

# EAC CARES Progress Narrative Report

Response ID:44 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.

Nebraska

### 2. Grant Number:

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

NE20101CARES

### 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

Nebraska Secretary Of State

#### Street Address

1445 K Street, Suite 2300

#### City

Lincoln

#### State

NE

Zip

68509

## 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.**

Nebraska held its Statewide Primary Election on the statutorily required date of May 12th 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were additional purchases that were made that the CARES Act grant funds can be used for. The total amount of the grant received was \$3,686,252, with a required state match of \$737,250. The federal funds are being held in an Election Administration Federal Fund, which is an interest bearing account. All interest on this balance will be reported as program income on the Federal Financial Reports. The state match has not yet been appropriated as our legislature is currently not scheduled to reconvene until July 20th. Due to the Legislature not being in session, it is unclear if the state match can be met via state appropriations at this time. As such, we are looking into options for in-kind matching contributions. For the purposes of this report, the funds expended are being shown as federal given the uncertain nature of the state match at this time. Additionally, some costs were estimated as not all bills have been fully reconciled and paid at this time. Funds have and are intended to be used to offset cost associated with the COVID-19 pandemic in the following areas:

#### Encouraging Early Voting:

One of the biggest concerns going into the primary was the possibility of significantly reduced voter turnout in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, Nebraska voters were informed of their choice of casting an early ballot or going to their polling site on Election Day. The Secretary of State's Office sent an early ballot application to every voter in counties who did not already send one to them. Costs associated with this mailing included the paper, printing, and postage. In addition, the Secretary of State did paid radio and newspaper ads letting voters know of their option to cast an early ballot.

In anticipation of increased early voting that the counties did not budget or prepare for in a typical primary, the Secretary of State's office purchased a supply of 500,000 sets of early ballot envelopes the counties could draw upon in the event they ran out. In addition, the state purchased a secure early ballot drop box for every county that did not have one in order for voters to have the ability to securely drop off their ballot even though county offices were closed due to COVID-19.

#### Recruiting Poll Workers:

Another major concern leading up to the primary was a significantly reduced poll worker turnout given the global pandemic and stay at home guidelines in place. In response, the Secretary of State's office did a mailing to all voters ages 18-50 in counties that asked for assistance in recruiting new poll workers. In addition, the Secretary of State did paid radio and newspaper ads asking Nebraska voters to step up and serve their communities as poll workers.

#### Provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Poll Workers and Voters:

In order to ensure all possible health and safety measures were in place to protect the election offices, poll workers, and voters, the Secretary of State's office purchased and shipped a variety of PPE to the counties. Such PPE items included pens so voters did not have to share and painter's tape so poll workers could mark off 6 feet social distancing points in line. In addition, the Secretary of State's office purchased a hygiene kit for every precinct site that gave poll workers access to hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, and gloves. While additional PPE items, such as masks, were secured for our election by the State of Nebraska, the Secretary of State's office incurred costs in shipping these items to the 93 county election offices.

## 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	\$443,603.00	
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)	\$73,293.00	
Supplies: Additional laptops, mobile IT equipment, cleaning supplies, masks	\$184,046.00	

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**

Joan

**Last Name**

Arnold

**Title**

Controller

**Phone Number**

402-471-2384

**Email Address**

joan.arnold@nebraska.gov

**2. Signature of Certifying Official:**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joan Arnold". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'A'.

Signature of: Joan Arnold

**5. Report Submitted to EAC**

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**CARES Funding Progress Narrative Submission**

Jun 01, 2020 15:39:33 Success: Email Sent to: joan.arnold@nebraska.gov