

ALVIN A. JAEGER  
SECRETARY OF STATE

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SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
600 EAST BOULEVARD AVENUE DEPT 108  
BISMARCK ND 58505-0500

May 2, 2022

Mark Robbins  
Interim Executive Director  
U S Election Assistance Commission  
633 3rd Street NW Suite 200  
Washington DC 20001

Dear Mr. Robbins:

Attached is the narrative, budget, and worksheet for the funds provided to North Dakota according to the Notice of Grant Award, Agreement # EAC-ELSEC18ND, as certified in my letter dated April 12, 2022.

If you have questions or require additional information regarding the narrative and associated document, please contact Jim Silrum, Deputy Secretary of State, at (701) 328-3660 or via e-mail to [jsilrum@nd.gov](mailto:jsilrum@nd.gov); or Brian Newby, State Election Director, at (701) 328-3721 or via e-mail to [bnewby@ng.gov](mailto:bnewby@ng.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alvin A. Jaeger".

Alvin A Jaeger  
Secretary of State

Cc. Kinza Ghaznavi, Grants Director, [Grants@eac.gov](mailto:Grants@eac.gov)

**State of North Dakota**  
**2022 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Election Security Grant**  
**Budget Narrative**

In April 2022, as authorized under Section 101 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 and provided for in the Consolidations Appropriations Act (2022), the Secretary of State of North Dakota has received \$1 million dollars in grant funding from the Election Assistance Commission for the purpose of improving the administration of elections for Federal office, including enhancing technology and making certain election security improvements. The funds will provide North Dakota with additional resources to secure and improve its election system. The state's required match in relation to the \$1 million is \$200,000.

North Dakota Secretary of State Al Jaeger requested the \$1 million from the EAC, explaining that funds will be used to develop the state's election program over a five-year period, complementing the previous 2018 and 2020 federal funds provided as HAVA Funds. These additional funds will continue the support of:

- Implementation of the state's statewide digital scan voting system and electronic pollbooks.
- Hardening the security related to election activities.
- Migrating servers to a zero-trust environment.
- Providing and supporting dedicated hardened computers to each county.
- Creating and conducting tabletop exercises for county election auditors.
- Adding additional equipment to support the 2020 election equipment conversion.
- Yet to be determined additional election related activities consistent with HAVA.

**Implementation of the state's statewide digital scan voting system and electronic pollbooks.**

North Dakota has replaced voting equipment and introducing electronic pollbooks. This new equipment was used in polling locations for the first time in 2020. Additional dollars are included for ancillary equipment upgrades, as well as the funding of election night support in counties which have new auditors since 2020. Approximately 35 percent of county auditors are new to their positions since the 2020 November election.

**Hardening the security related to election activities.**

In support of North Dakota's 53 auditors, the Secretary of State, in conjunction with North Dakota's state Information Technology (NDIT) department, provides a suite of security features to the counties, including the use of a sophisticated multifactor authentication process for access to sensitive information.

**Migrating servers to a zero-trust environment.**

In addition to the security suite, NDIT is moving the systems supported on the state network to a zero-trust environment, requiring FEDRAMP-comparable security access for all system users.

**Providing and supporting dedicated hardened computers to each county.**

To ensure complete airgap compliance with systems at the county level, the Secretary of State's office provides a dedicated, hardened computer for direct access to state election systems. These computers were deployed in 2020 and have a replacement schedule of every three years. The 2022 funds will help contribute to the replacement of the units under the replacement schedule.

**Creating and conducting tabletop exercises for county election auditors.**

The State is planning training with the auditors that combines the CISA Tabletop in a Box with state-provided threat injections. The first training was targeted for the summer of 2020, but COVID-19 complications delayed this training. The State is working with a company to create a virtual, mobile-based version of this training.

**Adding additional equipment to support the 2020 election equipment conversion.**

The State's electronic pollbooks utilize Cradlepoints for secure transfer of data to the State's Central Voter File. 2022 Funds will be utilized to provide technical support for the Cradlepoints, as well as replacement in a schedule similar to the hardened laptops.

**Yet to be determined additional election related activities consistent with HAVA.**

The State anticipates providing for headcount to focus on election administrator certification and compliance. This unit will develop the curriculum for additional training outside of the annual training required by state law, as well as materials to support the auditors during elections.

