



**CARES Act Flash Report**

# October 2020: Where's the Money?

The DOI received

**\$909.7 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)
  - **\$153.7 million** for the BIE transferred from the U.S. Department of Education
- **\$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 funds to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Park Service (NPS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), and Office of Wildland Fire (OWF). In addition, OWF funds were transferred to BLM, FWS, and NPS child accounts within the OS. Figure 1 includes a breakdown of the transferred funds. The OS may transfer additional funds within the DOI in the future.

## DOI CARES Act Funds as of October 31, 2020

On March 27, 2020, the President signed into law the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). To date, the CARES Act has provided the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) with \$909.7 million, which includes direct apportionments of \$756 million to support the needs of DOI programs, bureaus, Indian Country, and the Insular Areas, and a \$153.7 million transfer from the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to the BIE. This report includes the DOI's progress as of October 31, 2020 (see Figure 1), a new highlighted vendor, and updated information on the DOI's accomplishment of CARES Act milestones (see page 3).

**Figure 1: Funding Status as of October 31, 2020**

<b>Business Area</b>	<b>Appropriation/ Transfer (\$)</b>	<b>Expenditures To Date (\$)</b>	<b>Obligations To Date (\$)</b>
BIA	453,000,000	387,629,594 (85.6%)	420,195,881 (92.8%)
OS*	143,580,000	902,572 (0.6%)	2,666,896 (1.9%)
FWS	3,585,000	996,213 (27.8%)	1,335,349 (37.2%)
NPS	5,467,000	1,580,517 (28.9%)	1,854,108 (33.9%)
BLM	4,053,000	960,852 (23.7%)	1,399,939 (34.5%)
OWF	265,000	0 (0%)	241,460 (91.1%)
BOR	450,000	0 0%	0 0%
BIE	69,000,000	55,450,401 (80.4%)	59,742,666 (86.6%)
BIE (ED)	153,750,000	104,841,713 (68.2%)	123,528,571 (80.3%)
OIA	55,000,000	6,438,904 (11.7%)	42,627,375 (77.5%)
BOR (Water)	12,000,000	5,011,306 (41.8%)	5,092,915 (42.4%)
BOR (Policy)	8,100,000	1,688,993 (20.9%)	1,688,993 (20.9%)
OIG	1,000,000	665,908 (66.6%)	665,908 (66.6%)
BOR (CUPCA)	500,000	1,110 (0.2%)	28,617 (5.7%)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$909,750,000</b>	<b>\$566,168,083 (62.2%)</b>	<b>\$661,068,678 (72.7%)</b>



### Top 5 Recipients

- Navajo Nation Tribal Government (\$12,577,400)
- Government of Guam (\$12,039,565)
- Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (\$9,553,410)
- Cherokee Nation (\$9,131,601)
- Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands (\$7,863,776)

### Example CARES Act Program

The Oneida Nation of Wisconsin has set aside approximately 23 percent of its CARES Act funds to create the Oneida Nation COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Assistance Program. Through the program, adult members in need will receive one-time payments of \$1,000 for assistance with mortgage or rental payments, utility payments, telecommunications (e.g., Wi-Fi access and laptops), medical care, food, employment and training, childcare, and transportation. The Oneida Nation has also created an Educational COVID-19 Relief Fund to assist students who have had a decrease in financial aid, have been affected by unemployment, or whose educational goals have been altered by the pandemic.

### Details on Award Types

DOI programs and bureaus have made funds available via contracts and grants/financial assistance awards (see Figure 2).

**Figure 2: Award Types Used as of October 31, 2020\***

Award Type	Total Value (\$)	Percentage of Total Value
Grant/financial assistance award	605,801,188	91.6
Contracts and supplies	27,516,876	4.2
Other (e.g., equipment, personnel)	27,750,614	4.2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$661,068,678</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* The DOI adjusted some of the obligations to reflect proper classification as not related to CARES Act.

### COVID-19 vs. CARES Act Expenditures

As of October 31, 2020, CARES Act charge card expenditures totaled \$4.3 million, and COVID-19-related purchases (not charged to CARES Act funds) totaled \$11.9 million (see Figure 3). The DOI may make future adjustments to some of these COVID-19 expenditures to reflect the use of CARES Act funds as more transactions are reviewed for proper classification.

