

EAC CARES Progress Narrative Report

Response ID:250 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.

South Carolina

2. Grant Number:

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

SC20101CARES

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

South Carolina State Election Commission

Street Address

1122 Lady Street, Suite 500

City

Columbia

State

SC

Zip

29201

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.

As the state's chief election agency, the State Election Commission ("SEC") is charged by law with supervising the conduct of voter registration and elections throughout the state of South Carolina. This includes ensuring county boards of voter registration and elections comply with federal law, state law, and SEC policies and procedures with regards to voter registration and elections. The SEC also maintains the statewide voter registration system, approves and supports the statewide voting system, conducts a training and certification program for local election officials, conducts candidate filing, and provides a candidate tracking system.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the SEC's focus has been on addressing two main issues: to make polling places as safe as possible for voters, poll managers, and county election officials and, second, to address the increasing demand for absentee-in-person and absentee-by-mail since the general assembly passed legislation that included "COVID-19" as a reason to vote absentee for the 2020 General Election. To that end, the SEC made the following expenditures of HAVA CARES funding:

- Business Reply Account set up to allow the no postage due return of ballots by the voter
- Various items to assist with maintaining social distancing as suggested by public health officials: COVID signs to post at polling locations, surge protectors and extension cords to keep safe distance between voting machines and equipment's, guidelines marking appropriate distance between voters, election workers, etc.
- Additional Absentee Envelopes due to increase in absentee voting
- Blue Ballot Tote Bins for additional absentee locations
- Curbside Carts to provide for social distancing for curbside voting
- DS200 and DS450 Scanners to help process absentee ballots
- Ballot-Marking Devices (BMDs) to meet increased demand for in-person absentee voting
- Electronic Pollbooks provided to counties to check in voters, ensure voters receive correct ballot style and minimizes physical contact with poll managers
- Thumb drives for additional scanners and BMDs
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and supplies including face masks, face shields, gloves, hand sanitizer, Q-tips (to be used on touch screens by voters), alcohol wipes and sneeze guards
- Counties encouraged to open multiple Absentee Satellite locations in order to assist with the increase in absentee voting (in-person and to facilitate the return of completed absentee ballots)

- Unliquidated Reimbursable Obligations (Estimated Amounts)
- \$15.00 additional pay for COVID training, reimbursed to the counties based on number of election workers serving in the county
- \$15.00 additional compensation per worker to work at the polls on Election Day will be based on the reimbursement requests from the County election offices
- Costs to clean polling facilities following Election Day using CDC recommended electrostatic fogging (state-contract rates followed)
- Additional PPE supplies as needed

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	\$3,845,421.00	\$1,269,606.00
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	\$512,607.00	
Communications: Notifying public of changes in registration, ballot request options, precautions or voting procedures)		
Supplies: Additional laptops, mobile IT equipment, cleaning supplies, masks	\$1,200,000.00	
Postage for voters to return ABS ballot at no cost	\$790,000.00	

If you need additional rows for the summary table, please upload an Excel document with the same layout.

Name and Contact of the authorized certifying official of the recipient.

First Name

Howie

Last Name

Knapp

Title

Director of Voter Services

Phone Number

803-734-9001

Email Address

hknapp@elections.sc.gov

2. Signature of Certifying Official:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'HK' followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Signature of: Howie Knapp

5. Report Submitted to EAC

CARES Funding Progress Narrative Submission

Nov 23, 2020 16:49:43 Success: Email Sent to: hknapp@elections.sc.gov