



U.S. Election Assistance Commission - CARES Act Quarterly Report to the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee July 10, 2023

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act provided \$400 million to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to allocate to states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally, for the 2020 Federal election cycle.” Section 15011 of the Act requires federal agencies to report on the use of the funds to the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee. This document provides that information.

The CARES Act provided the funds to the EAC under Section 101 of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) which authorizes the EAC to provide funds to states to “improve the administration of federal elections.” Therefore, the EAC followed the requirements of Section 101 to allocate the funds to the states to address issues arising from the pandemic during the remaining primaries and the general election in November 2020.

The funds could only be used for costs associated with the pandemic during the 2020 election season for federal primaries and the general election in November. Federal funds could not be expended after December 31, 2020. States were required to report to the EAC on how the states used the funds within 20 days after each primary and the general election. The EAC posted the submitted reports on the CARES page of the EAC website: <https://www.eac.gov/payments-and-grants/2020-cares-act-grants>. Semi-annual financial and progress reports due over the course of the grant will be posted on the agency’s website as the reports are reviewed and approved. Please find below the EAC response addressing the four required sections of the Quarterly Report. Appendix C describes the status of each grant and any return of unexpended federal funds and/or interest at closeout.

Quarterly Report – (April – June 2023)

1. Total amount of large, covered funds received from Treasury:

The EAC received \$400,000,000 and each distribution to the 56 states and territories was over the threshold of \$150,000. See Appendix A for the award and expended amounts by state and territory. The data presented in Appendix A is in flux at the time of this report and will be until all grants are complete and closed.

2. Amount of large, covered funds received that were expended or obligated for each project or activity:

The EAC obligated all \$400,000,000 and disbursed \$397,205,288 (99.3%) based on the requests for those funds by the states. Some states requested less than their full allocation due to concerns over meeting the required 20% match. Based on financial reports received to date, states spent \$332,987,591 or 84% of the funds originally disbursed. Due to state legislature restrictions and timing, Arizona and Oregon could not spend any CARES funds.

3. Detailed list of all projects or activities for which large, covered funds were expended or obligated:

In the guidance to the states, the EAC provided the following list of allowable activities:

- Printing of additional ballots and envelopes for potential higher levels of absentee or vote-by-mail processes
- Voter Registration List actions to improve the accuracy and currency of registrant addresses
- Upgrades to statewide or local databases to allow for online absentee or mail ballot requests or change of address

- Additional mailing and postage costs, including ballot tracking software
- Acquisition of additional voting equipment, including high speed or central count tabulators and hardware, and software associated with signature comparison of returned absentee or mail ballots
- Installation and security for absentee or mail drop-boxes
- Temporary elections office staffing
- Cleaning supplies and protective masks and equipment for staff and poll workers in early voting, vote center, or election day polling places
- Overtime salary and benefit costs for elections staff and poll workers
- Training of poll workers on sanitization procedures for in-person voting
- Public communication of changes in registration, ballot request options, or voting procedures, including information on coronavirus precautions being implemented during the voting process
- Mailings to inform the public on changes or determination of procedures of coronavirus precautions, options in voting, and other voting information
- Pre- and post-election deep cleaning of polling places
- Leasing of new polling places when existing sites must be closed
- Additional laptops and mobile IT equipment
- Additional automated letter opening equipment

States could also propose additional activities, but any such activities had to be directly in response to the pandemic. The chart in Appendix B summarizes the activities described in the progress reports submitted by the states on February 28, 2021. Because the 2020 election cycle ended, the EAC is not expecting any more changes to this chart.

4. Detailed information on any level of subcontracts or subgrants awarded by the covered recipient or its subcontractors or subgrantees:

Due to the pandemic, states expected widespread use of absentee ballots and made many adjustments to accommodate voting safely in-person. Most states subawarded the funds to local election jurisdictions, which identified the specific needs resulting from the pandemic. Progress reports indicate funds were primarily spent for:

- PPE, cleaning services and supplies, signage, and plexiglass
- Additional staff hires to manage higher volume of absentee/mail ballots and to ensure polling locations are adequately staffed for social distancing and longer voting periods
- Leasing additional and/or larger polling places to accommodate social distancing and loss of existing polling places such as assisted living facilities and nursing homes
- Publications and communications to inform voters of changes in processes, such as extensions to early voting, absentee applications, and changes to in-person voting days and locations
- Costs associated with a much higher volume of absentee/mail ballots, such as printing ballots and envelopes, postage, and processing, ballot tracking software, high speed scanners and letter opening equipment, mail drop boxes, and hardware and software associated with signature comparison of returned ballots.

