



CARES Act Flash Report

July 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), and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Figure 1 includes a breakdown of the transferred funds.

DOI CARES Act Funds as of July 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 to the BIE. This report includes the DOI's progress as of July 31, 2020 (see Figure 1), a new highlighted recipient, and updated information on the DOI's accomplishment of CARES Act milestones (see page 3).

Figure 1: Funding Status as of July 31, 2020

Business Area	Appropriation /Transfer (\$)	Expenditures To Date (\$)	Obligations To Date (\$)
BIA	453,000,000	357,194,006 (78.9%)	397,136,256 (87.7%)
OS*	144,865,000	779,864 (0.5%)	2,165,940 (1.5%)
FWS	3,585,000	505,243 (14.1%)	714,742 (19.9%)
NPS	5,197,000	1,113,802 (21.4%)	1,505,938 (29.0%)
BLM	3,753,000	604,966 (16.1%)	882,554 (23.5%)
BIE	69,000,000	51,273,325 (74.3%)	52,500,716 (76.1%)
BIE (Education)	153,750,000	86,471,541 (56.2%)	98,364,179 (64.0%)
OIA	55,000,000	1,338,269 (2.4%)	42,627,375 (77.5%)
BOR (Water)	12,000,000	981,124 (8.2%)	1,068,125 (8.9%)
BOR (Policy)	8,100,000	1,668,010 (20.6%)	1,668,010 (20.6%)
OIG	1,000,000	382,834 (38.3%)	382,834 (38.3%)
BOR (CUPCA)	500,000	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Totals	\$909,750,000	\$502,312,984 (55.2%)	\$599,016,669 (65.8%)



Top 5 Recipients

- Government of Guam (\$12,039,565)
- Navajo Nation Tribal Government (\$11,054,465)
- Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (\$9,521,410)
- Cherokee Nation (\$9,055,454)
- Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands (\$7,863,776)

Example CARES Act Program

The MCB I school district, Choctaw Tribal Schools, will offer wi-fi at all tribal schools, which includes six elementary, one middle, and one high school. External hotspots are being placed at each of the schools to provide access for anyone in the building as well as a substantial distance outside of the building. If the shelter-in-place orders require the district to use distance learning, the students will be able to connect to the internet from the parking lot if needed. Choctaw Tribal Schools is also working toward the goal of providing every student with a digital device to assist with homework or distance learning. School administrators are also training parents and students on how to use Google Classroom.

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 July 31, 2020

Award Type	Total Value (\$)	% of Total Value
Grant/financial assistance award	584,518,187	97.6
Contracts and supplies	9,835,550	1.6
Other (e.g., equipment, personnel)	4,662,932	0.8
Totals	\$599,016,669	100%

Highlighted Recipient – Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI)

The MBCI—the only federally recognized Tribe in the State of Mississippi—has more than 11,000 members across 35,000 acres in 10 different counties. CARES Act funding from BIA and BIE appropriations will help provide much needed aid to the MBCI for tribal government, welfare assistance, and short- and long-term education needs assistance. To date, the MBCI has tested 3,289 members, with 1,017 positive tests and 73 total deaths. The MBCI’s website is regularly updated with information on executive orders, public notices, and COVID-19 case numbers. On July 17, 2020, the Tribal Chief issued a public notice on the continued delay in reopening tribal Government offices. On July 31, 2020, the MBCI Tribal Chief issued the 15th extension to its shelter-in-place order, which expires at 8:00 a.m. on August 7, 2020. Most employees are on administrative leave to prevent the spread of the virus and employees who are working will be granted hazard pay.

COVID-19 vs. CARES Act Expenditures

As of July 31, 2020, CARES Act charge card expenditures totaled \$3.2 million and COVID-19-related purchases (not charged to CARES Act funds) totaled \$9.1 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 get reviewed for proper classification.

Figure 3: Charge Card Purchase Amounts as of July 31, 2020

Bureau	CARES Act (\$)	COVID-19 (\$)	Total (\$)
BIA	1,171,504	2,593,689	3,765,193
BLM	403,607	1,045,189	1,448,796
BOR	713,543	6,167	719,710
FWS	115,595	1,110,308	1,225,903
NPS	851,340	3,869,121	4,720,460
Other*	0	489,550	489,550
Totals	\$3,255,589	\$9,114,024	\$12,369,613

*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.



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 are monitoring these DOI milestones.

The CARES Act established the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC) to coordinate and support inspectors general in performing CARES Act oversight. 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. **This milestone is accomplished through the DATA Act. Information required to be submitted by agencies is publicly available on USASpending.gov.**

- 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 \$9,114,024 in charge card charges 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. 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 participants representing Indian Country and Alaska Native villages on funding determinations. 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. **A July 7 injunction prevents ANCs from receiving the funds as tribal nations appeal the ruling.**
- 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 new workload associated with the COVID-19 crisis. The DOI has assessed impacts to current DOI reporting and audits, including a GAO audit, annual audit, and DATA Act reporting and noted that all were still on target.
- 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 DOI submitted the required plan to the PRAC on July 16.**
- June 30** 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 review progress during quarterly status reviews on performance goals and is also informed in near real time of various performance developments. **On July 26, the Office of Planning and Performance Management notified us that it is developing a performance reporting methodology to meet this requirement.**
- 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. **Information required to be reported by the DOI and recipients is publicly available on USASpending.gov (which will soon have new tools to search and display COVID-19 spending data) and Pandemic.oversight.gov.**
- July 21** The DOI must submit 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 has not yet confirmed the certifying individual and the data is still being populated within USASpending.gov.**
- 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. **See updates to the July 10 milestone, above.**

[†]All dates 2020