



OFFICE OF THE IOWA SECRETARY OF STATE

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

Dear Ms. Harrington:

The overarching mission of the Iowa Secretary of State's Office is to administer lawful, fair, impartial and secure elections. Secretary Pate wants every eligible Iowa to register to vote and participate in our elections. The greatest challenge over the last three years has been ensuring that every possible measure is taken to protect Iowa's election infrastructure, including the statewide voter registration system, the election night reporting system, the office's public facing website and the infrastructure in all 99 counties. While Iowa has made great strides over the last three years, there is always more work to be done.

The Iowa Secretary of State's Office has worked closely with federal, state and local partners to harden the cybersecurity and human firewall facets of Iowa's election infrastructure. Over the last three years, we've built valuable partnerships with the U.S. and Iowa Departments of Homeland Security, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Election Infrastructure – Information Sharing and Analysis Center, Center for Internet Security, Iowa National Guard, Iowa Intelligence Fusion Center, Iowa Office of the Chief Information Officer, and of course the Election Assistance Commission. All these partnerships are in addition to our pre-existing partnerships with the private election equipment vendors operating in Iowa, our County Auditors and their IT officials.

Through these valuable partnerships, the Iowa Secretary of State's Office has worked to build robust technological and human firewalls both at the state level, and in all 99 counties. Iowa will use the \$6.1 million in federal and state HAVA funds to continue to improve election administration, further harden election security and increase accessibility. An emphasis will be placed on providing resources and support to Iowa's 99 counties, with an effort to identify and encourage the use of best practices through newly adopted security rules.

These plans for the HAVA funds remain fluid and will be based on immediate and long-term needs. Cybersecurity is a race without a finish line and Iowa intends to lead this race. First in the nation in voting demands first in the nation security. Secretary Pate and his staff are fully committed to protecting the integrity of Iowa's elections.

HAVA Program Initiatives

A. Voting Equipment

Voters in Iowa cast paper ballots that are counted with the use of tabulators at each precinct. The same process is utilized at county election offices for absentee ballots. In addition, each precinct is required to have a ballot-marking device that meets federal accessibility standards. Decisions on type of election equipment are made by each county, from a list of approved and tested equipment that is certified by the Iowa Board of Equipment Examiners.

Prior to the 2018 General Election, many of Iowa's 99 counties took the initiative to update their election equipment. For this reason, and because counties have the statutory responsibility and authority over the purchase and management of election equipment, these funds will not be focused on the purchase and replacement of election equipment.

B. Election Auditing

Iowa conducted post-election audits beginning with the 2018 General Election. Post-election audits have also been conducted for other elections, including Iowa's first ever combined city and school election in the fall of 2019. This year, the Secretary proposed legislation that would make a post-election audit mandatory for all elections.

Iowa allocated \$200,000 in their HAVA 2018 budget to investigate risk limiting audits. During the 2019 legislative session, the Secretary was given the authority by the legislature to conduct pilot programs related to risk limiting audits. Because sufficient funds have already been allocated for these pilot programs, we have not made additional allocations at this time.

C. Voter Registration

Iowa is in the process of replacing its current statewide voter registration database, I-VOTERS. The \$1,032,236 in state matching funds comes from and the appropriation made to replace the system. The allocation for training will be used to help train County Auditors and their staff on the new system.

D. Cybersecurity

HAVA funds will be used for a combination of statewide and county level measures. On a statewide level, the funds will be utilized for the management of core defensive technologies, continued hardening of the security surrounding I-VOTERS until such time that a replacement system is launched, and to continue supporting additional staff members that help serve and assist counties as they seek to enhance their security measures.

On a county level, the funds will be used as a part of a subgrant program. Counties will be able to use the funds to come into compliance with Iowa's new minimum-security standards for local election officials, adopted via administrative rule, which will become effective in June.

E. Communications

Ensuring voter confidence in our elections is an important part of getting voters to participate, therefore Iowa will utilize HAVA funds to educate voters regarding cybersecurity and the safety of Iowa's elections. Additionally, Iowa intends to use funds to educate voters about how to spot misinformation and disinformation and where get trusted information on elections prior to the 2020 General Election.

F. Accessibility

In anticipation of redistricting, Iowa has allocated an additional \$250,000.00 in HAVA funds for polling place accessibility. These funds can be requested by counties if improvements are needed to meet ADA guidelines for a polling place to be available in a precinct. Funds will also be utilized to develop accessibility specific training for precinct election officials, and for outreach to the disability community.

G. Election Administration

Funds will be used to continue and enhance training for County Auditors and their staff and precinct election officials. Based on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, one option Iowa is exploring is creating an online training module that can be used by precinct election officials to cut down on the time needed for in-person training.

Prior to the 2020 General Election, funds dispersed in 2018 and 2020 were combined at the direction and decision of the Election Assistance Commission. Therefore, in anticipation of the 2020 General Election, the combined funds will be utilized not only to manage Iowa's core defensive technologies, but also in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,



Molly M. Widen

Legal Counsel

HAVA ELECTION SECURITY GRANT									
Budget Information								CFDA # 90.404	n-Construction Program
Name of Organization:		Iowa Office of the Secretary of State							
Budget Period Start:		3/23/2018	SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY						
Budget Period End:		Until Disbursed	FEDERAL & NON-FEDERAL FUNDS (Match)						
PROGRAM CATEGORIES									
BUDGET CATEGORIES	(a) Voting Equipment	(b) Election Auditing	(c) Voter Registration Systems	(d) Cyber Security	(e) Communications	(f) Accessibility	(g) Election Administration	TOTALS	% Fed Total
1. PERSONNEL (including fringe)				\$ 1,600,000.00	\$ 375,000.00		\$ 300,000.00	\$ 2,275,000.00	23%
2. EQUIPMENT				\$ 1,025,000.00		\$ 150,000.00		\$ 1,175,000.00	12%
3. SUBGRANTS- to local voting jurisdictions				\$ 1,000,000.00		\$ 500,000.00		\$ 1,500,000.00	15%
4. TRAINING		\$ 50,000.00		\$ 600,000.00		\$ 100,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00	10%
5. All OTHER COSTS		\$ 150,000.00	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 2,086,087.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 450,000.00	\$ 3,836,087.00	39%
6. TOTAL DIRECT COSTS (1-6)	\$ -	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 6,311,087.00	\$ 875,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 9,786,087.00	
7. INDIRECT COSTS (if applied)	\$ -							\$ -	0%
8. Total Federal Budget	\$ -	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 6,311,087.00	\$ 875,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 9,786,087.00	
11. Non-Federal Match			\$ 1,266,005.00					\$ 1,266,005.00	
12. Total Program Budget	\$ -	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 1,666,005.00	\$ 6,311,087.00	\$ 875,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00		\$ 11,052,092.00	
13. Percentage By Category	0%	2%	4%	64%	9%	10%			
Proposed State Match			12.9%						
A. Do you have an Indirect Cost Rate Agreement approved by the Federal government or some other non-federal entity? If yes, please provide the following information:									
B. Period Covered by the Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (mm/dd/yyyy-mm/dd/yyyy):									
C. Approving Federal agency:									
D. If other than Federal agency, please specify:									
E. The Indirect Cost Rate is:									