

2009 EAC Help America Vote College Poll Worker Program

Salish Kootenai College; Pablo, MT

Contact: Roger McClure, Director of Career Services

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Program Name: Student Teams for Election Assistance in Montana (STEAM)

Funding level: \$66,008

Project Description: This comprehensive, public tribal community college will partner with the Lake and Flathead County Election Offices to develop, implement, evaluate, and maintain a poll workforce of college students. The recruitment and training of a new generation of poll workers will address pending shortages and provide a workforce that can easily learn emerging election technology and assist in the recruitment of future student workers. Two special populations of student workers will be recruited to assist the 1.6 percent of the voters who speak the Salish and Kootenai languages and those voters who are deaf. The program has a target of recruiting and training 200 students. Students will be engaged in developing an innovative multi-media recruitment program aimed at their peers.

Hampton College; Hampton, VA

Contact: Mamie Locke, Dean and Professor of Political Science

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Program Name: College Poll Worker Program

Funding Level: \$74,055

Project Description: The program will be housed in the Political Science Department, and will recruit, train and support college students at Hampton University and Thomas Nelson Community College. The program will also work with Hampton City Schools in recruiting a previously untapped pool of potential poll workers, 12th graders who are eligible to register to vote prior to any given election. The program will recruit 150 students using a variety of media including radio, flyers, news media, recruitment fairs, and direct presentations to student groups and classes. Hampton University will host a Saturday morning Democracy School where participants will be grounded in democracy issues. The curriculum will include lectures on voting and elections in the United States generally and Virginia in particular. There will also be discussions on civic engagement and the responsibility of citizens. All recruits will participate in a mock election that works through scenarios (what-ifs on Election Day) developed through the program in consultation with the Electoral Board. The major community partner for this project will be the City of Hampton Electoral Board and Registrar.

Regis University; Denver, CO

Contact: Lauren Alweis, Assistant to the Executive Director

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Program Name: Help Coloradans Vote

Funding Level: \$74,611

Project Description: Colorado Campus Compact (Regis University is the host partner) and Just Vote Colorado (a program from Colorado Common Cause), will implement a series of strategies designed to engage college students as poll workers and build a long-term commitment to civic engagement. In Year One, efforts will focus on college students in Denver. Leadership will be provided by Colorado Campus Compact's largest and most diverse inner-city campuses. Year Two will expand to include Northern and Southern Colorado, the Eastern plains and the Western Slope. The community partners will be the Colorado Secretary of State's office, Denver Elections Division, Larimer County Clerk's Office, and other county election offices. A Colorado Election Fellows Program will establish 35 Fellowships to be awarded on a competitive basis to students at Metropolitan State College of Denver (Metro), University of Colorado-Denver (UCD), and the University of Denver (DU). Multilingual students and/or students

who can readily reach out to people with disabilities will be encouraged to apply through working with student organizations and broad advertising via these institutions' e-mail and experiential learning and service centers. The goal of the Colorado Elections Fellows program will be to provide students with an incentive to both participate on Election Day as poll workers and to recruit other students. The program has a goal of eight student recruits per fellow for a total of 280 students. A service-learning unit will also be developed that can be implemented in various campus courses as a means to recruit and train poll workers. Masters level students in political science will be engaged in program evaluation.

Palmetto Project; Mt. Pleasant, SC

Contact: Stephen Skardon, Executive Director

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Program Name: South Carolina Young Voters Initiative

Funding Level: \$74,929

Project Description: This program will recruit and train of a new generation of technologically savvy election workers from five historically black colleges and five traditional colleges to sustain South Carolina's new unified election system, create an ongoing relationship between colleges and their county election boards to insure recruitment of future student workers, and develop a replicable program model for distribution to all 46 county election boards in the state. The pilot project will underwrite training and deployment of 50 student election workers in elections in November 2009, and an additional 250 in the general elections in November 2010. More than one-third of these students will be non-white or from among those who might have been excluded from participation due to physical challenges. The strategy for the pilot project is focused on outreach through innovative media, special high-profile recruitment events, and informational activities. A key final outcome will be a *Guide to the Recruitment of Students and Disadvantaged Youth as Election Workers in South Carolina* based on data collection, research, and evaluation of student poll workers' participation in the 2009 and 2010 elections.

