

# EAC CARES Progress Narrative Report

Response ID:172 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:

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

Office Of The Secretary Of State

#### Street Address

1445 K Street Ste. 2300

#### City

Lincoln

#### State

NE

Zip

68509-4608

## 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 General Election on the statutorily required date of November 3, 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 is a combination of election cash funds and general funds. We may also consider options for in-kind matching contributions. For the purposes of this report, cumulative funds expended and anticipated to yet be spent totaling \$1,993,838 are being shown as federal funds. 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. Nebraska used the CARES Act funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus in the following ways:

#### Encouraging Early Voting:

One of the biggest concerns going into the primary and again in the general election 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 by mail, voting in county election offices beginning October 5, or going to their polling site on Election Day. The Secretary of State did paid radio and newspaper ads letting voters know of their options. In addition, 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 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. Those envelopes were made available for the primary and general election as needed. More than 75% of the voters in the primary voted by mail and more than 56% of the voters in the general election voted by mail. In response to the increased volume of mail-in ballots additional ballot drop boxes were installed as necessary in some counties to ensure voter access to a ballot drop box and security of the ballot drop box for the general election.

#### Subaward to Counties:

A subaward process was established to provide reimbursement to counties for expenses above their typical costs in response to increased mail-in voting and safety of voters and election workers due to COVID. Documentation of expenditures will be submitted to the Secretary of State's Office through January 2021 and the amounts will be included in the February 2021 report.

#### 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 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 put together a hygiene kit for every precinct site that gave poll workers access to hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, face shields, gloves, and masks for voters. The Secretary of State's office incurred costs in putting together the kits and shipping these items to the 93 county election offices. Each county was also shipped a wall mounted hand sanitizer station for use in their office for early voting. Additional PPE costs incurred by counties are eligible for reimbursement through the subaward agreements.

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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?

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## **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	\$685,325.00	\$100,117.00
Staffing: Additional poll workers, election office staff diverted to pandemic response, temporary staff	\$49,348.00	\$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	\$59.00	\$298,650.00
Communications: Notifying public of changes in registration, ballot request options, precautions or voting procedures)	\$55,486.00	\$0.00
Supplies: Additional laptops, mobile IT equipment, cleaning supplies, masks	\$1,203,620.00	\$0.00

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**

Marilyn

**Last Name**

Tabor

**Title**

Federal Aid Grant Administrator

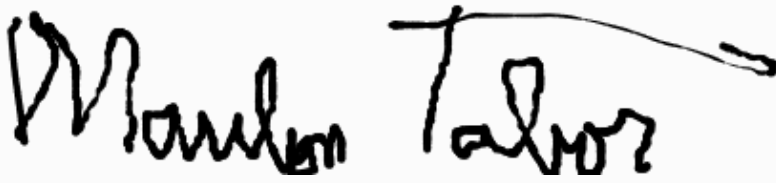
**Phone Number**

402-471-1410

**Email Address**

marilyn.j.tabor@nebraska.gov

2. Signature of Certifying Official:



Signature of: Marilyn Tabor

## 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

Nov 20, 2020 15:08:12 Success: Email Sent to: [marilyn.j.tabor@nebraska.gov](mailto:marilyn.j.tabor@nebraska.gov)