

EAC CARES Progress Narrative Report

Response ID:160 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.

Idaho

2. Grant Number:

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

ID20101CARES

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

Secretary Of State

Street Address

700 W Jefferson St Room #e205

City

Boise

State

ID

Zip

83702

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.

To ensure Idaho could safely hold in-person voting for the November General Election, counties adjusted their election plans substantially by acquiring new equipment and altering existing polling locations and processes to ensure the safety of permanent staff, poll workers, and voters. PPE, hand sanitizer, throw-away pens & pencils, and sneeze guards were common purchased items across our state to reduce or avoid the risk of exposure. With the goal of minimizing time voters spent at polling locations and for staff to safely handle the projected record turnout of voters, counties purchased new equipment such as electronic poll books, ballot-sorting and folding machines, automatic letter openers, , and date/time stampers. These necessary and prudent purchases significantly reduced processing time at the polls and, more importantly, reduced the risk of contact exposure in county office spaces and at precinct locations.

As an example, our most populated county purchased an absentee ballot sorting machine that allowed staff to process ballots quickly and efficiently. Once the county received the ballots, staff utilized this machine to scan, automatically time stamp, and capture a photo of the voter's signature. This enabled the clerks to rapidly and accurately compare signatures with those on voter registration cards. Once staff verified signatures, the ballots were digitally scanned once again and sorted into legislative districts, and then ultimately into precincts. This purchase allowed county election staff to process 20,000 ballots per hour. With almost half of the total ballots received as absentee, this machine made a significant impact on ensuring staff was able to process ballots in a safe, quick, and efficient manner.

The 2020 Federal election cycle produced record numbers of voters in Idaho. Compared to the 2016 general election where Idaho had 75% voter turnout of registered voters, this election witnessed an 82% turnout. The most significant change from any other election year, was the total number of absentee ballots sent, returned, and processed. Of the 867,302 votes cast in Idaho, 379,495 of them were absentee due to the State's campaign to promote absentee/mail-in and early voting in response to the pandemic. This increase led to counties doubling and, in some cases, quadrupling costs for absentee ballot postage, envelopes, paper and handling. Counties also required additional staff in the form of temporary hires and, as a result, accumulated considerable overtime expenses.

Due to escalating positive Coronavirus cases in Idaho, one of our chief concerns leading up to the general election was having the necessary number of polling locations to safely handle voter turnout. A majority of the previously planned polling locations were schools and nursing homes, most of which we were unable to use during the general election. The counties worked closely with their communities to identify adequate polling facilities that would enable safe and efficient processing while ensuring proper social distancing while casting ballots. Along with polling locations, was our concern for poll worker safety. Many counties reported shortly beforehand that staff levels were low due to employees being sick, quarantined, or deciding not to serve as poll workers. The average age of an Idaho poll worker is 74, which places them at a much higher risk of contracting the virus. As a precautionary measure, our office trained 52 poll worker volunteers in the event counties would experience shortages on election day. As anticipated, five counties requested assistance for additional poll workers. Fortunately, we were prepared and dispatched 46 emergency poll workers to each short-staffed county. As a result, the state of Idaho leveraged available CARES Act funding to compensate emergency poll workers for their services and associated travel expenses.

Per grant guidelines, counties are providing the required state-match prior to the state allocating available federal funds. Now that the general election has concluded, we expect more counties to begin submitting invoices for reimbursement under this grant. The majority of invoices we have processed as of this report include purchases for upgraded voting equipment, 2

overtime hours paid for staff, printing of additional ballots, and acquiring necessary PPE. Out of the \$3.4 million awarded to Idaho, 1 million has been released to the counties, with another 1.3 million anticipated in the next month. Current federal funds expended is \$1,921,955.66 and current match met is \$447,669.89.

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	\$1,498,295.72	\$396,527.24
Staffing: Additional poll workers, election office staff diverted to pandemic response, temporary staff	\$4,587.91	\$22,695.28
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	\$8,196.05	\$5,767.96
Communications: Notifying public of changes in registration, ballot request options, precautions or voting procedures)	\$392,099.39	\$4,374.85
Supplies: Additional laptops, mobile IT equipment, cleaning supplies, masks	\$18,776.59	\$18,304.56

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

Kathy

Last Name

Abbott

Title

Financial Specialist

Phone Number

12083322824

Email Address

kathy.abbott@sos.idaho.gov

2. Signature of Certifying Official:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Abbott". The letters are cursive and connected.

Signature of: Kathy Abbott

5. Report Submitted to EAC

CARES Funding Progress Narrative Submission

Nov 09, 2020 15:17:20 Success: Email Sent to: kathy.abbott@sos.idaho.gov