

EAC CARES Progress Narrative Report

Response ID:239 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.

Nevada

2. Grant Number:

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

NV20101CARES

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

101 North Carson Street, Suite 3

City

Carson City

State

NV

Zip

89701

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 is a cumulative report.

Following the success of the 2020 primary election, the Nevada Secretary of State chose to prepare for the 2020 general election by allocating an additional \$1.7 million in CARES Act funding to a number of outreach programs and mitigating actions in order to address the risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of these purchases and actions were county-specific while others were directed from the state-level and supported the requirements of all 17 counties.

At the state-level, a voter outreach program was conducted in which a postcard was sent to all 1.7 million active registered voters in order to clarify the changes to the general election directed in Assembly Bill 4. Assembly Bill 4 was passed during the 32nd Special Legislative Session and included the mandate to mail absent ballots to all active registered voters. As this was unique in Nevada history, a voter education campaign was planned and conducted ultimately costing approximately \$324,000 of CARES Act funding. It was augmented by local county voter education campaigns costing an additional \$335,000 of CARES Act funding. These campaigns were a vital part of the agency's outreach and greatly increased voter awareness.

While there were a very limited number of polling stations available in each county during the primary election, the general election resumed previously established norms and the 17 counties had an increased number of locations to man and support. In the largest county, Clark County, the increase from 3 polling stations to 120+ required additional staff at a cost of \$25,000 of CARES Act funding. In order to physically prepare for the safety of election workers and voters at all of these locations, approximately \$118,000 were allocated to the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE), hand sanitizer, and sneeze guards.

There were a number of purchases using CARES Act funding related to the security and enhancement of the general election voting process due to the COVID-19 pandemic. \$34,000 were allocated to repeat the successful use of a text-to-cure application provided by Global Mobile during the primary election. This application allowed voters to verify or "cure" their signatures using their mobile phones and was extensively used during the general election. \$682,000 were allocated to the purchase of additional ballots, mechanical letter openers and a mail sorter, the rental of ballot printers, polling location fees, and physical security measures such as a locks and a lockbox. All of these purchases were focused on the state-wide effort to prepare, prevent, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

The current state match includes the following county and state expenditures. Anheuser-Busch provided hand sanitizer at an in-kind value of \$1,650. The Nevada Broadcasters Association partnered with radio and television stations across the state to air ads for the primary election with an in-kind value of \$240,000. Additionally, there were a number of additional risk-mitigating purchases made across the state that are still being audited to ensure they may be applied as part of our required match. Those purchases will be documented in future reports.

The following narrative accounts for the CARES Act funds spent on the State of Nevada's 2020 primary election:

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States early this year, election officials in Nevada began to face challenges related to the availability of poll workers and polling locations for the state's June 9, 2020 primary election. To negate these issues, election officials in Nevada decided to conduct a vote-by-mail primary election where registered voters would be automatically sent a mail ballot. However, since less than 10 percent of Nevada voters generally vote by mail in any given election, Nevada election officials knew the preparation, mailing, and processing of 1.8 million ballots would require significant voter education and additional mail ballot processing equipment.

First, the Secretary of State's office used CARES Act funding to contract with a marketing group to launch a statewide voter education campaign. Most voters in Nevada had never voted by mail before the June 9, 2020 primary election, so the voter education campaign was focused on educating voters about how to vote by mail and the changes to the primary election. The voter education campaign utilized television ads, radio ads, direct mailers, and a new website to educate voters about the all-mail primary election and provide instructions to voters about how to correctly complete their mail ballot.

In addition, the Secretary of State's office used CARES Act funding to lease ballot-on-demand printers and high-speed scanners for our 17 county election offices in order to facilitate ballot creation during in-person voting and increase the speed of the ballot tabulation process. Each county election official provided a postage prepaid ballot return envelope with each mail ballot so voters would not have to pay for postage in order to return a ballot by mail. This cost was covered by CARES Act funding. County election officials fronted the cost of printing and mailing an approximately eight-fold increase in mail ballots for the primary election. They will be reimbursed from CARES Act funds in the next several weeks, and these reimbursements will be reported on the next CARES Act grant report.

Lastly, with the anticipated significant increase in the number of mail ballots voted for the primary election, the Secretary of State's office wanted to make signature curing as easy as possible for voters and county election officials. As a result, the Secretary of State's office contracted with Global Mobile to use their Text2Cure electronic signature curing platform. This allowed voters to cure their signature on their smart phone without having to make a photocopy of their identification and mail it in to the county election office.

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	\$1,726,892.64	
Staffing: Additional poll workers, election office staff diverted to pandemic response, temporary staff	\$25,395.00	
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	\$842.09	
Communications: Notifying public of changes in registration, ballot request options, precautions or voting procedures)	\$1,412,115.96	\$240,000.00
Supplies: Additional laptops, mobile IT equipment, cleaning supplies, masks	\$117,782.13	\$1,650.00

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

Ashley

Last Name

Griffitts

Title

Managment Analyst I

Phone Number

775-684-5738

Email Address

dalea@sos.nv.gov

2. Signature of Certifying Official:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Griffiths', is centered in the upper portion of the page.

Signature of: Ashley Griffiths

5. Report Submitted to EAC

CARES Funding Progress Narrative Submission

Nov 23, 2020 11:27:20 Success: Email Sent to: dalea@sos.nv.gov