County Experiences in CARES Act Reimbursement

Updated November 11, 2020

- Color Key -

Request Approved & Reimbursement Received

Request Granted Initial Approval

Request Submitted & Denied

Request Ideas from Fellow Counties

Please submit any updates on your county's experience in seeking CARES reimbursement through the Alabama Department of Finance to mstokes@alabamacounties.org.

Request - Approved & Reimbursement Received

1. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Face shields
- Masks
- Gloves
- Isolation gowns
- Hand sanitizer

2. Cleaning & Sanitation
- Sanitizing wipes
- Disinfectant/cleaning supplies
- Hand sanitizer

3. Medical
- Thermometers

4. Telework Expenses
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5. Workplace Safety Preparations
- Glass windows for point of sale counters
- Signage/crowd control items
- Glass workstations

6. Training
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7. Payroll
- Contact tracing workers who did temperature checks & recorded names & which office is being visited
- Administrative Leave – during stay-at-home order
- Deputy overtime
- Payroll reimbursement for FFCRA leave (80 hours of "COVID" leave & 2/3 pay up to 10 weeks eFMLA)
- Payroll for 2 employees specifically hired to help with COVID restrictions

99. Other
- Other – freight charges, signage, payroll

Election expenses – July Run-Off & November General*
State inmate housing expenses*

*Note: Election expenses & state inmate housing expense reimbursement claims will not reduce the county's individual CARES Act allocation; those expenses are being funded through separate funds allocated to the State of Alabama.

Request - Granted Initial Approval

1. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

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2. Cleaning & Sanitation

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3. Medical

(Self-insured county) Health insurance expenses incurred due to COVID-19

4. Telework Expenses

- Document Imaging Service. We do not have any document imaging services currently to be able to work from home and realized this was a big issue for us when employees were having to work from home and when they were being quarantined due to exposure. After doing some research on this type of software, we also found a way that it can limit person to person contact between our departments. We contacted the state and were able to show how this type of project could be extremely helpful in both types of situations and are able to fund the majority of the project through Cares funds. We will have to continue to fund the annual maintenance agreements for the project and it has to be installed before December 31st to have it funded. We are currently in the software install phase and will soon be able to begin the scanning of documents into the system. We were also told that we could contract with people to do the scanning and get reimbursed for this cost since it would be directly related to the project.
- Laptops & remote equipment for teleworking
- Maintenance agreement for equipment prorated through 12/30/2020

5. Workplace Safety Preparations

- Intercept scanner
- Plexiglass & interior glass – purchase & installation
- Automated doorways
- Automated restroom fixtures & installation fencing

6. Training

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7. Payroll

- Public safety payroll

99. Other

- Employee mileage where own vehicles used to support social distancing
- Camera, media equipment for public affairs office to communicate health & safety information & changes to the public
- Cardiac heart monitors for VFDs
- Customized workspace furniture
- Website app

Request - Submitted & Denied

- Walk-up window at detention center -- was told that interior glass & plexiglass would have been sufficient

- Trucks to allow for social distancing

- Kubota utility vehicle to allow for social distancing

- Legal expenses to defend elected officials in lawsuits brought specifically related to COVID-19

- Public safety personnel payroll without documentation

Association of County Commissions of Alabama

Request IDEAS - Plans Shared by Counties

1. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
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2. Cleaning & Sanitation
- Increased cleanings and sanitization of county owned facilities from 3x per week to 5x per week, with emergency cleaning as needed (through 12/30/2020)

3. Medical
- Medical bills

4. Telework Expenses
- Remote work force
- Laptops for Sheriff & Deputies
- Software/mobile application & necessary hardware/radios for first responders to integrate radio & cellular phone traffic

5. Workplace Safety Preparations
- Hands-free faucets
- Building supplies
- Xray scanner for the jail
- Security assistance at a specific satellite office to help with social distancing, during a period when access was restricted

6. Training
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Request IDEAS - Plans Shared by Counties

7. Payroll

- Administrative Leave for March – September
- Temporary labor
- Public safety personnel
- Patrol deputies that were focused on identifying & mitigating individuals &/or gatherings that were disregarding statewide orders during stay at home order
- Additional security for county facilities during stay at home order
- Employees in the county jails
- Countywide dispatch center
- Emergency paid sick leave (80 hours of "COVID leave" granted under FFCRA)
- Additional annual leave allowance awarded to employees to specifically deal with time period of stay-at-home order

99. Other

- Attorney fees (COVID related advice)
- Washer/dryer for jail
- Body lift for morgue
- Modifications to the sound system in the courtroom
- Building purchased to expand courtroom so people won't be standing in the hallways
- AC units for 2nd floor of EOC to store PPE
- Body cooler for coroner
- Any expenses submitted to & denied by FEMA
- Waived online convenience fees & credit card usage charges connected to encouraging use of online services during the pandemic
- Wi-fi hotspots designed, installed & activated through the county for use by students, telemedicine, remote job training, application for unemployment benefits, & virtual job interviews