave for public health and safety workers. Local partners can use these funds to cover unbudgeted expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic between March 1 and October 31, 2020."

Rep. Stubbs continued, "Although some Wisconsin local governments received direct payments from the federal government, I applaud Gov. Evers for his effort to ensure that local partners and communities have the resources they need to combat COVID-19 – especially the communities hardest hit by this virus. \$10 million is allocated to Wisconsin's tribal nations and the remaining funds will be distributed to every Wisconsin county, city, village, and town."

Rep. Stubbs further stated, "However, even with today's announcement, more federal help is needed for both state and local partners. I am proud to have a governor that will continue to advocate for additional federal investment in relief and stabilization funds for our state and local governments, and local partners and communities, this is about equity. This is about serving our citizens who depend on local government and community parties for safety and resources during this pandemic. We know that people of color are disproportionately affected by the inequitable distribution of resources – Gov. Evers' program works towards our goal of helping local governments reduce these inequities."