CALL FOR PAPERS
FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSES TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The global pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus outbreak has pushed the global economy into a recession of historic proportions. Events continue to unfold rapidly, and we are yet to understand the full extent of the global pandemic as infections continue to spread, and economies contract at historical rates. What matters now is how policymakers respond to the crisis. Emphasis will be on when and how they choose to open their economies while making the investments to mitigate the continued spread of the virus.

For more than four decades scholars and practitioners of applied government finance have turned to Public Budgeting & Finance to find understandable, reliable, and thoughtful analysis of issues important in the field. Public Budgeting & Finance invites public administration scholars and practitioners to contribute to a special issue focused on federal, state, and local government policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are especially interested in manuscripts that explore one or more of the following topics:

1. Federal government fiscal response to the COVID-19 pandemic including an examination of the impact of the CARES Act and any subsequent legislation, federal government expansion of social safety net programs, impact of the federal government’s response and corresponding economic contraction on U.S. debt projections, and any policy considerations on tax and spending reforms moving forward.

2. State and local government budgetary responses to the COVID-19 pandemic including economic significance of federal government on state and local government budgets and budgeting and financial management strategies governments have used to balance budgets and manage cash flows. We also welcome manuscripts that examine government administration of unemployment benefit programs and effectiveness of policy revisions to manage surge in benefit claims. We are also interested in a review of the expected impact of public pension investment losses on state and local government budgets.

3. Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the municipal bond market including review of federal policy responses to stabilize the municipal securities market, effectiveness of the $500 billion expansion of the federal Municipal Liquidity Facility (MLF), debt issuance during and following the COVID-19 pandemic, sector-specific analysis of default risk and the potential for municipal bankruptcies particularly for weaker credits that are either tax supported or competitive enterprises (e.g., healthcare, affordable housing and higher education). We are especially interested in impact of strategies states have adopted to support fragile municipalities including use of state-aid to support these governments and local government access to MLF.

4. We also welcome manuscripts that examine the mechanisms and effectiveness of interlocal and intergovernmental collaborations, federal, state and local government contracting or public private partnerships as governments seek to manage the spread of infections, federal government administration of the small business loan program, state and local government investment in community based healthcare programs before and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

We invite scholars to submit abstracts (up to 1000 words) outlining their research projects to pbaf@uw.edu no later than May 30th, 2020. Completed manuscripts are due no later than October 1, 2020. Manuscripts will be reviewed on an expedited basis and published as early as January 2021. For questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the editorial team which includes Justin Marlowe (jmarlowe@uchicago.edu) – Editor-in-Chief, Sharon Kioko (skioko@uw.edu) – Managing Editor, and Caroline Engle (pbaf@uw.edu) – Editorial Assistant.