



Michael Watson
SECRETARY OF STATE

The Honorable Anita E. Wray
Madison County Circuit Clerk
PO Box 1626
Canton, MS 39046

June 19, 2020

Re: Distribution of 2020 CARES Grant Monies

Dear Ms. Wray:

As you know, the State of Mississippi has received approximately \$5 Million Dollars through the CARES Act for the prevention, preparedness, and response to the impact the Coronavirus may have on the November election. With these funds came a demand for a twenty percent (20%) match, approximately a million dollars, the state has to meet. Our office has decided to reserve \$2.5 Million of these funds for counties that will be prorated based on each counties' voting age population. **Your county's allocation of these funds is \$84,258.07.** The remainder of these funds will be used at the State level to educate voters on the upcoming election and for bulk purchase options to supply each county with hand-sanitizer and certain Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for election officials. The State will notify each county of available supplies made through bulk purchases.

Since Federal law prohibits a direct payment of the allocated funds to your county, the allocated funds are only available through an application submitted to the Secretary of State's office for approval included with this letter.

I encourage you to first determine your election needs. Because these monies are an additional distribution from the CARES Act to **help prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus'** impact on the 2020 federal election cycle, the expenditure of these Federal funds is limited to those purposes. Permitted expenditures of this money may include, but are not limited to: the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for election officials not provided by the Secretary of State, the purchase of sanitizing supplies for the polling place and supplies to mark six (6) feet increments, shields, and barriers to enforce social distancing between voters and poll managers.

Once you receive our written approval of your CARES Act related expenditure, your county will bear the initial burden of spending the money to acquire your supplies. Obviously, we will not reimburse any amount which exceeds your allocation or which has not been approved by our office in advance. Upon proof of payment to our office, we will reimburse your county for that amount spent in purchasing CARES Act approved equipment or making CARES Act related improvements.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Hawley at (601) 359-6360 or by email to Hawley.Robertson@sos.ms.gov. We look forward to working with you as we all do our best to have a successful and seamless November election. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to the elections process here in Mississippi!

Sincerely,

Michael Watson
Secretary of State

cc: Board of Supervisors
cc via email only: County Election Commissioners