LaGuardia Community College; Long Island, NY

Contact: Robert Jaffe, Senior Administrator

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Program Name: LaGuardia Electoral Assistance Program

Funding Level: \$74,041

Project Description: The LaGuardia Electoral Assistance Program (LEAP) will run a college-wide campaign to recruit 250 students in order to fill a desperate need for poll workers capable of serving as language interpreters, and who are technologically-savvy enough to assist with new ballot-marking devices. LEAP will mobilize the entire college community for student recruitment - from the college president to the faculty and students - while employing all available outreach techniques (e.g., Facebook, twitter, web radio, email, phone calls, and local media). In recognition of the barriers facing voters with disabilities, LaGuardia will partner with the Center for Independence of the Disabled of New York (CIDNY), the preeminent disability advocacy group in New York to develop disability training for poll workers so that they possess the skills needed to help voters navigate polling sites and ballots. LEAP will also recruit students to participate in focus groups identify the best practices for recruiting poll workers with disabilities and for making polling sites more accessible.

Catskill Center for Independence; Oneonta, NY

Contact: Christine Zachmeyer, Executive Director

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Program Name: College Poll Worker Program

Funding Level: \$74,000

Project Description: This project will be focused on recruiting college students with disabilities as poll workers. The target goal is 150 students. A student organization on each participating campus will adopt the poll worker recruitment project and assume the role of campus “Champions” for the purpose of recruitment. Members of the designated “Champion” organizations will receive intensive training and technical support from CCFI. CCFI will utilize its extensive prior experience and community connections as a basis for developing a supplemental curriculum and training guide for recruiting poll workers with disabilities and making polling places more disability friendly, to guide the Champions’ efforts both on-campus and in the community. Champion organizations will receive incentives such as stipends, extra credit in courses, and attendance at special campus events.

University of Central Florida; Orlando, FL

Contact: Thomas Bryer, Assistant Professor

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Program Name: Training Through Technology: Poll Workers in the 21st Century

Funding level: \$75,000

Project Description: The University of Central Florida, in partnership with Valencia Community College (VCC), will create and offer a non-partisan online course in civic engagement as a means to recruit 300 students to be poll workers in Orange County Florida (200 will come from U. of Central Florida and 100 from VCC, a college with a 27 percent Hispanic student body). Second Life, an online simulation program, will be utilized as part of the course to simulate real life experiences poll workers might have during an election, utilizing ideas generated through a partnership with the Orange County Supervisor of Elections. A parallel “face to face” course will also be offered and the two courses evaluated as to their effectiveness. The program evaluation will compare the capabilities of student poll workers trained with traditional methods vs. those “virtually” trained.

University of Southern Mississippi; Hattiesburg, MS

Contact: Connie Wyldmon, Director

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Program Name: College Poll Worker Program

Funding Level: \$48,471

Project Description: The Mississippi Campus Compact will partner with six member campuses to recruit and train 250 college students to assist as poll workers in local elections. The students will be recruited and trained through involvement with service-learning in political science courses. Competitive subgrants will be provided to the six member colleges to develop and implement these courses. Priority consideration will be given to campuses at historically black colleges, and/or those that specify how they will work with disability and inclusion offices, or underrepresented populations. Community partners include the Secretary of State’s Office, Election Commission Association of Managers, and the American Legion. Students will receive training on assisting people with disabilities at the polls, and college disability services programs will also provide training on disability etiquette, and help recruit students with disabilities to serve as poll workers.

