

EAC CARES Progress Narrative Report

Response ID:262 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.

Rhode Island

2. Grant Number:

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

RI20101CARES

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

Rhode Island Department Of State

Street Address

82 Smith Street

City

Providence

State

RI

Zip

02903

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.

Rhode Island held its general election November 3, 2020. A record number of voters cast ballots during this general election. Due to the coronavirus pandemic all active registered voters were sent a mail ballot application to vote by mail.

More Rhode Island voters voted by mail and also more voted early in-person than in any other election in state history.

The change to allow more voters to cast ballots in advance of Election Day required additional costs. These costs included mailing costs to send applications and mail ballots to those who requested them. The applications and mail ballots included pre-paid postage return envelopes. Also, the Department of State established a centralized facility and team to process mail ballot applications.

In addition, the Board of Elections incurred additional costs to hire more temporary employees to process mail ballots. The Board also conducted a signature verification training for personnel matching signatures to verify voter identities.

Also, the Board of Elections procured additional security due to the increased number of mail ballots in the facility.

This report represents the cumulative spending to date including the Presidential Primary, Statewide Primary elections and November general election.

We continue working with our General Assembly to identify funds to meet the state match.

Overall, the CARES Act funds allowed the State of Rhode Island and its cities and towns to conduct an election during a pandemic where voters could cast ballots safely and securely.

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	\$2,033,684.79	
Staffing: Additional poll workers, election office staff diverted to pandemic response, temporary staff	\$151,330.15	
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	\$99,515.53	
Communications: Notifying public of changes in registration, ballot request options, precautions or voting procedures)	\$72,078.10	
Supplies: Additional laptops, mobile IT equipment, cleaning supplies, masks	\$73,379.58	
Legal	\$69,176.66	
Audit fees	\$1,509.88	

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

Rob

Last Name

Rock

Title

Director of Elections

Phone Number

4012227979

Email Address

rrock@sos.ri.gov

2. Signature of Certifying Official:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Rock', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Signature of: Rob Rock

5. Report Submitted to EAC

CARES Funding Progress Narrative Submission

Nov 23, 2020 18:32:30 Success: Email Sent to: rrock@sos.ri.gov