

# EAC CARES Progress Narrative Report

Response ID:273 Data

## 1. EAC-CARES Progress Narrative Report Login

Please enter your userword and password to begin the CARES Funding Progress Narrative. If you require assistance or have any questions, please contact CARESFunding@eac.gov.

## 2. Not a Bot Verification

reCAPTCHA answered

## 3. EAC CARES Progress Narrative Report

### 1. State:

Enter the name of the state or territory that received the grant and is submitting this report.

California

### 2. Grant Number:

Enter the grant agreement number from the notice of grant award.

CA20101CARES

### 3. Report:

November 23 after general election

### 4. DUNS/UEI:

Enter the recipient organization's Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number or System for Award Management (SAM) extended DUNS Number or the Unique Entity Identifier.

### 5. EIN:

Enter the recipient organization's Employer Identification Number (EIN) provided by the Internal Revenue Services.

### 6. Recipient Organization:

Enter the name of the recipient organization and address, including zip code.

#### Organization Name

California Secretary Of State

#### Street Address

1500 11th Street

#### City

Sacramento

#### State

CA

Zip

95814

## 7. Progress Narrative:

### Progress During Reporting Period

**The CARES Act requires states to submit a report after each primary and general election that includes a “full accounting of the State’s uses of the payment and an explanation of how such uses allowed the State to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.” Please provide a narrative report that describes how you used the funds to address the pandemic, the challenges you faced in responding to it and how you are meeting the state match requirement. Describe the major issues you faced in dealing with the pandemic in the election cycle and how you made funds available to local jurisdictions. Complete the cost table below describing your major expenditures under the grant. Add additional cost areas as needed that do not fit into the other categories.**

In order to prepare for and respond to the coronavirus or COVID-19 pandemic, \$36,485,465.00 was allocated through the CARES Act to California. California's primary election was held March 3, 2020, therefore no CARES Act funds were used to conduct the March 3, 2020 Primary Election.

In response to the safety and public health concerns related to COVID-19, the California Secretary of State, in coordination with Governor Newsom, the California Legislature, and all 58 California county election officials have worked since March to plan, adopt new strategies, and enact new laws designed to protect the health and safety of Californians while maintaining the accessibility and security of the November 3, 2020 General Election.

This included:

- Every active, registered voter in California received a vote-by-mail ballot.
- All California voters had the opportunity to sign up for text, email, and phone notifications that allowed them to track their vote-by-mail ballot. In the March 2020 Primary Election, we had just over 65,000 Californians tracking their ballots. For the November 3, 2020 General Election, over 5,065,000 Californians tracked their ballots.
- Voters were provided several options for safely returning their ballots, including at in-person voting locations, county election offices, official ballot drop boxes, and through the U.S. Postal Service (California provides postage pre-paid ballot return envelopes to vote-by-mail voters).
- Sufficient in-person voting opportunities were available with the appropriate health and safety protocols in place to ensure that voters could safely visit a location to get assistance or cast their ballot in-person.
- Extensive safety guidelines and protocols and online training for poll workers and voters were developed and made available to all counties and election workers.
- A new online portal was created to recruit poll workers statewide in an effort to assist all county election offices who desperately needed to replace the many traditional older workers who were unable or unwilling to volunteer this election, due to their higher-risk of contracting COVID-19.
- State and local elections officials worked in partnership to identify and procure new sites for in-person voting locations, including businesses and large sports venues that offered the necessary space for physical distancing while voting. Thousands of voting locations were secured in record time.
- Personal protective equipment was procured for all 58 counties for use by election workers and voters. Tens of millions of pieces of personal protective equipment were secured and distributed to both election workers and voters.
- Regular (daily and weekly) working group meetings were held with county election officials, the Secretary of State, the US Postal Service, community groups and stakeholders to prepare, plan, troubleshoot, and provide resources for the unprecedented challenges faced.
- A statewide situation room for counties, state and federal partners, and my office was established to communicate issues and concerns during early voting and on election day. A variety of cybersecurity exercises and continuity trainings were conducted, and information was rapidly shared on a variety of issues.

In identifying and promulgating these new changes, the FY 2020-21 Budget provided a total of \$111.6 million for California election officials to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the impacts of COVID-19 for the November 3, 2020 General Election. This funding included \$46.1 million in state General Fund and federal Help America Vote Act funds from the CARES Act (\$36.5 million) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 (\$29 million). The \$46.1 million state General Fund authorization satisfies the 20% match requirement.

