

EAC CARES Progress Narrative Report

Response ID:260 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.

Tennessee

2. Grant Number:

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

TN20101CARES

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

State Of Tennessee, Division Of Elections

Street Address

312 Rosa L. Parks Ave, 7th Floor, Wm. R. Snodgrass Tower

City

Nashville

State

TN

Zip

37243

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.

In March, we worked with county election officials, vendors, and others to develop a comprehensive plan to conduct elections during the COVID-19 pandemic. CARES funds have helped us implement these plans, which resulted in successful elections on August 6 and November 3. We identified needs throughout the election process in the Plan.

Our greatest success was in helping to provide an adequate number of workers to staff both the August primary and November general elections. We placed a high priority on the recruitment of poll workers so we could keep polling places open across the state. Doing so would allow us to spread voters across multiple sites and achieve social distancing. Unlike what happened in other states, we did not have to close any Election Day polling places for lack of poll officials in August or November.

We set up an online portal where potential poll workers could apply to work and advertised extensively across traditional, social, and earned media on platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Google, YouTube, Spotify, Snapchat, and LinkedIn. We were able to generate more than 19,000 contacts for potential poll officials. A typical presidential election requires roughly 17,000 poll officials.

Once again, in our efforts to facilitate social distancing and further distribute voter turnout, some counties were able to expand hours and locations for early voting. We also increased promotion of early voting, and our early voting and overall turnout were up significantly from comparable August and November elections in presidential cycles. As a result of our promotion of the safety and cleanliness of early voting, Tennessee shattered its previous early voting record.

We also made sure counties had access to previously unnecessary items like sneeze guards and social distancing resources. We purchased hand sanitizer for every county in the state for the August election and received donated hand sanitizer for the November election. Essential PPE, including masks, gloves, gowns, and face shields, was provided for each county in coordination with another state agency. Counties also used these funds to designate and staff locations for voters with symptoms of COVID-19 or who were quarantining as a result of exposure.

Tennesseans have long demonstrated a preference for voting in-person, with 2.5% or less of participating voters choosing to vote by-mail in an average election, however during this election, we needed to plan for an increase in absentee by-mail voting. These funds also assisted in increasing absentee by-mail ballot capacity by helping county election commissions acquire additional scanners and supplies like extra ballot boxes.

Both the August and November elections saw a significant increase in votes cast using absentee by-mail ballots, particularly among voters who are 60 and older. Nearly twice as many Tennesseans than ever before cast an absentee by-mail ballot in our August primary, and then the record nearly doubled again in November.

Our office arranged for the printing of a sufficient number of absentee ballot envelopes to distribute to counties, and these funds also helped pay temporary workers to assist in the timely distribution and counting of absentee by-mail ballots. In₂

Tennessee, absentee by-mail ballots cannot be counted until Election Day. 93 out of 95 counties counted every absentee by-mail ballot on Election Day. The final two counties did not leave until they finished counting, with the last county reporting shortly after 4 AM on November 4.

We allocated a significant percentage to subgrants for county election commissions who are responsible for administering the elections in their counties. In the Plan, we initially awarded each county \$1.50 per voter based on 50 cents for the August election and one dollar for the November election. Counties have used these grants to accomplish the changes to the in-person and absentee by-mail voting processes described above, including ballot scanners, additional personnel, supplies needed to facilitate social distancing and minimize contact at polling places, handling the unprecedented increase in absentee by-mail ballots, and additional expenses like communicating county-specific voter information and cleaning of polling places.

We are providing our state match using existing resources and in-kind contributions to offset the impact of the match.

The deadline for Tennessee counties to certify the November election is November 23—the same day this report is due. As a result, most have not had time to fully finalize and detail all of their expenditures to date, but most have provided approximate expenditures in each category to assist in compiling this report. The categories below include what has been reported by the counties so far, with the remaining uncategorized subgrant funds listed in their own category. The numbers reported are cumulative for the primary and general elections.

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	\$2,320,775.63	\$464,166.27
Staffing: Additional poll workers, election office staff diverted to pandemic response, temporary staff	\$2,067,966.97	\$413,603.32
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	\$108,083.78	\$21,617.27
Communications: Notifying public of changes in registration, ballot request options, precautions or voting procedures)	\$314,579.83	\$62,917.47
Supplies: Additional laptops, mobile IT equipment, cleaning supplies, masks	\$1,086,399.05	\$217,285.03
Uncategorized Subgrants	\$891,972.91	\$178,398.86

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

Andrew

Last Name

Dodd

Title

HAVA Attorney

Phone Number

615-741-7956

Email Address

Andrew.Dodd@tn.gov

2. Signature of Certifying Official:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Dodd', with a stylized, cursive script.

Signature of: Andrew Dodd

5. Report Submitted to EAC

CARES Funding Progress Narrative Submission

Nov 23, 2020 18:13:21 Success: Email Sent to: Andrew.Dodd@tn.gov