



Project Name

State COVID Relief Fund Rapid Response
21-000-01-COVID-FUNDS

Rapid Response Evaluation: It is estimated this evaluation will be completed within 90 to 100 days from the date of the entrance conference, which took place on September 22nd, 2020.

Project Background

In response to the economic impact of the novel coronavirus, governmental entities within the State received federal pandemic assistance funds. The \$1.3 billion in CARES Act funds have various requirements for their valid expenditure. Additionally, any funds not expended by established deadlines are to be recovered by the federal government. The volume of funds, the number of entities expending them, and the short time period for expenditure has necessitated a review to ensure these funds are being used in the manner intended.

Original Scope and Project Description

Project Description:

Gather preliminary data on current COVID-19 reimbursements and funding allocation while initiating analysis on state agencies performance.

Scope of Work:

Collect data on funds distributed by the Federal Government in response to the COVID-10 pandemic; identify any gaps in information; present data trends or anomalies.

Material Findings from Entrance Conference

During the entrance conference with Secretary Mazzei and CARES Forward Team members, the LOFT evaluation team was made aware that Executive leadership are engaged in several proactive initiatives and investments in technology and assets related to managing operations and maintaining public safety throughout the pandemic.

Based on the discussions held at the entrance conference, the LOFT evaluation team has identified the following options for reviewing various efforts by the CARES Forward Team and the Governor's Office:

1. Examine/analyze reimbursement requests, highlighting key data gaps, trends, and anomalies.
2. Examine the efficacy of the reimbursement request/tracking process.
3. Evaluate Oklahoma's response to COVID-19 related funding demands/deficits when compared to regional peer state performance.

Evaluation Objectives

Due to the on-going nature of addressing COVID related funding concerns, LOFT recommends the following scope of work to assure that the Legislature is provided with accurate, timely, and relevant data:

1. Briefly examine the historical context behind the COVID-19 pandemic response, including guidance provided to State agencies regarding COVID related purchasing, the establishment of the reimbursement request system, the COVID-19 asset tracking process, and regional comparative analysis.
2. Examine/analyze the finalized reimbursement data and present findings within context of specific purchases, to include COVID relativity, item quantity, locations of item disbursement, purchase price, and level of potential risk.
3. Assess the efficacy/success of CRF fund allocation as defined by the CARES Forward mission statement.