**Figure 3: Charge Card Purchase Amounts as of October 31, 2020\***

Bureau	CARES Act (\$)	COVID-19 (\$)	Total (\$)
BIA	1,730,177	4,087,119	5,817,296
BLM	575,406	1,696,400	2,271,806
BOR	853,970	8,316	862,286
FWS	235,544	1,140,884	1,376,428
NPS	932,359	4,179,390	5,111,749
Other†	0	802,361	802,361
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$4,327,456</b>	<b>\$11,914,470</b>	<b>\$16,241,926</b>

\* The DOI adjusted some of the expenditures to reflect proper classification as not related to COVID.

† This includes departmental offices, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

### Highlighted Vendor – National Opinion Research Center

Using transferred ED funds, the BIA and BIE entered into a more than \$4.5 million firm-fixed-price contract with the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) to improve distance learning. Through the contract with the NORC, the BIE hopes to close the gap between Indian schools and other schools in the U.S. education system both for distance learning and overall student performance. Under the contract, the NORC will evaluate technology, communications, logistics, education, budget, and procedures to determine current limitations in BIE schools' distance learning programs for 53 BIE-operated schools, 130 tribally controlled schools, Haskell Indian Nations University, and Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute. The NORC will then make recommendations to help the BIE create a sustainable plan to improve distance learning programs and overall student performance.



## Significant Milestones

The CARES Act requires agencies to submit reports by certain deadlines, and the U.S. 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 are monitoring these DOI milestones.

## Completed Milestones

Due and completed on June 9:

The DOI assessed and adjusted existing reporting and audit deadlines and considered how to balance existing statutory and regulatory compliance requirements with the new workload associated with the COVID-19 crisis.

Due June 25, completed July 16:

Not later than 90 days after enactment of the CARES Act, the DOI was to submit to the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC) a plan describing how the covered funds will be spent.

## Ongoing Milestones

- April 10<sup>†</sup>** 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. **As of October 31, we have identified \$11,914,470 in charge card transactions with the COVID identifier.**
- April 26** By this date, the Secretary of the Treasury must consult with the Secretary of the Interior and Indian tribes about payments totaling \$8 billion to tribes. Several tribes, including three in Alaska, argued that the allotment is not meant for for-profit corporations and should exclusively support tribal governments. On April 2 and April 9, Treasury and the DOI consulted with more than 3,000 representatives from Indian Country and Alaska Native villages. 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. A U.S. District Court ruled that Alaska Native corporations (ANCs) are eligible to receive CARES Act funds, but a July 7 injunction prevented the ANCs from receiving the funds while tribal nations appealed the ruling. **On September 25, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit held that ANCs are not eligible for funding under Title V of the CARES Act.**
- October 16** Starting with the June 2020 reporting period through September 30, 2021, the Deputy Secretary or the Chief Operating Officer must review quarterly the progress made on program performance under the CARES Act. The Deputy Secretary will conduct quarterly reviews on performance goals and is also informed in near real time on various performance developments. The Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget issued a memo to heads of bureaus and offices regarding CARES Act Quarterly Output/Outcome Reporting Guidance. Assistant Secretaries were to turn in bureau reports by October 16. **Not all bureau reports were received by October 16 for the fourth quarter reporting period. The quarterly status review briefing will occur in late November or the beginning of December.**
- ### Reporting Milestones Accomplished by Submitting Data to USASpending.gov and Pandemicoversight.gov
- June 30** The DOI must report monthly to the OMB, the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the PRAC, and the appropriate congressional committees on any obligation or expenditure of large covered funds, starting with the June 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. **The DOI continues to meet this monthly requirement.**
- July 10** Not later than 10 days after the end of each calendar quarter, each recipient of large covered funds shall submit a report on use of the funds to the DOI and the PRAC. **The DOI met this requirement for the quarter ending September 30.**
- July 21** The DOI must submit Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA Act) files A, B, and C monthly instead of quarterly, starting with the June reporting period. These submissions must be certified by the DATA Act Senior Accountable Official or Financial Representative Designee for COVID-19-related funding. **The DOI certifying official for the monthly DATA Act file submissions is the Financial Business Management System Business Integration Office Director. The DOI continues to meet this monthly requirement.**
- 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. **The DOI met the requirement for the quarter ending September 30.**

<sup>†</sup> All dates 2020