



**U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**  
1225 New York Ave. NW – Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005

**2009 Voting System Pre-Election Logic and Accuracy & Post-Election Audits  
Grant Program Specification Sheet**

This specification sheet outlines draft program and funding parameters for the Voting System Pre-Election Logic and Accuracy Testing and Post-Election Audit Initiative, as well as steps U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) will take to develop the complete funding *Notice* to be published in September 2009. This competitive grant program is offered through the Omnibus Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 111-8).

NOTE: The activities and the funding parameters outlined below are subject to change pending additional input from stakeholders and subject to EAC commissioner review and approval prior to publication.

**Purpose of Competition:** EAC will offer grants to develop and document processes and best practices for coordinating quality and cost-effective voting system pre-election logic and accuracy testing (L&A) and post-election audits. The grants will support the development and documentation of a range of procedures and processes used in managing and conducting L&A and post-election audit activities by type of voting method, vendor-specific equipment, or other ways to be determined by applicants. Applicants will have the opportunity to respond to either the L&A portion of the *Notice*, the post-election Audit portion, or both. Deliverables for the competition will be materials (e.g. tool kits, guides, best practices) that will be shared widely with other election officials.

**Eligible Applicants:** States and units of local governments proposing programs that collaborate across multiple jurisdictions. For purposes of this program ‘multiple jurisdictions’ is defined as multiple states, statewide, or multiple counties or other local units of government within a state. Applicants are encouraged to partner with non-profit organizations or Institutions of Higher Education to enhance their organizational capacity and outreach.

**Award Details:**

Total Funding Available: \$1,000,000

Anticipated Awards: 4-12

Award Minimum: \$40,000

Award Ceiling: \$250,000

**Projected Timeline:**

Funding Notice Published: September 9, 2009

Application Due Date: November 15, 2009

Anticipated Award date: February 10, 2010



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**Performance Period:** Up to 18 months. Applicants should propose development and documentation of L&A and post-election audit activities for the for 2010 election cycle.

**Supported Activities Could Include:**

1. Development of individual State best practices or voluntary guidelines for L&A testing and post-election audits though exhaustive local input from the community, local community colleges, universities, technology institutes, etc, and local election officials.
2. Documentation of testing procedures for each type of voting method, as well as user checklists and examples of test patterns of test decks. The goal would be to develop a library of procedures by voting method.
3. Creation of online bulletin boards by voting method and vender so local election officials can share practices and ask questions.
4. Development of Tool Kits—generic testing kits tied to specific voting methods.
5. Development and documentation of processes for L&A testing of audio ballots.
6. Travel and convening funds for a post-2010 election official grantee meeting to discuss lessons learned and finalize materials/tool kits based on experiences of the election.
7. Other activities to be determined through public input prior to *Notice* publication.

**Matching funds:** Matching funds are not required.

**Grants Administration:** Grants under this program are subject to the applicable OMB Cost Principles (see 2 CFR part 220, 225 or 230; OMB Circulars A-122, A-87, or A-21 ([www.whitehouse.gov/OMB/circulars/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/OMB/circulars/))).

States must also comply with the Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments (“Common Rule,” 53 FR 8087, March 11, 1988).

**Pre-Publication Outreach:** Prior to publication of the *Notice*, EAC will solicit input on the development of the *Notice* by:

1. Posting a call for input on the EAC website and asking the public to review and comment on possible activities that might be supported by this grant.



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2. Extensive review and input from EAC's Testing and Certification Unit and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) regarding the type of activities that should be supported by the grants.
3. Soliciting input from the public during an EAC hearing.

**Proposed Selection Criteria:**

**1. Program Design/Strategy**

EAC will consider the quality of the proposed design based on:

- a) The soundness, relevance, and creativity of the applicant project plan;
- b) The applicant's approach and expertise in using innovative solutions to L&A testing or post-election audits;
- c) The extent to which the proposed program works with and across multiple jurisdictions;
- d) Other Items to be determined based on comment periods.

**2. Organizational Capacity**

EAC will consider the capacity of the applicant to deliver the proposed services based on:

- a) Demonstrated relationships/partnerships with relevant State and local entities needed to make the project successful;
- b) Ability to manage a federal grant as evidenced by previous grants experience;
- c) Experience of the organization and staff as evidenced by brief staff biographies and other past organizational successes.

**3. Budget/Cost Effectiveness**

EAC will consider the budget based on:

- a) Cost-effectiveness of the proposed activities in relation to the scope of the project (e.g., number of jurisdictions, range of activities, etc.);
- b) Clarity and completeness of the budget and budget narrative.

**Application Procedure:** The Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) will be posted on [grants.gov](http://grants.gov) and on the EAC website. Applications will be reviewed by panel of EAC staff and outside experts.