

EAC CARES Progress Narrative Report

Response ID:43 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.

Wisconsin

2. Grant Number:

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

WI20101CARES

3. Report:

Other - Congressional Primary Held Separate from Presidential 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

Wisconsin Elections Commission

Street Address

212 East Washington Avenue, 3rd Floor, Po Box 7984

City

Madison

State

WI

Zip

53707-7984

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.

2020 HAVA CARES Act Grant

Analysis & Description of Activities Funded

April 8, 2020 – May 12, 2020

On behalf of the Wisconsin Elections Commission, I am submitting a preliminary report regarding the agency's expenditures and obligations under the 2020 Cares Act grant.

On May 12, 2020 Wisconsin held a Special Election for the 7th Congressional District amid the COVID-19 crisis. According to grant award guidance documents we are required to submit a report 20-days after any federal election, which covers COVID expenses.

The May 12 Special Election in the 7th Congressional District was the second election the State of Wisconsin held in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic "stay at home" order. The 7th Congressional district consisted of 26 counties out of the state's 72 counties, which had to adapt a second time within four weeks to significant changes from court rulings, public health guidance, and voter behavior shifts towards vote by mail. This report summarizes a very high-level overview of election preparations that were made capturing the major efforts Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) staff responded to and implemented for the May 12, 2020 election.

1. Sanitation Supplies and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Because of the nationwide shortage of sanitation supplies and PPE, local election officials relayed to WEC in early March that they were unable to procure supplies needed for in-person voting. WEC staff then sent a survey to all local election officials asking them to detail their need for supplies to support safe, in-person voting. The local election officials were able to work with their county health departments and through their own procurement channels while WEC simultaneously looked for opportunities to purchase supplies for distribution to local election officials. WEC experienced the same difficulty in finding or procuring supplies either in the state or around the nation. A ticket for supplies was also entered into the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) based on clerk needs. Ultimately, WEC worked with SEOC and state procurement to send the supplies needed. For the May 12 election the Wisconsin National Guard helped with packaging and distributed supplies from a stockpile in Madison to 26 counties in the 7th Congressional district. Supplies that were distributed included:

- 452 gallons of hand and surface sanitizer.
- 892 16 oz plastic spray bottles for the liquid sanitizer solution.
- 16,400 isopropyl alcohol wipes for use on voting equipment and electronic touchscreens.
- 7,750 Surgical masks for poll workers
- 9,100 Latex gloves for poll workers
- ~1,484 rolls of painter's tape to facilitate social distancing
- 2,800+ social distancing and public health signs

2. National Guard as Poll Workers

Starting in March and with the emerging crisis WEC staff worked with local election officials to understand their need for poll workers. WEC put in a ticket at the SEOC and had many conversations about the need for poll worker personnel including the possibility of using the Wisconsin National Guard (WING). For the May 12 election the Wisconsin National Guard was again deployed to serve as poll workers in their county of residence. Approximately 116 of the WING service members served in regular poll worker roles, in plain clothes and most in their home municipality or county of residence.

Municipalities who used WING personnel report the experience as a very positive one that helped them to be successful on election day. Municipal, county and state election officials again wish to express their gratitude for the WING personnel who served their community on election day.

Conclusion

The Wisconsin Elections Commission spent significant time and attention over the past 3 years focusing on election security challenges related to foreign interference in campaigns and elections. While that effort sharpened the ability of the WEC and local election officials to develop contingency plans and train for adjusting to fast-moving developments, the rapid onset of the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic quickly and dramatically shifted the focus of emergency planning and responses.

Throughout the public health crisis and election preparations, the WEC staff and clerks again, overcame numerous challenges in order to serve Wisconsin voters, recognizing their roles as administrators of an election with parameters and characteristics beyond their control. This report reflects an initial attempt to document the issues which arose, and steps taken to address those issues. This report should also acknowledge that the changes and additional responsibilities needed due to COVID-19 are in addition to the high volume of work it normally takes to conduct an election. As with each initiative of the WEC and local election officials, the ultimate focus is on the experience of each individual voter and their ability and opportunities to participate in democracy.

While the election was certainly imperfect in some respects, there can be no doubt that WEC staff and its many partners continue to make extraordinary efforts to assist in the administration of the 2020 federal elections cycle. County and municipal clerks across the state showed amazing flexibility and dedication to ensure resources could be used in the most efficient manner, while considering the health and safety of voters and election officials. The WEC appreciates the continued assistance and cooperation of its partner agencies at the federal and state levels, the Wisconsin National Guard and State Emergency Operations Center, county and municipal clerks, poll workers and voters who made the election a reality in the face of uncertainty. With these partners the WEC will continue to evaluate lessons learned and to research and implement additional measures to improve the administration of future elections.

Even though we have done an extensive amount of work, the agency has not yet been billed for many of these supplies and services. At this time, it is still unclear whether some of these costs will be covered by Wisconsin Emergency Management funds or through other federal grants. Therefore, we are providing our best guesstimate at this time as to how much we think these resources may cost.

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	\$1,646.00	
Staffing: Additional poll workers, election office staff diverted to pandemic response, temporary staff	\$12,285.00	\$30,964.00
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		
Communications: Notifying public of changes in registration, ballot request options, precautions or voting procedures)		\$481.00
Supplies: Additional laptops, mobile IT equipment, cleaning supplies, masks	\$11,438.00	\$2,166.00
452 gallons sanitizer, 892 spray bottles, 16,400 isopropyl wipes, 9,100 gloves, 7,750 procedural surgical masks, 1,484 rolls of painters tape for social distancing: unsure of costs	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$4,114,320.20 total encumbered for Municipality Sub-grant Program; \$2,161,628.40 has been distributed through 7/23/2020	\$2,161,628.40	

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

Julia

Last Name

Billingham

Title

WEC Senior Accountant

Phone Number

6082662094

Email Address

julia.billingham@wi.gov

2. Signature of Certifying Official:

Signature of: Julia Billingham, WEC Senior Accountant

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

Jun 01, 2020 10:28:24 Success: Email Sent to: julia.billingham@wi.gov