The EAC provided guidance on the use of CARES Act funds granted to the states to protect staff and poll workers, secure physical locations, and address unexpected expenses as a result of COVID-19. The CARES Act and the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 funding allowed California counties and the state to conduct the November 3, 2020 General Election in the face of COVID-19 to cover increased costs associated with: additional vote-by-mail (VBM) costs, staffing, security, specialized training of staff and election workers, cleaning and disinfecting, personal protective equipment, education and outreach to voters about voting safely, and polling locations or election facilities.

California faced many challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic during the 2020 General Election which included:

- Ensuring every registered voter was able to vote safely: To address this, each active registered voter received a vote-by-mail ballot, voters were provided multiple safe and secure options returning their ballots, health and safety protocols were established, training on health guidelines and protocols was made available to election workers, and personal protective equipment for voters and election workers was provided.
- Ensuring the health and safety of election workers: To address this, health and safety protocols were established, training on health guidelines and protocols was made available to election workers, and personal protective equipment for all voters and election workers was provided.
- Recruiting election workers in the face of COVID-19: To address this, the Secretary of State worked closely with county election officials to utilize emergency workers, and the Secretary of State developed a new online portal to recruit poll workers statewide for each county.
- Finding voting locations: To address this, the Secretary of State worked closely with state and regional businesses and large sports venues to secure appropriately sized locations for physical distancing while maintaining other important criteria for voting locations such as availability of parking, accessibility for differently abled voters, access to public transportation, and more.
- Fighting misinformation and disinformation: A statewide situation room for counties, state and federal partners was created so that issues and concerns were timely identified and responded to.

The \$36,485,465.00 in CARES Act funding was used to conduct the 2020 General Election and has been fully encumbered. California's election process is ongoing as counties continue to work to certify their election results pursuant to state law. As of November 23, 2020, \$24,725,384.19 of the CARES Act funding has been expended, which is broken down by category expended as of November 23, 2020 is provided below.

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## FINAL PROGRESS NARRATIVE REPORT

### PROGRESS DURING REPORTING PERIOD

**The CARES Act requires states to submit a report after each primary and general election that includes a “full accounting of the State’s uses of the payment and an explanation of how such uses allowed the State to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.” Please provide a narrative report that describes how you used the funds to address the pandemic, the challenges you faced in responding to it and how you are meeting the state match requirement. Describe the major issues you faced in dealing with the pandemic in the election cycle and how you made funds available to local jurisdictions. Complete the cost table below describing your major expenditures under the grant. Add additional cost areas as needed that do not fit into the other categories.**

**The final report is your opportunity to share the significant features of your activities and present information about the results you achieved. The document should be written as if the reader has no previous knowledge of your activities. EAC would like to share the final reports with all states. The report should cover the entire period of performance. Review and highlight all activities that occurred during the period of the grant. Include the table of expenditures with cumulative expenditures for the entire project period.**

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summarize your entire project and the lessons learned during its implementation. Include a review of your successes and an assessment of how your activities addressed the pandemic. What did you learn about dealing with and preparing for a major crisis during an election year that can be helpful to other states? Did you make permanent changes to your processes? Were there unexpected benefits? Shortfalls?

## 8. 2020 HAVA CARES GRANTS

### Current Period Amount Expended and Unliquidated Obligations

#### PANDEMIC GRANT COST CATEGORIES

	Federal	Match
Voting Processes, including additional costs for printing and mailing ballots, ballot tracking software, high speed scanners and letter opening equipment, mail drop boxes, hardware and software associated with signature comparison of returned ballots	\$2,202,074.83	\$440,414.97
Staffing: Additional poll workers, election office staff diverted to pandemic response, temporary staff	\$3,460,163.97	\$692,032.79
Security and Training: Security for additional absentee or mail drop-boxes, pre- and post-election cleaning of polling places, staff and poll worker training on prevention processes	\$289,870.10	\$57,974.02
Communications: Notifying public of changes in registration, ballot request options, precautions or voting procedures)	\$11,549,419.22	\$2,309,883.84
Supplies: Additional laptops, mobile IT equipment, cleaning supplies, masks	\$7,223,856.07	\$1,444,771.21

If you need additional rows for the summary table, please upload an Excel document with the same layout.

## 4. Certification

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

**First Name**

Daniel

**Last Name**

Onodera

**Title**

VoteCal Budget & Contract Manager

**Phone Number**

9166951630

**Email Address**

donodera@sos.ca.gov

**2. Signature of Certifying Official:**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Onodera". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

Signature of: Daniel Onodera

**5. Report Submitted to EAC**

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**CARES Funding Progress Narrative Submission**

Nov 23, 2020 21:52:55 Success: Email Sent to: donodera@sos.ca.gov