

AK Election Security 2023 Annual FFR

SECTION I. DETAILS

FFR

FFR ID	Status	Report Type
10729	Approved	Annual
Due Date	Reporting Period From	Reporting Period To
12/30/2023	10/1/2022	9/30/2023

PROJECT/GRANT PERIOD

Federal Grant Name	Basis of Accounting
Election Security	Accrual

RECIPIENT ORGANIZATION DETAILS

Organization Legal Name	Organization Type	UEI	EIN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ALASKA, THE OFFICE OF	State	MJAVNYV4C4T1	926001185
Street	City	State	Zip Code
P.O. Box 110001	Juneau	AK	99811

SECTION II. TRANSACTIONS

FEDERAL CASH	
10a. Cash Receipts	\$8,000,000.00
10b. Cash Disbursements	\$5,306,823.19
10c. Cash on Hand <i>(line a minus b)</i>	\$2,693,176.81
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES AND UNOBLIGATED BALANCE	
10d. Total Federal Funds Authorized	\$8,000,000.00
10e. Federal Share of Expenditures	\$5,306,823.19
10f. Federal Share of Unliquidated Obligations	\$0.00
10g. Total Federal Share <i>(sum of line e plus line f)</i>	\$5,306,823.19
10h. Unobligated Balance of Federal Funds <i>(line d minus g)</i>	\$2,693,176.81
RECIPIENT SHARE	
10i. Total Recipient Share Required	\$2,775,471.55
10j. Recipient Share of Expenditures	\$374,227.36
10k. Remaining Recipient Share to be Provided <i>(line i minus j)</i>	\$2,401,244.19
PROGRAM INCOME	
10l. Total Federal Program Income Earned	\$0.00
10m. Program Income Expended in Accordance with the Deduction Alternative	\$0.00
10n. Program Income Expended in Accordance with the Addition Alternative	\$0.00
10o. Unexpended Program Income <i>(line l minus line m and line n)</i>	\$0.00
FEDERAL INTEREST	
10p. Total Federal Interest Earned	\$251,235.14

10q. Federal Interest Expenditures	\$0.00
10r. Remaining Federal Interest to be Expended (<i>line p minus q</i>)	\$251,235.14

SECTION III. INDIRECT EXPENSES

11a. Type	11b. Rate (%)	11c. Period From	11c. Period To	11d. Base	11e. Amount Charged	11f. Federal Share
AK Election Security 2023 Annual						
					false	
11g. Total						

SECTION IV. STATE INTEREST

12a. State Interest Earned	\$91,597.95
12b. State Interest Expended	\$0.00
12c. State Program Income Earned	\$0.00
12d. State Program Income Expended	\$0.00

SECTION V. CERTIFICATION

Name	Title	Phone Number
Sharon Forrest	Administrative Officer	(907) 465-3049
Email	Certified On	
sharon.forrest@alaska.gov	12/20/2024 3:19 PM EST	

AK Election Security 2023 Annual PROGRESS REPORT

COVER PAGE

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Report ID	Status	Report Type
10588	Approved	Annual
Due Date	Reporting Period From	Reporting Period To
12/30/2023	10/1/2022	9/30/2023

RECIPIENT ORGANIZATION DETAILS

Organization Legal Name	Organization Type	UEI	EIN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ALASKA, THE OFFICE OF	State	MJAVNYV4C4T1	926001185
Street	City	State	Zip Code
P.O. Box 110001	Juneau	AK	99811

PROGRESS AND NARRATIVE

EXPENDITURES

6. For each of the following categories, briefly describe the activities carried out during the reporting period and how you implemented the approved grant activities in accordance with your Program Narrative. If you provided subawards to local jurisdictions, please include those activities and expenditures (you will be required to provide subaward expenditures in Section III).