State CARES Act Federal Expenditures as of 6/30/2023

STATE	Award Amount	Federal Interest Earned & Expended	Federal Funds Expended
ALABAMA***	\$4,375,717	\$0	\$4,375,717
ALASKA***	\$2,366,993	\$0	\$2,366,993
AMERICAN SAMOA	\$600,000	\$0	\$600,000
ARIZONA**	\$0	\$0	\$0
ARKANSAS***	\$1,407,917	\$0	\$1,407,917
CALIFORNIA	\$36,485,465	\$0	\$36,485,465
COLORADO***	\$6,180,003	\$0	\$6,180,003
CONNECTICUT	\$5,400,677	\$108,013	\$5,400,677
DELAWARE	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$3,000,000
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	\$3,000,000	\$540	\$3,000,000
FLORIDA***	\$16,925,212	\$0	\$16,925,212
GEORGIA	\$10,875,912	\$2,297	\$10,875,912
GUAM	\$600,000	\$438	\$600,000
HAWAII***	\$2,401,884	\$0	\$2,401,884
IDAHO	\$3,404,276	\$11,265	\$3,404,276
ILLINOIS	\$13,966,097	\$45,535	\$13,966,097
INDIANA	\$8,013,610	\$0	\$8,013,610
IOWA***	\$4,297,664	\$0	\$4,297,664
KANSAS***	\$4,477,003	\$0	\$4,477,003
KENTUCKY***	\$5,574,372	\$0	\$5,574,372
LOUISIANA	\$6,212,616	\$0	\$6,212,616
MAINE***	\$974,099	\$0	\$974,099
MARYLAND	\$7,452,501	\$2,677	\$7,452,501
MASSACHUSETTS	\$8,325,918	\$12,519	\$8,325,918
MICHIGAN	\$11,299,561	\$14,676	\$11,299,561
MINNESOTA***	\$5,789,510	\$0	\$5,789,510
MISSISSIPPI***	\$1,866,934	\$0	\$1,866,934
MISSOURI***	\$4,030,794	\$0	\$4,030,794
MONTANA***	\$222,373	\$0	\$222,373
NEBRASKA***	\$1,678,779	\$0	\$1,678,779
NEVADA	\$4,496,720	\$0	\$4,496,720
NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$3,269,494	\$11,347	\$3,269,494
NEW JERSEY	\$10,296,913	\$14,683	\$10,296,913
NEW MEXICO	\$3,889,527	\$0	\$3,889,527
NEW YORK***	\$19,968,435	\$0	\$19,968,435
NORTH CAROLINA***	\$10,721,298	\$0	\$10,721,298
NORTH DAKOTA	\$3,000,000	\$1,776	\$3,000,000
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS*	\$501,847	\$0	\$501,847
OHIO	\$12,861,311	\$41,808	\$12,861,311
OKLAHOMA***	\$1,226,866	\$0	\$1,226,866
OREGON**	\$0	\$0	\$0
PENNSYLVANIA***	\$11,774,326	\$15,619	\$11,774,326
PUERTO RICO***	\$2,174,443	\$0	\$2,174,443

RHODE ISLAND	\$3,022,037	\$0	\$3,022,037
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$6,372,386	\$0	\$6,372,386
SOUTH DAKOTA***	\$350,024	\$0	\$350,024
TENNESSEE***	\$7,295,487	\$12,517	\$7,295,487
TEXAS	\$21,058,300	\$31,565	\$21,058,300
U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS	\$600,000	\$0	\$600,000
UTAH***	\$1,848,848	\$0	\$1,848,848
VERMONT***	\$2,104,112	\$0	\$2,104,112
VIRGINIA*	\$9,004,555	\$2,267	\$9,004,555
WASHINGTON***	\$5,482,936	\$0	\$5,482,936
WEST VIRGINIA***	\$2,652,609	\$0	\$2,652,609
WISCONSIN	\$7,362,345	\$4,084	\$7,362,345
WYOMING***	\$948,731	\$45,979	\$948,731
Total	\$333,489,438	\$360,746	\$333,489,438
Notes:			
*Additional debt collection pending			
** Due to state legislature restrictions and timing Arizona and Oregon could not spend any CARES funds. Both states returned the full amount of their grants as well as any interest earned.			
*** Federal award amount adjusted for federal unexpended funds returned at closeout.			
Original awarded total less unrequested: \$397,205,286. Total unrequested = \$2,794,714. Five states (Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah) did not request their full allocations.			
Returned Federal Funds to date: \$63,737,775			
Federal Interest Earned and returned to date: \$861,467			

