

FEDERAL FINANCIAL REPORT

(Follow form instructions)

1. Federal Agency and Organizational Element to Which Report is Submitted ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION				2. Federal Grant or Other Identifying Number Assigned by Federal Agency (To report multiple grants, use FFR Attachment) NV20101CARES				
3. Recipient Organization (Name and complete address including Zip code) Secretary Of State, Nevada Office Of The 101 N Carson St # 3, CARSON CITY, NV 897013714								
4a. UEI	4b. EIN	5. Recipient Account Number or Identifying Number (To report multiple grants, use FFR Attachment)		6. Report Type <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Final	7. Basis of Accounting <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accrual			
8. Project/Grant Period (Month, Day, Year) From: March 28, 2020 To: December 31, 2020				9. Reporting Period End Date (Month, Day, Year) December 31, 2021				
10. Transactions					Cumulative			
<i>(Use lines a-c for single or combined multiple grant reporting)</i>								
Federal Cash (To report multiple grants separately, also use FFR Attachment):								
a. Cash Receipts					\$4,496,720.00			
b. Cash Disbursements					\$4,496,720.00			
c. Cash on Hand (line a minus b)					\$0.00			
<i>(Use lines d-o for single grant reporting)</i>								
Federal Expenditures and Unobligated Balance:								
d. Total Federal funds authorized					\$4,496,720.00			
e. Federal share of expenditures					\$4,496,720.00			
f. Federal share of unliquidated obligations					\$0.00			
g. Total Federal share (sum of lines e and f)					\$4,496,720.00			
h. Unobligated balance of Federal funds (line d minus g)					\$0.00			
Recipient Share:								
i. Total recipient share required					\$899,344.00			
j. Recipient share of expenditures					\$899,344.00			
k. Remaining recipient share to be provided (line i minus j)					\$0.00			
Program Income:								
l. Total Federal share of program income earned					\$15,449.46			
m. Program income expended in accordance with the deduction alternative					\$0.00			
n. Program income expended in accordance with the addition alternative					\$15,449.46			
o. Unexpended program income (line l minus line m and line n)					\$0.00			
11. Indirect Expense	a. Type	b. Rate	c. Period From	Period To	d. Base	e. Amount Charged	f. Federal Share	
g. Totals:					\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
12. Remarks: Attach any explanations deemed necessary or information required by Federal sponsoring agency in compliance with governing legislation: "Please provide the following information:								
13. Certification: By signing this report, I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the report is true, complete, and accurate, and the expenditures, disbursements and cash receipts are for the purposes and intent set forth in the award documents. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001)								
a. Typed or Printed Name and Title of Authorized Certifying Official Griffitts, Ashley Management Analyst I					c. Telephone (Area code, number, and extension)			d. Email Address
b. Signature of Authorized Certifying Official Griffitts, Ashley					e. Date Report Submitted (Month, Day, Year) April 4, 2022			

Standard Form 425
OMB Approval Number: 4040-0014
Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

Paperwork Burden Statement
According to the Paperwork Reduction Act, as amended, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB Control Number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 4040-0014. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. If you have comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: US Department of Health & Human Services, OS/OCIO/PRA, 200 Independence Ave, SW, Suite 336-E, Washington DC 20201. Attention: PRA Reports Clearance Officer

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(Additional Page)

Federal Agency & Organization

ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Federal Grant ID

Recipient Organization

UEI

UEI Status when Certified

EIN

Reporting Period End Date

Status

Awarding Agency Approval

Remarks

"Please provide the following information:

State interest earned (current fiscal year): \$

State interest expended (current fiscal year): \$

Program income earned (current fiscal year): \$

Program income earned breakdown (current fiscal year): \$ Source: e.g. Sale of registration list

Program income expended (current fiscal year): \$

"

Federal Agency Review

Reviewer Name : Augustyn, Arielle

Phone #

Email

Review Date : May 13, 2022

Review Comments

2021-2022 EAC Progress Report

1. Login

Please enter the username and password provided by the EAC to begin the Progress Report. If you require assistance or have any questions, please contact Grants@eac.gov.

2. Verification

3. EAC Progress Report

1. State or Territory:

Nevada

2. Grant Number:

3. Report:

Final (Start of Grant - End)

4. Grant:

CARES

5. Reporting Period Start Date

03/28/2020

6. Reporting Period End Date

01/31/2022

4. Progress and Narrative

Final Progress Report:

The final report is your opportunity to share the significant features of your project and present information about the results your project achieved.

It should be written as if the reader has no previous knowledge of your project's activities. The report should cover the entire period of performance.

Review and Self-Assessment:

Review and highlight all activities that occurred during the implementation of the project, including an assessment of your performance.

The Nevada election officials at the state and county levels came together in the unprecedented circumstances presented by the pandemic, rose to the challenges, and conducted two successful statewide elections.

