



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ELECTIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003



**PROGRAM NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF THE USE OF
2020 HAVA ELECTION
SECURITY GRANT**

Submitted To: U.S. Election Assistance Commission

Purpose: As authorized under Section 101 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-252) (HAVA) and provided for in the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2020 (Public Law), the purpose of this award is to “improve the administration of elections for Federal office, including to enhance technology and make election security improvements” to the systems, equipment and processes used in federal elections.

This Narrative reflects the proposed use of the HAVA Election Security Grant Funds.

OPERATING ACTIVITIES AND PROPOSED USE OF HAVA FUNDS

VOTING EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT AND UPGRADES - \$500,000.00

Purchase of Ballot Marking Devices (“BMD”), Precinct Scanners, and Electronic Pollbooks.

The District of Columbia Board of Elections (BOE) will increase the number of voting units in each voting precinct, across the District of Columbia. The Board will also expand the number of Early Voting sites in the District of Columbia which will require additional voting equipment and associated peripherals.

b. Voting equipment maintenance & support - \$360,000.00

The acquisition of additional voting equipment will require BOE to establish additional service and maintenance agreements. This will keep the equipment operational and extend the life cycle of the equipment.

**INFORMATION SYSTEM HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE UPGRADES -
\$250,000.00**

The Board will acquire upgrades to software and hardware for information system security, including, network maintenance, election system upgrades, facilities management including coop site upgrades, warehouse system upgrades and training modules for personnel development.

IT SYSTEM SECURITY CONSULTING - \$325,000.00

The Board will acquire contractual support for Information Technology Security and Cyber support to include:

Election Security Assessments
Vulnerability Scanning/Reporting
Remediation support
Ongoing Secure Network Monitoring w/Active Mitigation;
Ongoing Threat Intelligence Research (Darknet & Public Mis/Disinformation
Cyber Awareness, Training and interactive engagement

UPGRADING - MAINTAINING VOTER REGISTRATION SYSTEM - \$550,000.00

TEMPORARY ELECTION WORKERS - \$150,000.00

BOE believes that voters will continue to seek out the opportunity to vote early or by mail. Expanding early voting centers is a crucial way to modernize the voting system. It adds important flexibility and convenience, reduces the administrative burdens of the Election day rush. Funding for additional temporary workers including ADA Compliant workers, election technicians and vote by mail workers to work primarily at Early Voting centers and to meet the increased absentee ballot demand in response to COVID-19.

ELECTION OFFICIAL TRAINING - \$55,000.00

The Board continues its commitment to providing significant resources towards the training for improving election staff performances. A knowledgeable election staff is as vital to the conduct of fair, open, and efficient elections as competent poll workers. Accordingly, several of the Board's full-time staff will attend election officials training including cyber security training via seminars, workshops and conferences throughout the year. Onsite and off-site election security training for election officials.

ACCESSIBLE VOTING SOFTWARE SERVICE - \$ 60,000.00

BOE proposes to provide an accessible, audio-enabled sample ballot, voter guide lookup tool and accessible absentee ballot tool for the District of Columbia registered voters to use during the election cycle. The accessible sample ballot and voter guide will be multilingual, and compatible with all major screen readers, tactile switches, closed captioning and sip-and-puff systems. The site will be accessed by any voter from any device through any web browser.

WEBSITE ENHANCEMENTS - \$50,000.00

The Board will enhance its website to provide more ADA accessible services to all aspects of its operations. This may include developing new platform and hiring a content manager to manage the website and BOE content.

DATA ANALYTICS - \$150,000.00

The Board intends to acquire the services of a Data Analyst to develop a system for analyzing election data and identifying trends that will be useful for improving the election process.

COVID-19 - \$550,000.00

POSTAGE FOR MAIL BALLOTS - \$500,000.00

CLEANING/MEDICAL SUPPLIES - \$50,000.00

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, there is a demand for cleaning and medical supplies including protective masks, gloves, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes for staff, poll workers and the voting equipment. These resources are needed to meet an unanticipated increased demand for mail ballots due to self-isolation and quarantine in response to COVID-19, and for temporary staff to process the increased absentee ballot demand.