Appendix B

Progress Report Summaries: State Usage of CARES Act Funds

State	Progress Report Summaries
Alabama	Alabama used the funds for PPE, supplies and cleaning services for poll workers, local election officials and polling places, supplemental poll worker pay, and absentee election manager pay. The state of Alabama also used the funds to hire additional poll workers, supplement poll workers' pay, and hire additional absentee election manager assistants.
Alaska	Alaska used the funds for increasing supplies for absentee voting processes, paying additional mailing costs for printing and mailing ballots, purchasing, and installing ballot tracking software, high speed scanners, and letter opening equipment, mail drop boxes, other hardware and software associated with signature comparison of returned ballots. The funds were also used to hire additional poll workers, election office staff, and temporary staff. In addition, the state used the funds to train poll workers virtually, to secure polling places; and to purchase supplies such as PPE: face shields, sneeze guard, face masks, non-latex gloves, and sanitization materials to sanitize the polling places.
Arizona	Arizona was not able to use any of the funds. Arizona statute requires that grants received by the Secretary of State from the federal government be appropriated by the legislature before the funding is spent. The legislature did not appropriate the funds, and the total grant was returned along with interest earned.
Arkansas	The state of Arkansas used the CARES funds to advertise the absentee voting process and to protect election workers and voters throughout the election season. The state also used the funds to purchase voting equipment, such as high-speed scanners; PPE and sanitization materials, such as gloves, hand sanitizers, face shields, masks, disinfectants, queuing floor stickers and styluses; and for delivery and storage costs.
California	The state of California used the funds for voting processes, including additional costs for printing and mailing ballots, ballot tracking software, high speed scanners and letter opening equipment, mail drop boxes, and hardware and software associated with signature comparison of returned ballots. In addition, the state used the funds for staffing of additional poll workers, security and training, communication to voters about changes in processes, and to purchase supplies such as PPE.
Colorado	Colorado used funds at the state level to conduct an outreach effort to voters to provide information on voting safely during the pandemic and address disinformation and misinformation about voting processes. The state also provided funds to Colorado counties to cover their costs responding to the pandemic, including to purchase PPE and other supplies to ensure the safety of election officials, cover addition costs to print and mail absentee ballots, purchase additional drop boxes, and pay for additional costs related to election judges.
Connecticut	Connecticut created a Safe Polls program through which the state provided funds to municipalities to implement emergency contingency plans. The municipalities implemented the plans, using the funds for printing absentee ballots and envelopes, postage, additional machinery for ballot processing (high speed scanners, letter opening devices), cleaning supplies and protective equipment for poll workers, compensation for additional local election officials, and costs associated with the relocation or addition of polling places. Funds were also used to notify voters of changes in the election process due to the pandemic and to mail an absentee ballot application to every eligible voter in the state for both the primary and the federal election.

Delaware	Delaware used the grant funds to purchase automation equipment needed to increase capacity and streamline preparation and assembly of outgoing mail ballot packages, given the enormous increase in volume of such requests during the COVID-19 pandemic, and with the passage of legislation by the Delaware General Assembly permitting Vote By Mail for the 2020 State Primary and General Election. The state purchased PPE for election officers, materials to preserve social distancing protocols, and cleaning supplies in bulk for distribution to polling places. CARES funds were also used for supplies for expanded absentee voting, equipment to automate the inbound and outbound ballot preparation and mailing processing, as well as equipment for the inbound processing of returned ballots. Grant funds were also used to cover the costs of temporary staffing, and tabulation of returned absentee ballots. Funds were used to notify the public of changes in registration, ballot request options, and precautions on voting procedures.
District of Columbia	The District of Columbia used the funds for voter education on vote by mail and for supplies to support the increased number of mailed ballots. DC moved major operations to its warehouse to ensure social distancing and used funds to recruit additional poll workers and temporary staff, expand voting centers, and provide PPE to poll workers and voters. The funds were also used to cover the additional costs for printing and mailing ballots, to purchase and implement ballot tracking software, “ballot on demand” machines, mail drop boxes, hardware and software associated with signature comparison of returned ballots. DC hired additional poll workers, security workers, and temporary staff.
Florida	Florida subgranted all the funds to counties to use for a variety of pandemic related costs, including the additional costs for printing and mailing more ballots, purchasing, and implementing ballot tracking software, high speed scanners, and letter opening equipment, mail drop boxes, and other hardware and software associated with signature comparison of returned ballots. Counties hired additional poll workers and temporary staff, leased additional polling space, and purchased additional laptops, mobile IT equipment, cleaning supplies, and masks. The state election office also established an incentive program for state employees to serve as poll workers.
Georgia	Georgia used the funds to ramp up its absentee ballot program by sending applications to all voters. The state centralized the ballot fulfillment to take that processing burden off the counties. The state also used the funds to educate voters on new election dates, how to vote by mail, and new voting equipment. Georgia purchased masks, hand sanitizer, and gloves to distribute to counties. The state also purchased styluses for use with touchscreen machines so voters do not have to touch the screens. During the federal election, the state of Georgia used the funds for voting processes such as purchasing drop boxes, communication, and for purchasing PPE and sanitization supplies.
Guam	Guam used its CARES funding to hire additional staff needed at polling sites to manage social distancing and cleaning, to purchase PPE and cleaning supplies for poll workers, election staff and polling sites, and to rent facilities necessary to conduct In Office Absentee Voting. Funds were also used for pre- and post-election cleaning of polling places.
Hawaii	Hawaii used the funds to supplement its media campaign to increase voter education about voting during the pandemic and partnered with Hawaii Meals on Wheels to distribute election materials in conjunction with their food distribution activities. The state also used the funds to relocate counting centers to larger facilities to ensure election officials and volunteers could process, open, and count the voted ballots safely. Hawaii procured cleaning supplies and equipment and personal protective equipment for election officials and voters, including disinfectant spray and wipes, face masks, face shields, hand sanitizer dispensers and refills, Isopropyl alcohol, nitrile gloves, plexiglass Barriers, and temporal scanners.

