

EAC CARES Progress Narrative Report

Response ID:267 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.

Iowa

2. Grant Number:

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

IA20101CARES

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

Iowa Secretary Of State

Street Address

321 E 12th Street

City

Des Moines

State

IA

Zip

50319

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.

This report is cumulative and details how funds have been expended throughout calendar year 2020.

Iowa had a non-presidential Primary Election on June 2, 2020. The narrative for that election is contained within our earlier report.

Following the record-breaking success of Iowa's Primary Election, the Iowa Secretary of State's Office utilized similar tactics to adapt Iowa's election processes in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Encourage Voters to Utilize Absentee Voting

Based on CDC and Election Assistance Commission (EAC) guidance to "[e]ncourage mail-in methods of voting if allowed in the jurisdiction", and our state's experience from the June Primary, it was clear that in order to protect the health and wellness of Iowa's voters and election officials there would need to be a second statewide campaign to encourage voters to utilize no-excuse absentee voting.

As a part of the campaign to promote the use of absentee voting by mail, the Secretary of State's Office sent a mailing, which included an absentee ballot request form and instructions, to Iowa's active registered voters. This mailing was in direct response to the global COVID-19 pandemic and the extremely unique circumstances we found ourselves in, and was unanimously approved by Iowa's bi-partisan Legislative Council.

In addition to the statewide mailing, the Secretary of State's Office focused their statewide media campaign to include additional calls to voters to utilize absentee voting. This campaign sought to educate voters on the 3R's of no-excuse absentee voting: Request an absentee ballot. Receive your ballot. Return your ballot. Request. Receive. Return.

Provide Grants to County Auditors to Purchase PPE and Cleaning Supplies

All of Iowa's 99 County Auditors were provided with the opportunity to apply for a second HAVA COVID-19 grant to purchase protective and hygienic materials, including but not limited to: masks, gloves, disinfectant wipes for election equipment, cleaning supplies for voting booths and other surfaces, protective plexiglass or acrylic shields for PEOs, other sanitizing materials, PEO recruitment and incentives, a pen for every voter, floor stickers and signs to encourage social distancing and control voter flow, and preparing the County Auditor's office for in-person absentee voting. County Auditors could also use these funds to disinfect a polling place before and/or after election day in order to encourage a building to serve as polling places. Some counties were also able to source items such as envelope stuffers, ballot folders, envelope openers and high-speed central count machines to help accommodate the increased demand for absentee ballots.

The Secretary of State's Office granted County Auditors \$10,000, plus \$600 for every precinct in their county.

Based on reports filed by the counties, the funds were expended on voting processes (31%), staffing (22%), security and training (10%), communications (4%), supplies (31%) and other (6%). Unexpended funds are in the process of being returned to the state.

Recruit Iowans to Serve as Precinct Election Officials (PEOs)

The average PEO in Iowa is over the age of 60, which places them at high risk for contracting and experiencing complications related to COVID-19.

In response to concerns expressed by County Auditors and our long-serving PEOs, the Iowa Secretary of State's Office launched a statewide campaign to recruit more Iowans to serve as PEOs. This campaign focused on voters who are under 60 years of age with a primary focus on voters aged 17-35. We partnered with County Auditors, as well as other stakeholder groups, to help encourage voters to come forward and help Iowa move towards recovery by serving as a PEO. Additionally, we launched a new website, <https://pollworker.iowa.gov/>, to provide a central location for interested Iowans to sign up to receive more information about serving as a PEO in their county.

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	\$0.00	
Staffing: Additional poll workers, election office staff diverted to pandemic response, temporary staff	\$0.00	
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	\$18,574.01	
Communications: Notifying public of changes in registration, ballot request options, precautions or voting procedures)	\$1,455,022.36	\$516,970.00
Supplies: Additional laptops, mobile IT equipment, cleaning supplies, masks	\$79,500.89	
Subgrants to Counties	\$2,063,510.00	\$206,351.00

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

Molly

Last Name

Widen

Title

Legal Counsel

Phone Number

5152815864

Email Address

molly.widen@sos.iowa.gov

2. Signature of Certifying Official:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Molly M. Widen". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Signature of: Molly M. Widen

5. Report Submitted to EAC

CARES Funding Progress Narrative Submission

Nov 23, 2020 17:54:31 Success: Email Sent to: molly.widen@sos.iowa.gov