Ballot by Mail - Faced with difficulties recruiting poll workers and polling locations and the need to institute quarantine procedures, Nevada election officials decided to conduct a vote-by-mail Primary Election. As described below, the implementation involved the purchase of mechanical equipment to assist with mail ballot handling including ballot on demand printers, envelope openers, envelope sorters, and high-speed tabulation scanners. Many of the counties used CARES funds to pay for ballot print and mail services.

Voter Education - The State engaged in a voter education campaign that included television ads, radio ads, direct mailers, and a new website to educate voters about the all-mail Primary Election and about how to correctly complete and submit their mail ballots. Prior to the General Election, the State used CARES funds to send a postcard to all 1.8 million active registered voters to educate them on changes to the voting procedures.

Personal Protective Equipment - While the Primary Election was conducted primarily by mail, the General Election was a hybrid in which many voters received their ballot by mail, but others voted in person at early voting sites or on Election Day at polling places. The counties used CARES funds to purchase personal protective equipment and sanitizing supplies for those locations.

Personnel - The counties also used CARES funds to assist with paying for additional staff and election workers.

7. CARES Grant Specific:

Describe in detail how you used the funds to address the pandemic.

Primary Election – June 9, 2020

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States, election officials in Nevada began to face challenges related to the availability of poll workers and polling locations for the June 9, 2020 Primary Election. To negate these issues, Nevada election officials decided to conduct a vote-by-mail Primary Election in which all registered voters were automatically sent a mail ballot. However, since less than ten percent of Nevada voters historically voted by mail, Nevada election officials knew that the preparation, mailing, and processing of 1.8 million ballots would require significant voter education and additional mail ballot processing equipment.

The Secretary of State's Office used CARES act funding to lease ballot-on-demand printers and high-speed scanners for the 17 county election offices in order to facilitate ballot creation during in-person early voting and to increase the speed of ballot tabulation. The State also used CARES funds to reimburse the counties for purchases of personal protective equipment for the Primary Election.

General Election – November 3, 2020

After the Primary Election, the counties and State anticipated returning to the normal course of business with normal levels of in-person voting before and on Election Day, although with higher numbers of voters due to populations growth since 2018 and the interest in a Presidential election. All 17 counties had an increased number of polling places/early voting sites to staff. The State used CARES funds to reimburse the counties for the costs of hiring additional staff and for personal protective equipment.

In the Summer of 2020, the Nevada Legislature convened a special session to address COVID-19 and passed Assembly Bill 4, which included the mandate to send mail ballots to all active registered voters. The State used CARES funds to conduct a voter education campaign and to reimburse the counties for their local voter education campaigns. In addition, the State used CARES funds to send a postcard to all 1.8 million active registered voters to clarify the changes to the General Election voting procedures. Many of the counties purchased mechanical letter openers and/or hired additional temporary staff to process the increased number of mail ballots. Clark County and Washoe County (the two largest counties in Nevada, which collectively account for 87 percent of the state's active registered voters) also purchased envelope sorters to assist in processing the mail ballots.

8. Describe the major issues you faced in dealing with the pandemic and how you addressed or resolved those issues.

Nevada's state and local election officials addressed the issues that affected election officials nationwide, such as keeping equipment sanitized and how to fit people into a polling place while still socially distancing, and how to recruit and train enough election workers.

The biggest problem that Nevada's voters and election officials faced was with the increase in mail ballots. Nevada voters had a

major obstacle with understanding how to use a mail ballot and how to cure their signature when necessary. Most voters had never voted by mail before the Primary Election, so the Secretary of State's Office used CARES act funding to contract with a marketing group to launch a statewide voter education campaign. This campaign utilized television ads, radio ads, direct mailers and a new website to educate voters about the all-mail primary election and provide instructions on how to correctly complete their mail ballot. Several counties conducted their own voter outreach as well.

Educating voters how to use their mail ballot was only half the challenge. Since most people had never used a mail ballot, they were also unfamiliar with how to cure their ballot if they were notified by the county clerk that they either failed to sign their return envelope or the signature did not match the one on file. To help make signature cure more convenient and as easy as possible for the public, the Secretary of State's Office contracted with Global Mobile to use their Text2Cure electronic signature-curing platform. This allowed voters to cure their signature on their smart phone without having to photocopy and mail their identification to the county election office.

9. Provide a description of any training conducted, including security training.

N/A

10. Subgrants:

Did your office provide subawards to local jurisdictions during this reporting period?

Yes

11. Describe the activities carried out by your subgrantees during the reporting period.

CARES funds were distributed to the counties on a reimbursement basis. The counties purchased the COVID-related items they needed and then submitted reimbursement requests itemizing all expenses and providing appropriate invoices and proof of payments. The Secretary of State's Office reviewed the reimbursement requests and denied any non-qualified expenses. As of 01/31/2022, the State had expended \$2,385,845.17 of CARES funds in reimbursements to the counties, which included \$15,449.46 of program income from Federal interest expended. The funds were spent as follows:

Communications \$335,118.18

Security \$842.09

Staffing \$25,395.00

Supplies \$117,782.13

Voting Processes \$1,281,499.95

Equipment \$625,207.82

Provide a breakdown of aggregate subawards expenditures across major categories.