Category	Federal Amount	Match Amount	Description
Voting Equipment	\$306,788.10	\$19,881.56	During this reporting period grant funds continued to support AT&T's FirstNet connectivity services for the voting equipment. FirstNet service helped to ensure we could receive results transmissions timely by giving the division priority service on election night should there have been congestion issues on the network. Transmitting results in this manner is part of the division's security protocols. Funds were also expended for the annual licensing and maintenance costs for the voting equipment as well as parts and repairs costs. No additional voting machines were purchased during this period. Overall expenses for the voting equipment category equaled \$326,669.66 (federal share \$306,788.10; state share \$19,881.56).
Voting Processes	\$4,142.48	\$218.03	During this reporting period, funds were expended with Carahsoft Technologies for communications software licensing for communications between elections offices during the election cycle.
Voter Registration Systems			
Election Auditing			
Cyber Security	\$133,658.20	\$98,220.70	During this reporting period grant, the division provided all division offices with contact information for law-enforcement support for the October 2022 Regional Attendance Area Elections and the November 2022 General Election. In addition, the division continued to monitor emails received from the division offices for any suspicious behavior or physical threat to an office. The division has remained diligent on physical security concerns and completed the final office walk-throughs with the representative from the Department of Homeland Security in October and November 2022, and in March 2023. The division is anticipating all final reports and has started to discuss physical buildouts to office reception areas that need further hardening in preparation of the 2024 election cycle. In October, the division completed installation of CCTV video monitoring in the Nome office. All offices now operate with CCTV monitoring; however, the solution implemented has some drawbacks, chiefly the ability to fetch and transmit data should an incident occur. The division will be exploring other solutions during this next year. In March 2023 the division completed an internal and external penetration test of the voter registration environment. The executive summary with recommendation was reviewed by senior leadership and forwarded on to the managed service

			<p>vendor for review and implementation. Also in March 2023, the division contracted with a vendor to provide a Discovery, Planning, and Design roadmap for migrating the voter registration environment into the Azure Cloud. Overall expenses attributed to the election security category, cyber and physical, were \$231,878.90 (federal share principal \$133,658.20; state share principal \$98,220.70). Personnel expenses for the election security personnel equaled \$213,198.88 (\$106,599.44 federal share principal, \$106,599.44 state match principal). Other associated support cost for items such as contractors, business supplies, equipment, and services were \$49,313.02 (\$27,058.76 federal share principal, - \$8,378.74 state match principal).</p>
Physical Security			<p>Figures for cyber and physical security for this period were combined in the cyber security category. During this reporting period grant, the division provided all division offices with contact information for law-enforcement support for the October 2022 Regional Attendance Area Elections and the November 2022 General Election. In addition, the division continued to monitor emails received from the division offices for any suspicious behavior or physical threat to an office. The division has remained diligent on physical security concerns and completed the final office walk-throughs with the representative from the Department of Homeland Security in October and November 2022, and in March 2023. The division received the final reports, and regional offices are implementing some of the recommendations including additional physical hardening and access control as well as installing intercoms and window protection. In October, the division completed installation of CCTV video monitoring in the Nome office. All offices now operate with CCTV monitoring; however, the solution implemented has some drawbacks, chiefly the ability to fetch and transmit data should an incident occur. The Division is exploring a new cloud-based option that will eliminate the issue.</p>
Voter Education	\$1,286.24	\$67.70	<p>During this grant reporting period, the Public Relations Manager focused on educating the public about the security measures the division takes to ensure fair and accurate elections and communicated with the public to mitigate mis/disinformation regarding election security. The Division held a General Election on November 8 which heavily increased the number of concerns and inquiries from the media and the public about election security, especially in the weeks following election day when ballots were being counted. Alaska implemented a new voting system in 2022 called Ranked Choice Voting that required voters to rank candidates in order of preference. This system was vastly different than anything voters had seen before, and with most change, different can sometimes invoke mistrust and apprehension. This was especially true for the ranked choice results tabulation and the software and equipment we use to perform it. To help mitigate concerns and mis/dis-information, the PR Manager decided to provide a live statewide broadcast/stream of round-by-round results tabulation so the public could see how the software worked. We partnered with a local public media outlet and planning for the event began in October. During production planning, our main priority was ensuring the integrity of our tabulation software and equipment by keeping it secure and figuring out ways for cameras and microphones to film the screens without being connected to any equipment. These security precautions were communicated to voters in the weeks leading up to the event and during the tabulation itself. Much of the remaining time during this grant period was spent continuing to educate voters about the integrity of the software/equipment, the processes, and the accuracy of the results. Expenses for the communications/voter education category equaled \$1,353.94 (federal share principal \$1,286.24; state share principal \$67.70).</p>
Accessibility			
Other ()			
TOTALS	\$445,875.02	\$118,387.99	

