



Laura Belin <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com>

August 13, 2020 Public Record Request Response

Leto, Linda <linda.letto@iowa.gov>

Thu, Sep 10, 2020 at 4:31 PM

To: Laura Belin <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com>

Hi, Laura,

I am still in the process of compiling the information you requested. Our goal is to have it to you soon.

On Thu, Sep 10, 2020 at 12:27 PM Laura Belin <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com> wrote:

Linda, I'm circling back again. It's been two weeks since I asked these follow-up questions. Some of them could be answered very quickly--for instance, confirming whether "funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act supplemented the full salaries and benefits" means that CARES Act funds covered 100 percent of the salaries and benefits for those 21 people on the governor's staff from March 14, 2020 through June 30, 2020.

If you've been instructed by the governor's staff or by Director Roederer not to provide additional information or clarification to me, I want to know on what legal grounds the information is being withheld.

Laura

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From: **Leto, Linda** <linda.letto@iowa.gov>

Date: Thu, Sep 3, 2020 at 4:19 PM

Subject: Re: August 13, 2020 Public Record Request Response

To: Laura Belin <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com>

Thank you! You too.

On Thu, Sep 3, 2020 at 3:24 PM Laura Belin <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com> wrote:

OK, thanks. Have a good holiday weekend.

On Thu, Sep 3, 2020 at 3:22 PM Leto, Linda <linda.letto@iowa.gov> wrote:

Hi, Laura,

I anticipate that I will be able to send a response next week.

On Thu, Sep 3, 2020 at 3:15 PM Laura Belin <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com> wrote:

Hello Linda,

For planning purposes, can you tell me when I can expect to receive this information?

Yours,

Laura

On Mon, Aug 31, 2020 at 11:40 AM Leto, Linda <linda.letto@iowa.gov> wrote:

Good Morning, Laura,

I am in receipt of your request for records and am in the process of gathering the information. The transfer

of CARES Act Funds is approved by the Governor.

On Mon, Aug 31, 2020 at 10:54 AM Laura Belin <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com> wrote:
Hello Linda,

I'm circling back on all of these questions. Hoping to hear back from you soon.

Since last Thursday, two LSA Fiscal Updates have been published (attached), neither of which refer to any funds being allocated to the governor's office.

Who instructed that CARES Act funds be used for staff in the governor's office? Governor Reynolds, or chief of staff Sara Craig Gongol, or someone else?

Laura

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From: **Laura Belin** <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com>
Date: Thu, Aug 27, 2020 at 1:09 PM
Subject: Fwd: August 13, 2020 Public Record Request Response
To: Leto, Linda <linda.letto@iowa.gov>

Linda, I'm sorry but I forgot to ask two more questions.

1. What is the total amount of CARES Act funding that went toward supplementing salaries and benefits for staff in the governor's office from March 14, 2020 to June 30, 2020?
2. What is the total amount of CARES Act funding that has been used since July 1, 2020 to cover salaries and benefits for staff in the governor's office?

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From: **Laura Belin** <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com>
Date: Thu, Aug 27, 2020 at 8:23 AM
Subject: Re: August 13, 2020 Public Record Request Response
To: Leto, Linda <linda.letto@iowa.gov>

Good morning Linda,

I have some follow-up questions.

You wrote, "funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act supplemented the full salaries and benefits" of 21 staffers in the governor's office from March 14, 2020 through June 30, 2020. I understood that to mean that CARES Act funds covered the entire ("full") amount of the salaries and benefits of those employees. But I wanted to double-check since you wrote "supplemented," which could be understood to mean covered only part of those expenses.

Assuming I have understood you correctly, are CARES Act funds still covering the full salaries and benefits of the same staffers in the governor's office during fiscal year 2021 to date? (I believe all of them are still with the governor's office, other than Kirby Connell.) Have any new or additional staffers in the governor's office been added to that list of employees whose compensation is being paid for with CARES Act funds?

If CARES Act funds are still covering salaries and benefits for staff in the governor's office, will that arrangement continue as long as the governor's public health emergency proclamations remain in effect?

Finally, looking at the attached document, which you sent yesterday, I don't see any fund transfers to the governor's office or to any entity that would pay salaries or benefits to staff in the governor's office. But the compensation for those 21 staffers from March 14 through June 30 would amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars. What am I missing here? Where did those funds go?

Thanks in advance for any clarification you can provide.

Laura

On Wed, Aug 26, 2020 at 5:10 PM Leto, Linda <linda.letto@iowa.gov> wrote:

You're welcome, Laura.

