

EAC CARES Progress Narrative Report

Response ID:152 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:

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

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 statewide primary election September 8. The coronavirus pandemic necessitated state and local election officials to implement procedures to mitigate the risk of the spread of the coronavirus.

These changes were made to address concerns regarding the ability of voters to cast ballots in-person due to the coronavirus. In addition, election officials were concerned about finding available poll workers and locations to serve as polling places.

The Department of State and State Board of Elections utilized CARES Act funding to print and send more mail ballots than initially expected. Funds were also used to pay for prepaid postage return envelopes. In addition, both agencies incurred legal costs associated with the administration and planning of the elections.

The State Board of Elections utilized the funding to hire additional staff to process mail ballots. The Board also used the funding to purchase equipment to ensure the health and safety of voters casting ballot in polling places. In addition, the Board acquired secure drop boxes for each city and town allowing voters to drop off their mail ballots in-person.

This report represents the cumulative spending to date including the Presidential Primary and Statewide Primary elections.

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

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	\$1,438,966.99	
Staffing: Additional poll workers, election office staff diverted to pandemic response, temporary staff	\$116,830.15	
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	\$3,561.48	
Communications: Notifying public of changes in registration, ballot request options, precautions or voting procedures)	\$50,026.10	
Supplies: Additional laptops, mobile IT equipment, cleaning supplies, masks	\$62,261.30	
Legal: Outside counsel to address election administration litigation related to the pandemic	\$62,106.66	
Administrative: Audit fees to State of RI	\$1,508.17	

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

Rob

Last Name

Rock

Title

Director of Elections

Phone Number

4012227979

Email Address

2. Signature of Certifying Official:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rob Rock', written in a stylized, cursive-like font.

Signature of: Rob Rock

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

Sep 28, 2020 17:09:38 Success: Email Sent to: rrock@sos.ri.gov