Idaho	Idaho used grant funds to cover the costs of the increase in absentee ballots and related processes. Idaho invested in communication to educate voters on changes in the procedures. Idaho subgranted most of the funds to the counties which used them for upgrading voting equipment, purchasing automatic letter openers and absentee ballot sorting machines, paying overtime for poll workers, printing additional ballots, and purchasing PPE such as sanitization materials, throw-away pens and pencils, face masks and sneeze guards. The state also altered existing poll locations to ensure the safety of staff and voters. At the state level, the funds were used for additional technical support and software to expedite the increase of online absentee requests.
Illinois	<p>Illinois provided all the funds through a subgrant program to reimburse the local election authorities for the costs related to conducting a safe and secure General Election. Use of the funds varied as needed by the local election authorities and included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Software and programming costs incurred to meet the requirements of PA 101-641 and 642 which mandated greater absentee voting, use of ballot drop boxes and increased early voting options • Mail processing equipment to handle increased volume of mail-in voting • Public communication or outreach for new or expanded VBM policy and procedures • PPE/Sanitation supplies • Temporary or part-time staff and overtime for staff • Online training services for poll workers • Purchase/installation and security for ballot drop boxes • Expanded or increased VBM costs • Required mailings and postage
Indiana	Indiana spent a significant amount of the funds to secure PPE and disinfecting cleaners for all of Indiana's counties and to supplement its existing voter education campaign with greater outreach to inform voters of changes surrounding the elections, including new procedures and amended deadlines due to the pandemic. CARES funds were also made available to counties through reimbursement grants to accommodate any unexpected expenses that may arise related to the pandemic. To ensure an adequate number of poll workers were available at voting sites, the state mailed postcards to registered voters urging them to serve as poll workers.
Iowa	Iowa used its CARES funds to encourage voters to vote absentee. Iowa sent mailings and other communications to encourage the use of the absentee voting system and provided subgrants to counties to purchase PPE and cleaning supplies, social distancing signage, additional staff and voting equipment such as letter openers, ballot folders and high-speed counters. Iowa also used funding to recruit Iowans to serve as precinct election officials, targeting individuals aged 17 – 35, to replace the many election officials who were over 60 years old and at higher risk of serious complications from COVID 19.
Kansas	Kansas used the funds to procure PPE kits at the state level for distribution to counties and to communicate with voters about changes in voting processes due to the pandemic. The kits included sneeze guards, gloves, masks, cleaner, disposable styluses, and hand sanitizer for every polling place in the state for both the primary and general elections. Additional funds were allocated to reimburse each of the 105 county election offices for eligible pandemic expenses. Counties used the funds for postage, additional staff and board workers, additional protective equipment and more. Prior to the general election the state procured ballot drop boxes for distribution to the counties. The counties were also reimbursed for costs of printing and mailing additional ballots, ballot tracking software, high speed scanners and letter opening equipment.

Kentucky	The Kentucky State Board of Elections distributed the majority of its CARES funds to its 120 counties to cover the cost of additional staffing and increased postage due to the pandemic and the much higher level of absentee voting. Secure ballot boxes were purchased for each of the counties to increase the security of absentee ballot drop offs. In another effort to alleviate financial stress in the counties, the printing of additional ballots and activation cards was paid with CARES funding. Counties also purchased iPads for registration and one-use items to cut back on cross-contamination.
Louisiana	<p>The state used CARES Act funds to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase high speed scanners to process increased absentee ballots • Purchase mobile voting units to ensure social distancing and CDC protocols at polling locations • Cover costs for increased staff • Cover hazard duty pay for Election Day commissioners and other staff working with the voting public • Conduct media outreach to notify voting public of changes in the election and increased precautions • Purchase absentee ballots and election supply items • Establish additional sites to ensure social distancing and their associated costs • Purchase, packaging, and transport of PPE across the state
Maine	Maine used its CARES funds to purchase and provide PPE kits to all municipalities and to print and distribute absentee ballot envelopes for all municipalities. In addition, the state purchased ballot drop boxes for distribution to its municipalities and reimbursed municipalities that had bought drop boxes through their own sources. Finally, the state used the funds to cover printing costs for the dramatically increased number of ballots needed and to lease precinct tabulators for the municipalities to scan and tabulate absentee ballots.
Maryland	Maryland used the funds during both the primary and general election to cover postage cost to mail ballot packets to voters, ballot drop boxes, high speed scanners, and automatic letter openers to handle the increase in absentee voting, as well as PPE for staff and poll workers. Funds were also used to conduct a statewide media campaign to communicate changes in voting processes as a result of the pandemic. The funds were also used to purchase laptops to ensure staff was using updated technology and software when accessing sensitive data remotely.
Massachusetts	The state used the funds to cover printing and mailing costs for mail-in voting applications the state sent to registered voters as well as the costs of return postage and to purchase PPE, plexiglass shields and other safety equipment and signage for polling places. The state was able to lease additional voting and tabulation equipment for cities and towns to handle the increased volume of absentee ballots. In addition, the state used the funds to advertise the changes to the voting process implemented as a result of the pandemic including new deadlines, publicity of changes in registration, ballot request options, and precautions or voting procedures. Massachusetts also used the funds to reimburse cities and towns for ballot drop boxes, additional PPE, and for limited postage for mailing ballots to voters.
Michigan	The state used its CARES funding to print and mail postcards to voters who had not yet applied for an absentee voter ballot prior to the November election and to provide funds to local jurisdictions to purchase PPE, ballot tabulators, high-speed scanners and other equipment needed to handle the high volume of absentee ballots received. The state also implemented an accessible absentee voter ballot for voters with disabilities and covered costs incurred by local jurisdictions to purchase absentee voter ballots, envelopes and

