



CARES Act Flash Report

May 2020: Where's the Money?

The DOI received

\$756 million

under the CARES Act to respond to impacts from COVID-19:

- **\$453 million** for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- **\$157.4 million** for DOI operations (Office of the Secretary (OS))*
- **\$69 million** for the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)
- **\$55 million** for the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA)
- **\$12 million** for the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)–water resources
- **\$8.1 million** for the BOR–policy and administration
- **\$1 million** for the Office of Inspector General (OIG)
- **\$500,000** for the BOR–Central Utah Project Completion Act (CUPCA)

*The OS transferred \$5.1 million to the National Park Service, \$3.5 million to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and \$3.7 million to the Bureau of Land Management.

DOI CARES Act Funds as of May 31, 2020

On March 27, 2020, the President signed into law the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). Among its provisions, the CARES Act provided the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) with \$756 million to support the needs of DOI programs, bureaus, Indian Country, and the Insular Areas.

This report presents the DOI's progress as of May 31, 2020. We anticipate issuing updated status reports monthly.

DOI Progress

DOI programs and bureaus are making progress in obligating and spending their CARES Act appropriations (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Funding Status as of May 31, 2020

Business Area	Appropriation (\$)	Expenditures To Date (\$)	Obligations To Date (\$)
BIA	453,000,000	315,583,440 (69.7%)	383,004,575 (84.5%)
OS	157,400,000	324,555 (0.2%)	2,179,268 (1.4%)
BIE	69,000,000	20,210,770 (29.3%)	20,211,080 (29.3%)
OIA	55,000,000	0 (0%)	41,401,551 (75.3%)
BOR (Water)	12,000,000	211,444 (1.9%)	248,328 (2.1%)
BOR (Policy)	8,100,000	702,610 (8.7%)	1,563,620 (19.3%)
OIG	1,000,000	72,371 (7.2%)	72,371 (7.2%)
BOR (CUPCA)	500,000	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Totals	\$756,000,000	\$337,105,190 (44.6%)	\$448,680,794 (59.3%)

Definitions: **Expenditures** are payments of funds, such as when the DOI receives an invoice or a drawdown submission. **Obligations** are legally binding agreements that will result in expenditures.



Top 5 Recipients

- Government of Guam (\$12 million)
- Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands (\$7.8 million)
- Federated States of Micronesia National Government (\$7.7 million)
- Cherokee Nation Tribal Government (\$7.4 million)
- Navajo Nation Tribal Government (\$6.5 million)

Bureau expenditures include the following types of services and items:

- A decontamination trailer
- Rapid-response janitorial services
- Sanitation and deep cleaning
- Multisurface disinfectant
- Hand sanitizing wipes
- Nitrile medical gloves
- Disposable bath towels
- Face masks/bandanas

Details on Award Types

DOI programs and bureaus have made funds available via contracts and grants/financial assistance awards. Figure 2 summarizes the types of awards made to date.

Figure 2: Award Types Used as of May 31, 2020

Award Type	Total Value (\$)	% of Total Value
Grant/financial assistance award	441,334,426	98.4
Contracts and supplies	4,607,005	1.0
Other (e.g., equipment, personnel)	2,739,363	0.6
Totals	\$448,680,794	100%

Highlighted Recipient – The Navajo Nation

CARES Act funding is crucial for the health and welfare of the Navajo Nation—the fifth largest DOI recipient to date. The Navajo Nation extends across Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico, covering more than 27,000 square miles, which is larger than 10 individual States. In addition, the Nation’s population exceeds 250,000, second only to the Cherokee Nation. The Navajo Nation has updated its website with information for its members about its CARES Act expenditure plan, public health orders, status updates, and more. To date, the Nation has reported a total of 6,020 positive cases and 277 deaths, surpassing the State of New York’s per capita infection rate. CARES Act funding will help the Nation by providing for improved healthcare, water, power, and telecommunications infrastructure; agriculture; small businesses and other enterprises; elder care needs; first responders; and educational needs and scholarships for students entering the healthcare and public safety fields.

COVID-19 vs. CARES Act Expenditures: DOI programs and bureaus have also made expenditures using Government charge cards. As of May 31, 2020, CARES Act charge card expenditures totaled \$615,483. The DOI has also spent \$5.3 million on COVID-19-related purchases that it did not charge to CARES Act funds. The DOI has updated some of these COVID-19 expenditures to reflect the use of CARES Act funds and told us it may make additional adjustments in the future. We do not have information on the exact nature and amount of these adjustments as of this report and will provide an update in our report covering June expenditures.



Significant Milestones

The CARES Act requires agencies to submit reports by certain deadlines, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provided further clarification on the reporting requirements in its Memorandum M-20-21, *Implementation Guidance for Supplemental Funding Provided in Response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)*, issued April 10, 2020. We have included a summary of the DOI milestones that we are monitoring.

In addition, the DOI must report monthly to the OMB, the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC), and the appropriate congressional committees on any obligation or expenditure of large covered funds, starting with the June 30, 2020 reporting period through September 30, 2021. Large covered funds are any funds made available in any form (e.g., via grant, cooperative agreement, contract, loan, loan guarantee, award, or other mechanism) that exceed \$150,000. We are awaiting confirmation of the monthly due date for that report to add to the milestone list.

- April 10*** Effective the date of OMB Memorandum M-20-21, the DOI must identify, track, and anticipate reporting charge card spending related to COVID-19. These charge card transactions must use “COVID” as an identifier. To date, we have identified \$5,383,411 in charge card charges coded with the COVID identifier.
- April 26** By this date, the Secretary of the Treasury shall consult with the Secretary of the Interior and Indian tribes for making payments totaling \$8 billion to tribes. A number of tribes, including three in Alaska, argued that the allotment is not meant for for-profit corporations and should exclusively support tribal governments. On May 5, the Secretary of the Treasury and Secretary of the Interior issued a [statement](#) on the path forward for funds to tribes, making \$4.8 billion available to tribal governments in all States. Litigation is still pending regarding the distribution of remaining payments to Alaska Native corporations.
- June 9** By this date, the DOI needs to assess and adjust existing reporting and audit deadlines, considering how to balance existing statutory and regulatory compliance requirements with the surge in new workload associated with the COVID-19 crisis.
- June 25** Not later than 90 days after enactment of the CARES Act, the DOI must submit to the PRAC a plan describing how the covered funds will be spent. (The CARES Act established the PRAC to coordinate and support inspectors general in performing CARES Act oversight.)
- June 30** Starting with the June 30 reporting period through September 30, 2021, the Deputy Secretary or Chief Operating Officer must review quarterly the progress made on program performance under the CARES Act.
- July 10** Not later than 10 days after the end of each calendar quarter, each recipient of covered funds exceeding \$150,000 shall submit a report on use of the funds to the DOI and the PRAC. As part of this requirement, the DOI in coordination with the PRAC and the OMB must provide “user-friendly” means for recipients to meet this requirement.
- July 21** The DOI must submit DATA Act files A, B, and C monthly instead of quarterly, starting with the June 30 reporting period. These submissions must be certified by the DATA Act Senior Accountable Official or Financial Representative Designee for COVID-19 related funding.
- July 30** Not later than 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter, the PRAC in consultation with the DOI must make the reports by covered recipients publicly available on a website established by the PRAC to foster greater accountability and transparency in the use of covered funds.

*All dates 2020