

American Samoa Election Office
Help America Vote Act – Election Security Program
2023 Program Narrative

The purpose and use of the 2023 Election Security Program funds awarded to American Samoa will contribute to the existing Election Security Program for which the 2018, 2020 and 2022 HAVA Election Security currently funds.

Voting Processes	\$35,000
<p>In preparation for the 2024 General Election, the Election office will allocate \$35,000 to voting processes to include any temporary personnel we will hire to train and carry out both local and off-island absentee voting.</p> <p>The election office will also purchase necessary equipment in order to carry out duties to be performed during the voting process with regard to the safety and security of our employees and the community of American Samoa.</p>	
Cyber and Physical Security	\$55,000
<p>Physical Security will be a major necessity in the upcoming election as anticipate a rise in numbers of Registered voters. Political assessments show more and more public interaction on political issues and this is a deciding factor in people showing up to polls. Allocating \$55,000 to securing not only the Election compound but will be used to secure polling station on election day. This will cover hiring and training of additional Security Officer and training for all personnel regarding the safety and security of not only our employees but all the voters of American Samoa.</p> <p>All the necessary equipment will be purchased after assessments are made at polling stations.</p>	
Voter Education	\$50,000
<p>As we come into the season to prepare for the 2024 General Election, many trial and error situations that occurred during the 2022 Midterm Election will be revisited. The 2022 Midterm Election was the first post Covid election, and many changes that were made to the HAVA and EAC funded programs were to accommodate the new environment the territory was operating under. Continuing these programs such as the Special Needs Assistance program and the Outreach program are so important to the success of an election. The \$50,000 of allocated funds will cover costs for these programs, to include temporary hires, equipment and the necessary training.</p>	
Accessibility	\$20,000
<p>In addition to the HAVA funded Outreach program, the Special Needs Assistance Program also funded by HAVA and the EAC requires additional temporary staff as well as the proper training for these election officials. Additional personnel, safety materials, and more visibility across the territory with these programs will require additional funding thus the allocation of \$20,000 to this category.</p>	

Other

\$55,000

Intergovernmental Personnel Costs: Due to the method of voting the territory of American Samoa practices, (manual voting with paper ballots) securing and transport of ballot boxes to the Election headquarters requires police escort for security purposes and ensuring the ballot boxes are handled according to the proper chain of custody.

Transportation: Once local absentee voting opens, transportation is vital for the election officials to execute absentee voting for disabled voters. Renting/Leasing vehicles for this purpose incurs significant costs but the outcome of the program is always a positive one. Travel between the different islands that make up the territory is also necessary and will require a portion of this allocated funding.

***This narrative will be inserted into the American Samoa State Plan as an addition to the 2018, 2020 and 2022 HAVA Election Security Program.*