



As a part of its Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022, Congress appropriated additional funds to states to be used to improve the administration of elections for federal office, including enhancing technology and making election security improvements. Ohio's share of the appropriated funds is \$2,003,193. As a part of the federal statutory requirement, the state must provide a \$401,688 match by March 16, 2024.

Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose submits the following plan for how Ohio intends to expend the appropriated resources to improve the administration of federal elections in the state. This plan builds upon the work currently underway in response to Secretary LaRose's Security Directives 2019-08 and 2020-12, which required county boards of elections to make high security upgrades a priority. The Directives set forth a comprehensive, multi-faceted security strategy with Ohio's county boards of elections to provide the redundancy required of a strong election system infrastructure.

Election Security Grants

All 88 county boards of elections will be awarded grants of \$10,000 to assist with implementation of Security Directive 2022-38 and continued compliance with previous Security Directives. This directive, boosts security requirements for Ohio's 88 county boards of elections, setting the bar even higher and reinforcing Ohio as the gold standard for election security. The directive, building off the success of similar directives in 2019 and 2020, incorporates a 31-point checklist that establishes new security standards for vendors, strengthens physical security requirements and modernizes cybersecurity capabilities. This directive includes continued compliance with the Elections Infrastructure Security Assessment high priority requirements and mitigation of physical security vulnerabilities identified by Department of Homeland Security (DHS) physical security assessment. Additionally, each county board of elections is required to continue membership with the Election Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EIISAC), engage DHS for free resources including a phishing campaign assessment, vulnerability scanning, risk and vulnerability assessment, remote penetration testing, validated architectural design review, cyber threat hunt, and a physical security assessment. The Secretary of State's Office will provide support to the county boards of elections throughout continued compliance with the high priority items and will monitor compliance. This initiative is estimated to cost up to \$940,000, including the cost of contractors who will assist with grant implementation and monitoring.

Elections Integrity and Data Analytics

This initiative supports the creation of the Public Integrity Division. The Public Integrity Division coordinates many of the office's investigative functions, including campaign finance reporting, voting system certification, voter registration integrity, the investigation of election law violations, data retention & transparency, and cybersecurity protocols. Additionally, the Public Integrity Division will use state of the art data analytics to assist with voter list maintenance and to safeguard voter registration data.

This initiative is estimated to cost up to \$800,000.

Secretary of State Cybersecurity Program

This initiative allocates up to \$263,193 for the Secretary of State's Cybersecurity Program. Funding for this initiative will continue implementation of the Ohio Secretary of State vulnerability management program, mature the security awareness program, and continue to improve incident management response activities and IT security upgrades for critical systems. This initiative also includes pertinent cybersecurity upgrades that optimize current technology and infrastructure, which enhances the State of Ohio's election security posture and further enables greater operational resiliency.

Contingencies

In the event that the funding allocation for the priorities listed above is greater than the actual costs associated with achieving the intended outcome, that other funding sources are identified for a priority, or that the priority falls in relative importance, the Secretary of State's office has identified the following contingent priorities:

1. *Continued Implementation of Elections Infrastructure Security High and Medium Priority Items*: This contingent initiative would continue the work at the Secretary of State's office and the county boards of elections on continued compliance with the high and medium election infrastructure security items as well as continued compliance with other requirements in Security Directives 2019-08, 2020-12, to improve the administration of federal elections for federal office, including enhancing election technology and making election security improvements.

2. *Content Management Systems & Cloud Hosting Support*: This contingent initiative would provide funding to assist counties or their managed service providers in replacing open-source website content management systems (e.g., WordPress) with systems that are secured more robustly against common defacing attacks and other cyberattacks. Funding would also be available to assist counties with moving their online functions (e.g., dynamic election night reporting) to secure government clouds during high traffic time periods to mitigate risks of distributed denial of service (DDoS) and other cybersecurity threats.
3. *Albert Monitors*: The Secretary of State's Office will continue to provide Albert intrusion detection monitoring services to all county boards of elections through at least June 30, 2023. Additionally, the Secretary of State's Office will provide Albert intrusion detection devices and monitoring services to the voting system, e-pollbook, voter registration system, and remote marking ballot device vendors that serve critical Ohio systems through at least June 30, 2023.
4. *Security Information and Event Management (SIEM)*: The Secretary of State's Office will continue to provide Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) system and security monitoring support services to all 88 county boards of elections.
5. *Cybersecurity Support to Local Partners*: This program will continue to equip the Secretary of State's office with cybersecurity experts who assist the county board of elections with their IT support needs. These experts are responsible for a broad range of county support activities. These activities promote best practices that further enhance and improve the cybersecurity baseline of the election security ecosystem. Examples of assistance activities provided to local partners include, but are not limited to the following: assistance with tool, software or hardware integration; software and patch management support; network analysis review; incident response planning and exercising; tier one incident management forensic collection support; and general engineering technical assistance.

