



GUAM ELECTION COMMISSION

Kumision Ileksion Guåhan



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December 31, 2020

Territory of Guam

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

Grant Award, Agreement #GU20101001

Grant amount: \$600,000 Matching Commitment: n/a
Timeframe: Dec. 2020 – Dec. 2024

Voting Equipment Replacement and Upgrades

\$109,800

Funds will be used to expand activities funded by the 2018 HAVA grant. The GEC will purchase a ballot on demand system and universal access ballot marking devices that will work in tandem with upgraded tabulators purchased using 2018 HAVA funds. The ballot on demand system will not only allow for greater autonomy with regard to ballot production by eliminating the need to outsource ballot printing but will also allow for increased security with regard to Guam's paper ballots. GEC's current ballot production standard operating procedure is rooted in robust physical security—blank ballot stock is secured, GEC staff oversee ballot production at local printing vendors, printed ballots are locked in a secure vault with limited access, and ballot audits are conducted regularly. Procuring a ballot on demand system will streamline ballot production; eliminate the need to organize, store, and secure mass quantities of printed ballots; reduce waste; and increase security of digital ballot files with system access and application controls. Universal access ballot marking devices will be upgraded to work along with the upgraded tabulators purchased using 2018 HAVA funds. The GEC intends to purchase these systems before the 2020 elections.

Voter Registration Systems and Management

\$210,100

After the 2020 election cycle, the GEC will begin the procurement process for a new Central Voter Registry System (CVRS). Guam's current voter registry is a very limited, antiquated system. A new CVRS will make personally identifiable information of voters more secure; streamline election processes such as voter certification and data aggregation and publication; and improve Guam's online voter registration and motor voter registration processes. Budgeted costs for personnel will be used for a full-time employee that will coordinate and oversee the procurement process, system implementation, and management and will conduct training necessary for GEC staff to use the new system.

Cyber Vulnerabilities

\$100,000

Funds will be used to expand activities funded by the 2018 HAVA grant. The Guam Election Commission has identified a list of procurement objectives that relate to both physical and cyber security. Hardware and software will be procured to monitor and prevent unauthorized access to election systems. The GEC will also implement multi-factor authentication to enhance security of election systems. Funds will also be used to secure GEC website that will be upgraded using HAVA funds.

Communication **\$130,100**

Guam law mandates that the GEC conduct island-wide educational campaigns prior to deploying new voting equipment. As such, the GEC will develop an island-wide education program to inform and demonstrate to voters the proper use of upgraded universal access ballot marking devices.

The GEC will also use funds to upgrade its website to (1) make it more secure and (2) offer voters online access to services that currently are only offered in-person. The GEC will develop a plan to add website features such as checking a person's registration status, checking the status of an absentee ballot application/ballot package, access reports filed with the GEC, and more creative voter outreach and educational campaigns. Reliable, up-to-date information that is easily accessible by voters and candidates is crucial to conducting fair, honest, and orderly elections.

Training **\$ 50,000**

Funds will be used to expand activities funded by the 2018 HAVA grant. Guam Election Commission currently has five staff members who are working toward being Certified Elections & Registration Administrators (CERA)—two staff members are only two classes away from certification. Ideally, all seven staff members will complete certification courses by 2021. Beyond CERA certification, GEC is looking into degree programs that can serve as professional development.

Activities prior to the 2020 Election

The GEC procured ballot on demand systems and universal access ballot marking devices prior to the 2020 election and used them in the conduct of the 2020 election. The costs for the machines, accompanying software, and shipping were charged to the grant.

Please contact Maria Pangelinan, Guam Election Commission Executive Director at (671) 477-9791 or (671) 687-9792 or vote@gec.guam.gov should you have any questions or require additional information. Si Yu'os ma'åse'.