	applications, ballot drop boxes, automatic letter openers and other equipment to handle the increased level of absentee ballots.
Minnesota	<p>The state used its funds for several major projects as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printing and mailing absentee ballot applications to voters • Creating a grant program for county, city, and municipal election administrators to assist in providing safe polling places, process absentee ballots, and other election administration duties, including but not limited to: voter outreach materials, the cost of envelopes and postage for additional absentee ballot, staff overtime, additional temporary staff and election judge salaries, technology resources for additional temporary staff, voting tabulation equipment, and disinfecting/sanitizing supplies and materials • A public campaign to inform voters of absentee balloting options as a result of the pandemic • The purchase and distribution of PPE supplies and materials for use in polling places and in-person absentee balloting (disposable masks, face shields, hand sanitizer, stands for the supplies, social distancing signage) • Supplementing central office personnel responding to telephonic inquiries from voters about responses to COVID during the election, including absentee balloting options
Mississippi	Mississippi used the funds to purchase PPE (hand sanitizer, masks, gloves, face shields, cleaning supplies, etc.) and deliver them to counties across the state; to design, produce and mail postcards to every registered voter in the state to tell them how to vote absentee and alert them of the changes in processes due to the pandemic; to reimburse counties for their own purchase of PPE, cleaning supplies and for the materials and construction of plastic barriers and other environmental safety solutions to keep people socially distanced; and to reimburse counties for increased costs for additional poll managers and temporary staff and hazard pay for election commissioners.
Missouri	The state provided most of its CARES funds as subgrants to its 116 local election authorities which used them to purchase electronic poll-pads to navigate away from paper poll books; buy single use stylus to minimize cross contamination; procure additional voting machines to allow for social distancing or to add additional machines to process absentee and/or mail-in ballots; purchase additional ballot envelopes to answer the increased absentee ballot requests; hire additional temporary employees to handle the influx of absentee and mail-in ballots; pay a hazardous pay stipend to the poll-workers/judges; and cover the costs to clean polling locations that would not otherwise permit them to utilize those locations for the election. The state also used the funds to communicate with voters about the different ways of voting and support a statewide tour by the Secretary of State to communicate directly with the public about the changes in processes resulting from the pandemic.
Montana	Montana used its funds to provide subgrants to its counties. The governor had issued two election directives allowing counties to choose whether to conduct a mail ballot election or conduct a polling place election. Counties choosing to conduct a mail ballot election used the funds to cover increased costs of envelopes, print additional ballots, purchase high-speed letter openers, pay for increased labor and temporary staff, prepare informational signage, procure ballot drop boxes, and purchase PPE and other protective gear such as plexiglass barriers and social distancing signage. Counties choosing to conduct a polling place election used the funds for PPE, protection and sanitation supplies for election offices and polling places, social distancing signage and increased labor, including election judges, unbudgeted overtime of staff and hiring temporary employees.

Nebraska	Nebraska used funds for a communications campaign to inform voters of expanded early voting and vote-by-mail options, to recruit more poll workers because of reduced poll worker availability due to the pandemic, and to obtain equipment needed to handle the higher volume of mail-in ballots, such as drop boxes, mail-in envelopes. The state also purchased and shipped a variety of PPE and other supplies to the counties for poll workers and voters to ensure their safety. In addition, funds were used for voting processes such as purchase of envelopes for mailing absentee ballots and reimbursement to counties for expenses beyond their typical cost due to COVID.
Nevada	Nevada used CARES funds to conduct a statewide voter education campaign to inform them about changes in processes due to the pandemic and to lease ballot-on-demand printers and high-speed scanners for the election offices to increase the speed of ballot tabulation. Nevada's primary election was conducted by mail which resulted in much higher printing and mailing costs. The state also covered postage costs for returned ballots and for additional poll workers and polling places to manage social distancing. In addition, the state used the funds for staffing of additional poll workers, security and training, communication, and to purchase PPE and other supplies to ensure safety of voters and poll workers.
New Hampshire	New Hampshire subgranted about 80% of the CARES funds to counties to cover the increased costs for printing and mailing absentee ballots to voters and processing absentee ballots when they were returned. Funds were also allocated for pandemic-related communications to voters and for PPE supplies.
New Jersey	New Jersey made available CARES Act funds to local election offices on a reimbursement basis. Major categories for expenditure include persona protective equipment, signage, sanitation of offices/polling locations, equipment to open/count mail-in ballots, overtime/temporary staff hours, printing/ mailing ballots, and communication to voters.
New Mexico	New Mexico used the funds to provide personal protective equipment and supplies to polling locations throughout the state and to reimburse counties for increased costs to print, mail and process absentee ballots. Funds were also used to educate and inform voters on absentee voting to reduce the number of persons gathering at polling locations.
New York	New York used the funds exclusively for grants to reimburse counties for eligible expenses, including costs to print, mail and process increased numbers of absentee ballots, to purchase ballot drop boxes and vote processing equipment needed to accommodate higher absentee ballot volume, lease addition space and hire additional staff to ensure social distancing protocols, to purchase PPE and other supplies (signage, plexiglass) for poll workers and staff, to communicate options to vote and changes in processes due to the pandemic and to cover costs to train poll workers and staff on safety protocols.
North Carolina	North Carolina has not submitted its progress report.
North Dakota	North Dakota counties elected to conduct primary elections exclusively with vote-by-mail and used CARES funds to help cover the costs to print and mail absentee ballots and process returned ballots. The state also sent ballot applications to all registered voters and utilized CARE funds to support the counties with an outreach effort to encourage voters to review their voting options and prepare accordingly. The CARES funding was also used to provide more mail-ballot scanners, PPE and other safety supplies, electronic poll books, and outreach and awareness of the changes brought about by COVID.
Northern Mariana Islands	The Northern Mariana Islands used its funds to purchase PPE, social distancing signage and cleaning supplies to cleanse polling booths after each use. Funds were also used to cover cost for voting stalls to separate voters and additional staff and poll workers to cover longer early voting polling periods and ensure cleaning and social distancing protocols were followed.