On Wed, Aug 26, 2020 at 5:08 PM Laura Belin <desmoinesdem@bleedingheartland.com> wrote:

Thanks, Linda.

On Wed, Aug 26, 2020 at 4:58 PM Leto, Linda <linda.letto@iowa.gov> wrote:

August 26, 2020

Laura Belin
1705 Plaza Circle
Windsor Heights, IA 50324

Dear Laura,

This letter and accompanying materials are in response to the request received by our office on August 13, 2020 for public records.

You submitted the following questions and information requests:

- (1) All of these MOUs were signed on June 30, 2020. On what date(s) were the funds transferred from the various agencies to the governor's office to cover the salaries of Joel Anderson, Daniel Wolter, and Elizabeth Matney? Did that happen on June 30, 2020? Or on some date(s) during the current fiscal year?
- (2) I didn't see any records related to FEMA or the use of FEMA crisis funds for overtime payments. Is it accurate to say that the Department of Management is not in possession of any records or written agreements regarding allowable uses of FEMA crisis funds or COVID-19 relief funds?
- (3) During fiscal year 2019, several state agencies combined to cover 75 percent of Paul Trombino's salary as chief operations officer in the governor's office. You didn't provide any MOU covering Paul Trombino's salary for FY 2020. I want to confirm that no state agencies allocated funds to cover a portion of Mr. Trombino's salary during the year that ended on June 30, 2020. Is that accurate?
- (4) All of the MOUs you provided cover the period from July 1, 2019 through March 13 or March 14, 2020. Were federal funds, possibly related to the COVID-19 pandemic, used to cover the salaries of Joel Anderson, Daniel Wolter, and Elizabeth Matney from March 14, 2020 through June 30, 2020? If so I am seeking documentation on that.
- (5) Did federal funds cover all or part of Paul Trombino's compensation during fiscal year 2020? If so, what kind of funds and what percentage of his salary did they cover, for what portion of the year?

(6) Did federal funds cover all or part of the compensation of any other staff in the governor's office during fiscal year 2020? If so, whose compensation was affected, and what percentage of the salary did such funds cover, for what portion of the year?

(7) You wrote, "Also attached are all funds transferred from any state agency or department to the Office of the Governor from July 1, 2019, to August 4, 2020. These funds support the Iowa Office of State-Federal Relations." Do you mean that all of the undated transactions listed in the document labeled IET.pdf (attached) supported the Iowa Office of State-Federal Relations, and only that purpose? How are those amounts determined? Do they represent a fixed percentage of each state agency's budget? Or does the allocation change every year?

Response to (1) The Iowa Department of Revenue transferred funds to the Office of the Governor on July 10, 2020. The Department of Human Services transferred funds to the Office of the Governor on July 22, 2020. The Iowa Economic Development Authority transferred funds to the Office of the Governor on July 21, 2020.

Response to (2) The Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management manages and maintains the official records for FEMA funds. The Department of Management maintains records for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Attached is a spreadsheet listing the current status of the Coronavirus Relief Funds for which the Department of Management maintains records. The status of these and other federal funds awarded in response to the pandemic can be found at <https://pandemic-recovery.iowa.gov/#!/dashboard>

Response to (3) No Memorandum of Understanding exists with any state agency for Paul Trombino's salary. Mr. Trombino became Interim Director of the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) on March 7, 2020. As a result 100% of his salaries and benefits have been paid by DAS since March 7, 2020.

Response to (4) Yes, funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act supplemented the full salaries and benefits of Joel Anderson, Daniel Wolter, and Elizabeth Matney from March 14, 2020 through June 30, 2020.

Response to (5) No, as noted in response #3 Paul Trombino's full salary and benefits have been paid by DAS since March 7, 2020.

Response to (6) Yes, in addition to those staff listed in Response #4, funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act supplemented the full salaries and benefits for Governor's Office staff listed in the attached spreadsheet from March 14, 2020 through June 30, 2020.

Response to (7) Yes, \$299,782.00 was transferred and represents the total amount of assessments collected from state agencies to support the operation of the Office of State-Federal Relations in Fiscal Year 2020. These funds were used for no other purpose. Amounts are calculated by the Office of State-Federal Relations.

There are no other documents responsive to your request.

Our office provides up to ten copies and three hours of staff time free of charge. Additional copies are ten cents a page and \$33 an hour for attorney review time. There is no charge for this request.

If any documents were released that are subject to an exception, this office does not waive the applicable exception. We believe this response satisfies your public records request made on August 13, 2020.

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Linda Leto
Iowa Department of Management
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