



NICOLE GALLOWAY, CPA
Missouri State Auditor

April 27, 2020

The Honorable Michael L. Parson
Office of the Governor
State Capitol Building
201 W. Capitol Avenue, Room 216
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Governor Parson:

On April 7, I sent letters to each of your departments requesting routine information related to their accounting of the largest infusion ever of federal relief funds to Missouri. Not one department responded. Instead, I received a reply from your office.

Your response fails to provide Missourians clear answers about the administration's plans for distributing federal relief funds to our communities. Specifically, your letter ignores reasonable questions that taxpayers, small businesses, and local governments are grappling with during this unprecedented time.

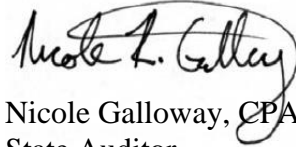
It has been reported that your administration's COVID-19 response plans began as early as January. I am asking these questions so Missourians can have an understanding of how your departments have already expended tax dollars and also how they have prepared to distribute and prioritize federal funds coming into the state. Transparency and oversight are necessary for the public to maintain confidence in their state government, especially considering the speed at which this relief money will be distributed.

Taxpayers expect that my office account for this unprecedented amount of funding. Inquiring into departments' plans and actions is essential to determine whether the state's accounting systems are functioning properly and whether any mismanagement or misappropriation has occurred.

As for the letter, your response demonstrates a misunderstanding of the law. It is my duty to establish the appropriate systems of accounting for all public officials. This office also has the authority to audit state offices, as this office and state auditors before me have done for years. Further, Section 29.130, RSMo, states my office "shall have free access to all offices of this state for the inspection of such books, accounts and papers" as concerns any of my duties. Cooperation from all departments with my office's requests is the best use of state resources now.

If the departments are unable or unwilling to respond to my questions first posed in my letters of April 7th, please inform my office by Monday, May 11, 2020 how each department and the Commissioner of OA will accommodate my office's right to access records related to the department's procedures, tracking, and accounting of expenditures related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole L. Galloway". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Nicole Galloway, CPA
State Auditor