Ohio	<p>Ohio provided most of its funds (about 86%) directly to county boards of elections in the form of cash grants or reimbursements for costs associated with the pandemic during both the 2020 primary and general elections. Counties used the funds to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Print and mail additional ballots • Cover increased staffing costs for longer early voting periods • Purchase central count equipment • Purchase PPE and cleaning supplies • Procure mailing and other vote processing equipment • Recruit and train additional precinct election officials • Purchase paper pollbook backups <p>County boards were required to use these funds to supplement their local resources to pay only for the additional costs incurred due to the pandemic. The state also used CARES funds to mail absentee ballot application forms to every registered voter, to purchase health guidance signage for polling locations, PPE and cleaning supplies and services, equipment to allow secure working from home, and to communicate with voters about changes in voting processes due to the pandemic.</p>
Oklahoma	<p>Oklahoma used the funds for voting processes including the increased costs for printing, mailing, and processing returned ballots due to the pandemic and purchasing PPE and other safety supplies and equipment for election office staff and poll workers. The funds were also used to hire additional poll workers and cover salary costs for election office staff diverted to pandemic response and temporary staff. In addition, the funds were used for security and training purposes, communication, and to purchase additional laptops and mobile IT equipment for remote work.</p>
Oregon	<p>Oregon was not able to use any of the funds because the legislature did not give spending authority to the Secretary. The total grant was returned along with interest earned.</p>
Pennsylvania	<p>The state used CARES funds to send a direct mailer to voters to inform them about voting options during the pandemic and to purchase personal protective supplies and other safety equipment for county election offices and polling locations throughout the state. Funds were also used for return postage for voters returning mail-in ballots and to provide about \$6 million to county in grants and reimbursements to election offices to provide further financial assistance during the pandemic, including costs for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional costs for supplies, equipment, or personnel for processing requests for absentee ballots • Additional costs for supplies, equipment, or personnel for processing voted absentee ballots • Increased absentee ballot printing costs • Increased postage costs to mail absentee ballots • Increased equipment, staffing and training costs • Polling place supplies and signage to educate voters and promote social distancing and safety protocols
Puerto Rico	<p>Puerto Rico used its CARES funds to cover increased staffing costs resulting from longer early voting periods and a much higher volume of mail-in ballots as well as the additional costs for printing and mailing ballots and informing voters of changes in voting processes due to the pandemic. CARES funds were also used to continuously cleanse and disinfect shared areas and polling locations, to acquire thermometers for the monitoring of all voters and polling officials, and to purchase face masks, hand sanitizer, gloves, face shields, and other prevention material for the electorate and polling officials.</p>

Rhode Island	Rhode Island used CARES Act funds to pay the additional costs to print and mail absentee ballots, for the postage-paid return envelopes for voters and to establish a centralized application processing center to ensure the volume of applications were processed in a timely manner for mail ballots to be sent to voters. Funds were also used to purchase cleaning supplies, pens for voter check-ins, and signage to emphasize social distancing at polling places. In addition, due to the increased number of mail ballots, the Board of Elections acquired equipment to process the larger volume of mail ballots, such as letter openers and high-speed scanners.
South Carolina	South Carolina used CARES funds to meet safety and security protocols during the 2020 elections, including educating employees and voters alike on a new voting system. Funding was primarily spent on voting processes, staff, communications, and sanitization and PPE supplies.
South Dakota	The state provided most of the CARES funds to county election offices across the state which used them to cover the increased cost to print, mail and process absentee ballots, for additional staff needed to process the mail-in ballots, and for cleaning supplies and equipment to ensure safety at polling places.
Tennessee	Concerned that many older poll workers would not be available during the pandemic, Tennessee used CARES funds to recruit poll workers and set up an online portal where potential poll workers could apply to work. The state also purchased sneeze guards, hand sanitizer and social distancing resource for the counties. The state provided a significant portion of the funds in grants to counties to cover costs resulting from the pandemic. Counties used the funds to cover costs associated with a much higher volume of absentee voting, including printing and mailing ballots and ballot scanners, for additional personnel to staff longer early voting timelines, supplies needed to facilitate social distancing and minimize contact at polling places, costs to clean polling places, and to communicate specific voter information.
Texas	<p>Texas allocated its CARES funds to county election offices across the state which expended funds for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absentee ballot costs, including increased printing and mailing, software, letter opening, scanning and tabulation equipment • Equipment to assist with curbside voting, and other costs to assist with the voting process • Additional poll-workers and temporary staff to assist with social distancing and other safety protocols, added hours for early voting, and other duties imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic • Pre- and post-cleaning of polling locations and other measures needed to ensure the safety of election staff and the public • Training of election staff on safety as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic • Public relations costs to communicate information to the voters how to safely navigate the voting process, including signage at the polling locations, disseminating information thru various media platforms, and other methods to communicate with the public • Cleaning supplies, PPE, other protective materials, laptops, e-pollbooks, and other equipment and supplies to assist with the challenges associated with the pandemic response as it relates to elections
U.S. Virgin Islands	The Virgin Islands used its funds for plexiglass protectors, hand washing stations, PPE and COVID-19 signage at its facilities and polling locations, and to cover the increased costs associated with moving polling sites and for printing and mailing ballots to all registered voters. In addition, CARES funds covered increases staffing and temporary worker costs which resulted from extended early voting hours, cleaning, and monitoring polling sites to