EAC HAVA GRANT - BUDGET WORKSHEET

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| GRANTEE NAME: | Ohio Secretary of State |
| AWARD TYPE: | FORMULA |
| PROJECT PERIOD START DATE: | 3/23/2018 |
| PROJECT PERIOD END DATE: | Until Expended |
| MATCH %: | 20% |
| INDIRECT COST % (IF APPLIED): | N/A |
| INDIRECT COST TYPE: | |

| SECTION A: GRANT BUDGET | YEAR ONE | YEAR TWO | YEAR THREE | TOTAL: |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| FEDERAL AMOUNT | \$ 12,186,021.00 | \$ 13,721,112.00 | \$ 2,003,193.00 | \$ 27,910,326.00 |
| NON FEDERAL MATCH | \$ 609,301.00 | \$ 2,744,222.00 | \$ 400,639.00 | \$ 3,754,162.00 |
| TOTAL: | \$ 12,795,322.00 | \$ 16,465,334.00 | \$ 2,403,832.00 | \$ 31,664,488.00 |

| SECTION B: BUDGET CATEGORIES (Federal Only) | Voting Equipment | Voting Processes | Voter Registration Systems | Election Auditing | Cyber and Physical Security | Voter Education | Accessibility | Elections Integrity and Data Analytics | Other (Provide description in this box) | TOTALS | % Fed Total |
|---|------------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--|---|-------------------------|-------------|
| PERSONNEL | | | | | | | | \$ 525,000.00 | | \$ 525,000.00 | 2% |
| FRINGE RELATED TO SALARY | | | | | | | | \$ 225,000.00 | | \$ 225,000.00 | 1% |
| EQUIPMENT | | | \$ 1,685,459.00 | | \$ 562,395.00 | | | \$ 25,000.00 | | \$ 2,272,854.00 | 8% |
| TRAINING | | | | | \$ 277,688.22 | | | | | \$ 277,688.22 | 1% |
| CONTRACTUAL | | | | \$ 250,000.00 | \$ 14,589,636.00 | | | \$ 25,000.00 | | \$ 14,864,636.00 | 53% |
| OTHER (Describe) | | | | | | | | | | \$ - | 0% |
| OTHER (Describe) | | | | | | | | | | \$ - | 0% |
| SUBGRANTS | | | | | \$ 8,425,147.78 | | \$ 1,320,000.00 | | | \$ 9,745,147.78 | 35% |
| TOTAL DIRECT COSTS | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,685,459.00 | \$ 250,000.00 | \$ 23,854,867.00 | \$ - | \$ 1,320,000.00 | \$ 800,000.00 | \$ - | \$ 27,910,326.00 | 100% |
| INDIRECT COSTS (if applied) | | | | | | | | | | \$ - | 0% |
| TOTAL PROGRAM BUDGET | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,685,459.00 | \$ 250,000.00 | \$ 23,854,867.00 | \$ - | \$ 1,320,000.00 | \$ 800,000.00 | \$ - | \$ 27,910,326.00 | 100% |
| PERCENTAGE BY CATEGORY | 0% | 0% | 6% | 1% | 85% | 0% | 5% | 3% | 0% | | |

| SECTION C: NON FEDERAL MATCH RESOURCES | STATE FUNDS | OTHER | TOTAL: |
|---|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Primary Election Assistance | \$ 2,743,173.00 | | \$ 2,743,173.00 |
| Cyber and Physical Security Contingency | \$ 1,010,989.00 | | \$ 1,010,989.00 |
| | | \$ - | \$ - |
| | | \$ - | \$ - |
| TOTAL: | \$ 3,754,162.00 | \$ - | \$ 3,754,162.00 |