Missouri Western State University; St. Joseph, MO

Contact: David Tushaus, Department Chair, Criminal Justice and Legal Studies

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Program Name: College Poll Worker Program

Funding Level: \$74,807

Project Description: This project will expand a successful program at MWSU to utilize students as poll workers into nearby counties beyond the university, and promote the development of similar programs at other colleges throughout Missouri through the development of Missouri-specific poll worker training

curriculum/multimedia kits. A broad spectrum of MWSU's student population will be targeted, including low income, minority, rural, urban, students with disabilities, and non-traditional students. The program will rely on experienced staff and faculty, community organizations and elections officials from at least four counties. The program will add five new election jurisdictions will be added to the program as additional colleges establish poll worker programs. Examples of institutional support include staff from the Disability Services, Non-Traditional Student Services, and Multicultural Education Offices, who have agreed to assist with the program.

University of Texas Austin; Austin, TX

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Program Name: UT Poll Worker Program

Funding Level: \$53,078

Project Description: The Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Participation at U. Texas Austin will partner with the Travis County Clerk Elections Division to create the *UT Poll Worker Program*, which will recruit, train, and support bi-lingual college students in the County to serve as nonpartisan poll workers. The program will have at least 50 student poll workers and assistants participating in the 2009 November election and at least 200 student poll workers and assistants participating in the 2010 election cycle. Students will serve in polling locations across Travis County, including both urban and rural precincts. In addition to recruiting bilingual students, project staff will target minority and disabled students by working with campus organizations including: the African American Affairs Office; the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Collective; the Latino Leadership Council; the Longhorn American Indian Council; Students for Equity and Diversity; the Texas Center for Disability Studies; and the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement. The program will offer a host of educational experiences, including trainings, information and social sessions, as well as opportunities for course credit for participating students.

Curators of the University of Missouri; Columbia, MO

Contact: Emily Johnson Policy Analyst

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Program Name: Help America Vote College Program

Funding Level: \$20,000

Project Description: The project will recruit and train students with disabilities from the University of Missouri to serve as poll workers in the 2010 election cycle. Fifteen to twenty students will be recruited, using the successful electronic mass media campaign strategies developed by the University in their 2008 program. Partnerships for this project include the University's Institute of Public Policy and Office of Disability Services, and the Boone County Clerk. In addition to receiving training, student will have the option of additional mentoring from experienced poll workers. Recruitment and training materials will be developed to meet the specific needs of the target student population. Students with initial election experience from the April test-run training will serve as ambassadors to recruit fellow students for elections in the fall. Students with disabilities recruited from the University will also participate in the training of poll workers to provide insights on how to make the polling places more welcoming to all voters.

University of Baltimore; Baltimore, MD

Contact: John Willis Executive Director

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Program Name: Help America Vote College Program

Budget Request: \$20,000

Recommended funding level: \$20,000

Project Description: The program will recruit 100 students with language or disability skills and train them to be poll workers. This comprehensive program includes collaboration between the University, local governments, and educational experts to pool ideas and resources. Precinct data will be used to identify areas where poll workers with foreign language skills or experience working with disabled populations may be needed. Training materials and curriculum relating to voters needing disability services and language assistance will be developed and made available to state and local election officials. Over half of the students recruited will be placed with local election boards.

Vassar College; Poughkeepsie, NY

Contact: Gary Hohenberger, Associate Director
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Program Name: Dutchess County College Action Network

Funding Level: \$20,000

Project Description: This program builds on a successful program began in 2008. The number of participating colleges will be expanded to five with 80-100 additional student poll workers being recruited. New materials will be developed to specifically meet the needs of disabled student recruits, while also enhancing and streamlining the recruitment and training of the entire group of student poll workers. The training program will utilize electronic media that has proven successful in the past, including offering online training, a wiki, and an online survey for formative evaluations. Student input will be a critical component in designing these materials. In addition, a college credit course will be offered focusing on the components of inclusion training for poll workers. This work will be done in tandem with the Dutchess County Board of Elections, which received a grant to redesign their poll worker training materials.