	ensure COVID protocols were followed and to process increased numbers of absentee ballots.
Utah	<p>Utah provided funds to counties in the state which used them to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide prepaid return postage on mail ballots (if the county has not previously provided prepaid postage) • Cover costs due to the increased volume of mail ballots, e.g., ballot envelopes (reprinting, stickers, seals) • Purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies • Procure and install ballot drop boxes • Notify, educate, and inform voters of new election procedures due to COVID-19 • Pay associated costs for conducting drive-up voting • Increased poll workers/temporary employees and/or additional pay and training • Make accommodations to voters who may not be able to vote by mail
Vermont	<p>Vermont used the funding for costs to mail ballots for the November election to all registered voters and to mail postcards to every registered voter notifying them of changes in voting processes due to the pandemic. Vermont paid for the postage of all outgoing ballots being sent to voters, and for the return of ballots by the voter back to their clerk. The state provided PPE kits for each of the approximately 260 polling places and purchased ballot drop boxes for about 200 towns and cities across the state. The state also purchased additional tabulators for towns concerned with counting ballots by hand amid the pandemic.</p>
Virginia	<p>Virginia used its CARES funds at the state level to purchase PPE supplies directly and distribute them to local election jurisdictions in advance of the primary and to conduct a statewide campaign to educate voters on voting during the pandemic and their options for voting safely. For the November election, the state distributed the remaining funds (84%) to all localities throughout the state. Localities could only spend the funds in response to the pandemic, such as printing and mailing increased numbers of absentee ballots, PPE and other cleaning supplies, additional staffing cost for longer early voting hours, voting equipment to handle high volumes of mail-in ballots, leasing costs for larger polling locations, etc. The state is currently reviewing local expenditures to ensure cost were appropriate and reimbursing localities.</p>
Washington	<p>Washington provided most of the funds to counties across the state which used them for various activities in response to the pandemic including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchasing PPE • Sanitizing workspaces and installing plastic barriers • Enlarging existing and leasing additional workspaces to allow for social distancing during ballot counting and processing • Purchasing additional tabulators, envelope folders, scanners, etc. to reduce the amount of touching of ballots • Purchasing HEPA filtration systems, plastic barriers, and hands-free appliances for work areas • Adding windows, cameras, large screens, and live streaming of processes to allow observers to observe without sharing space with elections workers • Adding mobile kiosks and voting stations as well as drive through and curbside services • Modifying and flushing HVAC systems • Extending drop-off site hours and adding additional drop-off sites • Covering hazard pay and overtime • Hiring additional temporary staff

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printing signs & mailers explaining needed changes to current systems
West Virginia	West Virginia used its CARES funding to secure the primary election by focusing on absentee ballots and printing needs, postage for absentee-related mailings, PPE, and additional labor necessary to process the increased number of absentee ballots. During the federal election, the state used the funds for voting processes, including additional costs for printing and mailing ballots, ballot tracking software, high speed scanners and letter opening equipment, mail drop boxes, and hardware and software associated with signature comparison of returned ballots. In addition, the state used the funds for staffing of additional poll workers, communication, security, and training, and to purchase supplies such as PPE.
Wisconsin	Wisconsin used the funds for sanitation supplies and PPE, updated the WisVote database to handle the influx of traffic and accommodate extended deadlines for absentee requests and online voter registration, and updated the MyVote website to allow voters to interact with their records and data with the new absentee ballot tracking service. Wisconsin also paid for increased costs for envelopes and postage for the absentee ballot system and increased the number of poll workers. Funds were also used to provide guidance to polling place workers and consolidate the polling places themselves as some of them were closed. The state also worked with the National Guard as poll workers to increase the number of election staffers. Supplies were requested and subsequently distributed to municipalities including procedural masks, gloves, disinfectant, hand sanitizer, single use pens, painters' tape to mark social distancing for in person voting, and packets containing social distancing and public health signs.
Wyoming	Wyoming used funds at the state level to purchase and distribute PPE to local election jurisdictions and to produce and send an information mailer to every registered voter in the state notifying them of their options on how to vote and including an absentee ballot request. The remainder of the funds were provided to counties to cover costs resulting from the pandemic, including for social distancing signage and additional PPE, additional ballot envelopes and voting equipment and higher wages for poll workers.

