



JOHN THURSTON
ARKANSAS SECRETARY OF STATE

April 7, 2020

Mona Harrington, Acting Executive Director
U.S. Election Assistance Commission
1335 East-West Highway, Suite 4300
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Ms. Harrington:

The purpose of this letter is to certify that the State of Arkansas will use the funds provided under the Notice of Grant Award, Agreement Number AR20101CARES, for activities consistent with the laws described in Section 906 of HAVA and will not use the funds in a manner that is inconsistent with the requirements of Title III of HAVA.

We further certify that we have reviewed and accept the terms of the award as specified in the Notice of Grant Award. Our UEI number is 188450779 and the signed Certifications are enclosed.

We are requesting \$4,719,034. We will use the funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally, for the 2020 Federal election cycle. To address the effects of the coronavirus on the 2020 November general election, we will work closely with local election officials to ensure that the safety of voters and election staff is provided for, adequate machinery and staff are in place to safely, accurately, and securely process the anticipated influx of absentee ballots, and that any changes to the voting process resulting from the coronavirus are communicated accurately and timely to Arkansans.

Although we have not yet expended any funds under this agreement, we have identified the following expenditures as critical needs for immediate purchase: printing absentee ballots and envelopes, postage, additional machinery for ballot processing, cleaning supplies and protective equipment for poll workers, compensation for additional local election officials, costs associated with the relocation or addition of polling places, and communication to notify Arkansans of changes in the election process due to the coronavirus. To expedite procurement and distribution, we anticipate that the Secretary of State will purchase as many of the major items identified above and distribute these items to counties based on documented needs resulting directly from the coronavirus. Should counties be authorized to expend funds directly, the Secretary of State will provide guidance regarding submittal of requests for and state approval of costs prior to incurring them. All purchases will be supported by invoices and/or sales order agreements which will be available for post-expenditure audits.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Kurt Naumann at 501-680-0239 or kurt.naumann@sos.arkansas.gov.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of John Thurston in cursive script.
John Thurston
Secretary of State

Cc: Kinza Ghaznavi, Grants Manager
Kurt Naumann, Director of Administration, Arkansas Secretary of State