



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State
Nellie M. Gorbea, Secretary of State

April 8, 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 Rhode Island will use the funds provided under the Notice of Grant Award, Agreement # RI20101CARES, 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 (formerly DUNS) is 963568303 and the signed Certifications are enclosed.

We are requesting our full award amount of \$3,022,037. 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 election we are transforming the way Rhode Island conducts its Presidential Preference Primary by conducting a predominantly mail ballot election. We are working with the State Board of Elections and local election officials to conduct safe elections for our citizens in 2020.

Among the additional costs incurred or expected to be incurred due to the coronavirus are the following:

- *The State Presidential Preference Primary moved from April 28 to June 2 and will be conducted as a predominantly mail ballot election. This will significantly increase the Department of State costs for this election due to higher ballot printing and postage costs. We also need to plan for considerably higher mail ballot volume for our September primary election and November general election.*
- *The Board of Elections needs to procure additional equipment, including a signature verification machine and additional mail ballot envelope openers to address the issues presented with a significantly higher volume of mail ballots. They are currently researching options for this equipment.*
- *The Board of Elections and local election officials are procuring sanitizers, cleaning materials and other personal protective equipment to ensure polling places are safe for voters to cast ballots in-person.*
- *The Department of State, Board of Elections and local election officials will need additional personnel due to the higher mail ballot volume.*

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Rob Rock, Director of Elections at 401.222.7979 or rrock@sos.ri.gov.

Sincerely,

Nellie M. Gorbea
Rhode Island Secretary of State

Cc. Kinza Ghaznavi, Grants Manager