

2018 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Election Security Grant Program Narrative
State of Alabama, Secretary of State
Notice of Grant Award AL18101001

The State of Alabama has greatly benefited from the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Grant Program since its inception. With election security and integrity remaining a paramount concern nationwide, the State of Alabama seeks to utilize the HAVA grant funds (\$6,160,393), under Notice of Award AL18101001, together with the State Match Share (\$308,020) to continue the progress made, under the initial HAVA Grant Program, to improve the administration of elections for Federal office.

Specifically, our program narrative and budget for the 2018 HAVA Election Security Grant will be apportioned in four categories, as follows:

- Voting Equipment Replacement and Upgrades
- Election Auditing
- Voting Registration Systems and Management
- Cyber Vulnerabilities

Please find below our brief descriptions, respectively, of how the grant funding will be allocated, per the four above referenced categories, as follows:

Voting Equipment Replacement and Upgrades

The State of Alabama has planned, by the attached budget and over the two-year match period, to meet its 5% State Match Share of **\$308,020** by purchasing new computers and computer related equipment for all of Alabama's 67 counties. The period to replace the equipment is scheduled to be accomplished over a two-year period; shorter if possible. The Secretary of State's Office has budgeted funds to fulfill this project in Fiscal Year 2019 and will plan to budget further necessary funding in Fiscal Year 2020 if the replacement activity has not been completed in Fiscal Year 2019.

The equipment has become aged, remains in need of perpetual repair or replacement and will be benefited with certain security enhancements (such as Ransomware Protection) found in newer computer equipment. The equipment will be provided only to the primary county election officials: the county probate judge (county chief election official), absentee election manager, and voter registration office (county board of registrars). By upgrading the equipment, the county elections officials (5 positions) will be enabled to have unfettered connectivity to the computerized statewide voter registration list. The computerized statewide voter registration list is the uniform voter registration database, administered by State of Alabama by and through its Secretary of State, used by all Alabama's counties to ensure all

voter registrations statewide, operated for all elections including federal, are consistent, secure, accurate and reliable.

The Secretary of State's Office confirms that all purchases of voting equipment, related to the 2018 HAVA Election Security Grant, will be documented by paper purchase order, invoice or other like instrument. Once the previously mentioned instruments are received, they are scanned and digitized into the Office's finance database for inspection and/or audit.

Election Auditing

The State of Alabama has planned, by the attached budget and over the five-year grant period, to allocate **\$800,000** of the 2018 HAVA Election Security Grant to establish post-election auditing protocols.

Currently, the state is only involved with limited post-election auditing. Prior to the November, 2018, General Election or directly thereafter, the Secretary of State will request the convening of a public body known as the Alabama Electronic Voting Committee, for it to authorize post-election auditing processes to be carried out by the Secretary of State or by it as a public body. By auditing post-election results, through data and human intensive measures, the integrity of the elections process will be confirmed, strengthened and validated.

Voting Registration Systems and Management

The State of Alabama has planned, by the attached budget and over the five-year grant period, to allocate **\$3,000,000** of the 2018 HAVA Election Security Grant to continue the provision of the computerized statewide voter registration list for the entire state. Since the original HAVA funding allocations, the Secretary of State's Office has used the same to provide for the computerized statewide voter registration list and the foresaid allocation of new HAVA funding will continue its provision in succeeding years.

The computerized statewide voter registration list is the uniform voter registration database, administered by State of Alabama by and through its Secretary of State, used by all of Alabama's counties to ensure all voter registrations statewide, operated for all elections including federal, are consistent, secure, accurate and reliable. The current contract for the computerized statewide voter registration list will expire in December 2019. The Secretary of State will be issuing its Request for Proposals to continue the system in the summer of 2018 to ensure the marketplace has a lengthened period for potential vendor competition and, thereafter, their response to the state for it to determine the lowest responsible quote. The system currently provides strong security measures to authenticate users and deter potential bad actors attempting to gain access to the same. Importantly, the new grant funds will provide more flexibility to the state to enhance and increase the use of Two-factor Authentication for all users accessing the system. As time progresses, and during the grant period prior to effecting the new system contract after December 2019, more security

enhancement measures will be identified to add to the Request for Proposals solicitation and/or to the final contract.

The allocation of new funding, as above referenced, will also allow for the inclusion of a combination of new security equipment (primarily security-based mechanisms, such as Two-factor Authentication tools and other similar security-type apparatuses) and security upgrades to the existing system and its internal applications.

Cyber Vulnerabilities

The State of Alabama has planned, by the attached budget and over the five-year grant period, to allocate **\$2,360,393** of the 2018 HAVA Election Security Grant to provide for cybersecurity enhancements to augment the existing network provided by the state through its information technology department.

Currently, the state provides agencies of the state government, through its Office of Information Technology, a department exclusive of the Secretary of State's Office, certain cyber and other information technology assistance and support. Due to the current climate throughout the nation, where reoccurring instances of bad actors have been identified either attempting to penetrate governmental cyber environments or their being successful in compromising said cyber environments, and coupled with new cyber technologies available to governments, the state will investigate, implement and identify new technologies to work to eliminate potential cyber vulnerabilities.

2018 HAVA ELECTION SECURITY GRANT

Budget Information CFDA # 90.404 Non-Construction Program

Name of Organization: State of Alabama, Secretary of State

Budget Period Start: 3/23/2018 **SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY** *(Consolidated Budget for total project term-- up to 5 years as defined by grantee)*

Budget Period End: 3/22/2023 **FEDERAL & NON-FEDERAL FUNDS (Match)**

BUDGET CATEGORIES	PROGRAM CATEGORIES							TOTALS	% Fed Total
	(a) Voting Equipment	(b) Election Auditing	(c) Voter Registration Systems	(d) Cyber Security	(e) Communications	(f) Other	(g) Other		
1. PERSONNEL (including fringe)								\$ -	0%
2. EQUIPMENT		\$ 800,000.00		\$ 2,360,393.00				\$ 3,160,393.00	51%
3. SUBGRANTS- to local voting jurisdictions								\$ -	0%
4. TRAINING								\$ -	0%
5. All OTHER COSTS			\$ 3,000,000.00					\$ 3,000,000.00	49%
6. TOTAL DIRECT COSTS (1-6)	\$ -	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 2,360,393.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,160,393.00	
7. INDIRECT COSTS (if applied)								\$ -	0%
8. Total Federal Budget	\$ -	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 2,360,393.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,160,393.00	
11. Non-Federal Match	\$ 308,020.00							\$ 308,020.00	
12. Total Program Budget	\$ 308,020.00	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 2,360,393.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,468,413.00	
13. Percentage By Category	0%	13%	49%	38%	0%	0%	0%		

Proposed State Match 5.0%

A. Do you have an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement approved by the Federal government or some other non-federal entity? NO

If yes, please provide the following information:

B. Period Covered by the Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (mm/dd/yyyy-mm/dd/yyyy): N/A

C. Approving Federal agency: N/A

D. If other than Federal agency, please specify: N/A

E. The Indirect Cost Rate is: N/A