

Department of the Secretary of State Utilizes CRF for PPE, IT Equipment, PPP, and More

The Secretary of State's Office had several accomplishments that were achieved as we incurred expenditures related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the responses that were required in accordance with the Governor's Executive Orders and the various guidance by other entities such as Center for Disease Control (CDC), NC Office of Human Resources, and others.

With the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) related supplies, their work environment, especially the Old Revenue Building and leased space on Atlantic Avenue, remained and remains a safe working environment for those who are not able to telework and need to come into the office buildings. To date there have been no coronavirus infections within the agency.

With the purchases of IT-related equipment and supplies the Secretary of State's Office has accomplished a nearly 70% teleworking force that can perform normal everyday duties from a remote location. This includes the agency's customer service phone unit. This allowed employees to work remotely and not be in public or on the road and thus maintain safe social distancing during this pandemic.

When the federal government announced its first round of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) small business loans, the agency was inundated with a record number of business creations and reinstatements. Overtime was used to catch up these business reinstatement filings so our customers could become eligible for the PPP federal business loans and help keep the economy of NC afloat.

This emergency leave allowed employees to deal with closing schools, daycares, and before and after school closings with no threat of repercussions from overused regular leave time. The agency has reported thus far 735 hours of this leave resulting in this salary and fringe payout in response to the pandemic.

The Secretary of State's Office remains committed to its mission of promoting economic growth and protecting the public from financial harm even in the face of this pandemic crisis.

