

# EAC CARES Progress Narrative Report

Response ID:64 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.

North Dakota

### 2. Grant Number:

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

ND20201CARES

### 3. Report:

20 days after primary

### 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

North Dakota Secretary Of State

#### Street Address

600 E. Blvd.ave. Department 108

#### City

Bismarck

#### State

ND

Zip

58505

## 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.**

North Dakota’s June 9 primary election came amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, with the deadline for decisions regarding potential changes to the election approaching the State in mid-March.

Mid-March represented the peak period of unknown facing the country because of COVID-19. Many states encountered significant disruption with elections as election days were moved or polling places opened, then closed, and then opened again.

North Dakota’s main objective with the primary was to minimize voter disruption, avoiding stops and starts that the pandemic was causing elsewhere. Governor Doug Burgum issued Executive Order 2020-13 in late March

(<https://www.governor.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/executive-orders/Executive%20Order%202020-13%20Elections.pdf>)

, and this order set the stage for a successful primary election with minimal disruption.

To be clear, the end result of the election was that the entire state conducted the primary election with ballots-by-mail, and that change was significant. But it was a decisive change, encouraged by the governor in late March and then by each county in early April, and the election ran predictably.

In the end, more voters were issued ballots than for any other primary election in state history. More than 80 percent were returned by mail or to drop boxes, and the overall turnout was well above the average for a primary election.

The Governor’s Executive Order strongly encouraged ballot-by-mail, but left the decision to each county. The Executive Order also required the Secretary of State to send ballot applications to all voters in the state’s Central Voter File (CVF).

North Dakota is the only state in the country that does not have voter registration and, therefore, does not undertake some of the traditional list maintenance activities that other states utilize. This direct mail piece (the application) resulted in a large volume of address change notifications, presenting an opportunity for the State to update voter records.

Related specifically to the CARES grants, the State has expressed concern to the EAC that report deadline of 20 days after election day represents a fundamental misunderstanding of election administration. In fact, while the election was June 9, the state’s canvass was not until June 19, and many counties conducted recounts for close races last week. Therefore, costs in many cases will be updated in subsequent reports and, in some instances, are estimates only.

Further, we reiterate that while North Dakota was responsive to the deadline here, it will be much more difficult for all states to meet the 20 day deadline in November. The State continues to believe that 20 days after the election is certified is consistent with “20 days after the election.” Hopefully, this 20-day deadline will be extended for November, particularly if there is consideration to giving any single state disposition to report later. The State encourages the EAC and the staff of the oversight committees to proactively address the November deadline in a manner in which all states are treated equitably, up-front.

While North Dakota’s election by mail was considered successful, the State recognizes that elections are best conducted in manners that meets voters where they are—making voting as easy as possible, given the conditions, with as many alternative methods of casting a ballot as possible, including voting by mail, in person early, in person on election day, and, for overseas and military, through electronic ballot delivery. There is great unknown ahead for November, and the State is planning appropriately.

Because not all invoices have arrived, some items are estimates and maybe be subject to change upon completion of the final report.

## 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	\$432,770.33	\$309,980.39
Staffing: Additional poll workers, election office staff diverted to pandemic response, temporary staff		
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		
Communications: Notifying public of changes in registration, ballot request options, precautions or voting procedures)	\$2,585.00	\$4,414.38
Supplies: Additional laptops, mobile IT equipment, cleaning supplies, masks	\$43,223.00	
Additional Scanning Equipment	\$202,200.00	
On-site Election Day Support	\$239,825.00	

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

OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 3265-0020

#### 4. Certification

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

**First Name**

Brian

**Last Name**

Newby

**Title**

State Election Director

**Phone Number**

7013283721

**Email Address**

bnewby@nd.gov

2. Signature of Certifying Official:



Signature of: Brian Newby

#### 5. Report Submitted to EAC



Thank you, your progress narrative report has been submitted to EAC. Please keep the PDF download of your submission as grant record.

**CARES Funding Progress Narrative Submission**

Jun 29, 2020 16:03:44 Success: Email Sent to: bnewby@nd.gov