Voting Equipment : \$625,207.82

Security : \$842.09

Communications : \$335,118.18

Other (Specify above) : \$1,281,499.95

Other (Specify above) : \$143,177.13

Total : \$2385845.17

12. Match:

Describe how you are meeting or have met the matching requirement.

Nevada's total match requirement is \$899,344. As of this reporting period, 100% of this match has been met. A portion of this match was met with in-kind advertising services from the Nevada Broadcasters Association as well as a donation of hand sanitizer from Anheuser Busch. The remaining match was met with general fund expenditures from various Nevada counties. These counties used their original budget dollars to purchase PPE, social distancing supplies, sanitizing supplies, and to pay for the printing and mailing of additional mail ballots.

13. Report on the number and type of articles of voting equipment obtained with the funds. Include the amount expended

on the expenditure table.

The following equipment purchases were made using CARES grant funds:

2 mobile ballot printers \$20,160.00

5 envelope openers \$65,965.00

2 envelope sorters \$530,332.82

1 ballot tabulation scanner \$8,750.00

Total equipment purchases: \$625,207.82

14. Impact:**Write an assessment of how your project has impacted the problems you were trying to solve. Were there unexpected benefits? Shortfalls?**

The CARES funds enabled Nevada to transition to a primarily mail ballot delivery method for the 2020 Primary Election, which enabled a large number of Nevada voters to stay safe and vote from their homes instead of having to travel to polling places. Many voters opted to request a mail ballot for the 2020 General Election as well. As a result of this increase in voting by mail during the 2020 elections, the Nevada Legislature opted to implement mail voting during the 2021 Legislative Session for all elections going forward. Under this new law, all active registered voters will receive a ballot by mail for every election that they are eligible for, unless the voter submits a written request to opt out. Whether this change will be a benefit to Nevada voters is still under review. The Nevada election administrators will gauge the effectiveness of this implementation during the 2022 and 2024 election cycles.

The new ballot delivery method enacted by the Nevada Legislature was not coupled with a reduction in polling place or early voting requirements, and the counties are still struggling with poll worker shortages. In addition, it is currently unclear whether the counties will need to purchase additional equipment to assist with the processing of mail ballots.

One unexpected benefit of the CARES funding and the changes that were made during the 2020 election cycle was improved communication with the county clerks. The Nevada Secretary of State's Office has gained a better understanding of the unique challenges each county official faces.

15. Lessons Learned:**Provide a review of your successes and suggest ways that your experience may be helpful to others. Did you make permanent changes to your processes? What are some areas of potential improvement?**

As stated above, most Nevada voters had never received a ballot by mail before the 2020 Primary Election. Nevada used a significant amount of CARES funding to help educate voters on the mechanics of how to vote by mail and signature verification. Nevada also implemented a pilot program with txt2cure, which is an electronic signature curing platform that enabled voters to cure their signatures on their mail ballots using their smart phones.

As noted in response to Question 8, the Nevada Legislature has made a permanent change to require the county clerks to mail ballots to all active registered voters for all elections starting with the 2022 Primary Election. Nevada is continuing to look for ways to educate voters on this change and to assist voters with signature curing processes. Since Nevada is still in the midst of implementing this permanent change, its effectiveness is still being gauged.

One result of the pandemic and the 2020 election cycle has been an exodus of county election officials and staff members. As a result, the Nevada Secretary of State's Office has taken a proactive approach to long-term planning. This has meant an increased focus on developing procedures, policies, templates, and instructional guidance to assist brand new clerks to conduct safe and effective elections.

Login Capture**5. Expenditures****16. CARES COST CATEGORIES - FEDERAL**

Voting Equipment and Processes: : \$1049177

Voter Education/Communications: : \$1076998

Supplies: : \$149

Subgrants: : \$2385845

Total : \$4512169

Comments:

17. CARES COST CATEGORIES - MATCH

Voter Education/Communications: : \$840339

Supplies: : \$59005

Total : \$899344

Comments:

7. Expenditures

18. Confirm Total CARES Expenditure Amounts

Federal : \$4512169

Match : \$899344

Total : \$5411513

OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 3265-0020

8. Certification

Name and Contact of the authorized certifying official of the recipient.

First Name

Ashley

Last Name

Griffitts

Title

Management Analyst II

Phone Number

Email Address

19. Add another contact to send a copy of submission confirmation and edit link?

Signature of Certifying Official:



Signature of: Ashley Griffitts

9. Report Submitted to EAC



Thank you. Your Final (Start of Grant - End) progress report for CARES has been submitted to the EAC. Please keep the PDF download of your submission as grant record.