TRAINING

7. Briefly describe any training including cyber security and other election-related training that occurred during the reporting period.

During the reporting period: the Election Security Officer completed training in Digital Forensics Essentials and Cyber Vulnerability Assessments, Certified Vulnerability Assessor, and Certified Professional Ethical Hacker. Additionally, the ESO attended the Cyber Resiliency conference in Anchorage in April and the EI-ISAC conference in August. Expenses for the training equaled \$10,860.00 (federal share \$5430; state share \$5430).

MATCH

8. Describe how you will or have made the match available and identify the source of your match. (Note: For Election Security grants there is a two-year deadline from the date of disbursement to make match funds available).

Match for the series of awards was met through four separate appropriations from the state. A first match of \$1,626,612 in general funds was appropriated in FY19 to the Election Fund as a result of a reappropriation in Ch. 19, SLA 2018, Sec. 15(b). A second match of \$600,000 in general funds was appropriated in 2020 to the Election Fund in HB 234, Section 19 (a); SB 174, Section 19 (a). A third match of \$200,000 in general funds was appropriated in 2022 to the Election Fund in HB 281, Section 27 (h) line 3. A fourth match of \$200,000 in general funds was appropriated in 2023 to the Election Fund in Alaska House Bill 39, Section 14, page 89, line 25; and Section 71(t), line 9.

SUBAWARD INFORMATION

SUBAWARD DETAILS

9a. Briefly describe your subaward program, including how many subawards were made and how your program reflects the needs of local communities.

9b. Identify whether the subgrants were provided as an advance or on a cost-reimbursement basis. If provided as an advance, confirm whether funds were deposited in an interest-bearing account per HAVA 254(b)(1)(d) and the Uniform Guidance §200.305(b)(7,8) and §200.332(a)(2,3).

SUBAWARD EXPENDITURES

10. Provide a breakdown of aggregate subaward expenditures across major categories.

Category	Federal Amount	Match Amount
Voting Equipment		
Voting Processes		
Voter Registration Systems		
Election Auditing		
Cyber Security		
Physical Security		
Voter Education		
Accessibility		
Other ()		
TOTALS	\$0.00	\$0.00

CHALLENGES & CHANGES

ISSUES ENCOUNTERED

11a. Describe any issues that arose during the implementation of the project.

11b. Describe how and whether the issues were resolved. Also, briefly discuss the implications of any unresolved issues or concerns.

12. Describe any significant changes to your program during the reporting period, including changes to your original State Plan or Program Narrative or favorable developments that improved program efficiency and/or service delivery.

FINAL

FINAL REMARKS

15. Self-Assessment - Assess whether the goals set out in your State Plan and/or Program Narrative were met as intended during the grant program. Highlight any needs that were not met, ongoing, or under-resourced.
16. Impact and Achievements - Describe how this grant program impacted elections in your state/territory. Highlight your accomplishments and successes.
17. Lessons Learned - Describe any lessons learned during the grant that may be replicated, expanded, or used as a model for other state programs.

CERTIFICATION

CERTIFICATION

Name	Title	Phone Number
Sharon Forrest	Administrative Officer	9074653049
Email	Certified On	
sharon.forrest@alaska.gov	12/1/2023 4:05 PM EST	