Appendix C

State Closeout Status and Return of Unexpended CARES Act Funds

Updated 6/30/2023				
State	Status	Unexpended Federal Funds Returned	Unexpended Federal Interest Returned	Total Funds Returned
Alabama	CLOSED	\$2,122,957.00	\$35,682.74	\$2,158,639.74
Alaska	CLOSED	\$633,007.00	\$7,119.15	\$640,126.15
American Samoa	CLOSED	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Arizona	CLOSED	\$7,874,848.00	\$28,866.59	\$7,903,714.59
Arkansas	CLOSED	\$3,311,117.00	\$43,158.75	\$3,354,275.75
California	CLOSED	\$0.00	\$4,307.39	\$4,307.39
Colorado	CLOSED	\$511,469.00	\$51,602.41	\$563,071.41
Connecticut	CLOSED	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Delaware	In Progress	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
District of Columbia	CLOSED	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Florida	CLOSED	\$3,328,640.95	\$143,645.00	\$3,472,285.95
Georgia	CLOSED	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Guam	CLOSED	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hawaii	CLOSED	\$893,958.46	\$0.00	\$893,958.46
Idaho	CLOSED	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Illinois	CLOSED	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Indiana	CLOSED	\$0.00	\$9,357.59	\$9,357.59
Iowa	CLOSED	\$561,880.97	\$11,148.67	\$573,029.64
Kansas	CLOSED	\$145,496.73	\$3,471.11	\$148,967.84
Kentucky	CLOSED	\$516,095.77	\$0.00	\$516,095.77
Louisiana	CLOSED	\$0.00	\$3,386.00	\$3,386.00
Maine	CLOSED	\$2,325,728.00	\$20,746.72	\$2,346,474.72
Maryland	CLOSED	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Massachusetts	CLOSED	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Michigan	CLOSED	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Minnesota	CLOSED	\$1,168,723.03	\$25,783.85	\$1,194,506.88
Mississippi	CLOSED	\$2,861,103.00	\$30,541.11	\$2,891,644.11
Missouri	CLOSED	\$3,597,968.82	\$7,823.94	\$3,605,792.76
Montana	CLOSED	\$2,777,627.05	\$9,806.84	\$2,787,433.89
Nebraska	CLOSED	\$2,007,472.62	\$45,080.45	\$2,052,553.07
Nevada	CLOSED	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Hampshire	CLOSED	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Jersey	CLOSED	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Mexico	CLOSED	\$0.00	\$5,251.06	\$5,251.06

New York	CLOSED	\$598,653.32	\$13,550.19	\$612,203.51
North Carolina	CLOSED	\$225,840.51	\$966.60	\$226,807.11
North Dakota	CLOSED	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Northern Mariana Islands	In Progress	\$98,153.20	\$0.00	\$98,153.20
Ohio	CLOSED	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Oklahoma	CLOSED	\$1,503,619.51	\$34,374.00	\$1,537,993.51
Oregon	CLOSED	\$5,656,663.00	\$42,847.41	\$5,699,510.41
Pennsylvania	CLOSED	\$2,449,276.52	\$5,896.23	\$2,455,172.75
Puerto Rico	In Progress	\$1,706,916.40	\$0.00	\$1,706,916.40
Rhode Island	CLOSED	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
South Carolina	CLOSED	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
South Dakota	CLOSED	\$2,649,975.91	\$50,636.38	\$2,700,612.29
Tennessee	CLOSED	\$686,794.20	\$430.47	\$687,224.67
Texas	CLOSED	\$3,488,539.94	\$91,905.78	\$3,580,445.72
U.S. Virgin Islands	CLOSED	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utah	CLOSED	\$2,472,859.78	\$22,271.89	\$2,495,131.67
Vermont	CLOSED	\$895,887.94	\$87.23	\$895,975.17
Virginia	REOPENED	\$577,789.00	\$31,194.08	\$608,983.08
Washington	CLOSED	\$2,860,842.10	\$45,334.10	\$2,906,176.20
West Virginia	CLOSED	\$1,155,082.00	\$19,288.82	\$1,174,370.82
Wisconsin	CLOSED	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Wyoming	CLOSED	\$2,051,269.07	\$15,904.26	\$2,067,173.33

Closed – Closeout is complete. The state has completed closeout requirements, submitted final reports, and returned any unexpended federal funds and/or interest.

In Progress – Closeout is in progress. The state has submitted final reporting and is in the process of completing closeout activities, including submission of certification letter, and return of unexpended federal funds and/or interest. As of March 27, 2022, all CARES grants are expired and thus all remaining grants are automatically starting the process for closeout.

Reopened – Grant was temporarily reopened to reflect an additional debt collection from the grantee or a subgrantee.