



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 local boards of elections to provide the redundancy required of a strong election system infrastructure.

The Office of the Ohio Secretary of State plans to use these funds to continue existing programs which have been funded by previous HAVA grants and have been proven to be successful in improving the administration of elections and enhancing Ohio's cybersecurity posture for the Office and county boards of elections.

### **Albert Monitors**

The Secretary of State's Office will 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. This initiative is estimated to cost up to \$552,360. Since Albert monitoring for the 2022 election cycle is funded by the 2020 HAVA grant, this extension of services will apply after the 2022 elections.

### **Security Information and Event Management (SIEM)**

The Secretary of State's Office will provide Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) system and security monitoring support services to all 88 county boards of elections through at least June 30, 2023. This initiative is estimated to cost up to \$649,465. Since SIEM monitoring for the 2022 election cycle is funded by the 2020 HAVA grant, this extension of services will apply after the 2022 elections.

## **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. This initiative is estimated to cost up to \$541,084 and will continue through at least June 30, 2023.

## **Secretary of State Cybersecurity Program**

This initiative allocates up to \$260,284 for the Secretary of State's Cybersecurity Program. Funding for this initiative will continue to implement the Ohio SOS 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 optimizes current technology and infrastructure, which enhances the State of Ohio's election security posture and further enables greater operational resiliency. This initiative will continue through at least June 30, 2023.

## **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, and future directives to improve the administration of federal elections for federal office, including enhancing election technology and making election security improvements. Additionally, this initiative would support implementation of future Security Directive requirements.
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. *Voter Registration Security Enhancements:* This contingent initiative would provide funding to assist counties or their service providers with security upgrades with their voter registration systems.
4. *Board of Voting Machine Examiners Support:* This contingent initiative would provide funding and support to update the matrices of the Board of Voting Machine Examiners. This will allow for additional cybersecurity controls for systems approved by the Board of Voting Machine Examiners.

**EAC HAVA GRANT - BUDGET WORKSHEET**

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

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
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 12,795,322.00</b>	<b>\$ 16,465,334.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,403,832.00</b>	<b>\$ 31,664,488.00</b>

SECTION B: BUDGET CATEGORIES (Federal Only)	Voting Equipment	Voting Processes	Voter Registration Systems	Election Auditing	Cyber and Physical Security	Voter Education	Accessibility	Other (Provide description in this box)	Other (Provide description in this box)	TOTALS	% Fed Total
PERSONNEL										\$ -	0%
FRINGE RELATED TO SALARY										\$ -	0%
EQUIPMENT			\$ 1,685,459.00		\$ 562,395.00					\$ 2,247,854.00	8%
TRAINING					\$ 277,688.22					\$ 277,688.22	1%
CONTRACTUAL				\$ 250,000.00	\$ 16,269,636.00					\$ 16,519,636.00	59%
OTHER (Describe)										\$ -	0%
OTHER (Describe)										\$ -	0%
SUBGRANTS					\$ 7,545,147.78		\$ 1,320,000.00			\$ 8,865,147.78	32%
<b>TOTAL DIRECT COSTS</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,685,459.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 24,654,867.00	\$ -	\$ 1,320,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,910,326.00	100%
INDIRECT COSTS (if applied)										\$ -	0%
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM BUDGET</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,685,459.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 24,654,867.00	\$ -	\$ 1,320,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,910,326.00	100%
<b>PERCENTAGE BY CATEGORY</b>	0%	0%	6%	1%	88%	0%	5%	0%	0%		

**SECTION C: NON FEDERAL MATCH RESOURCES**

SOURCE DESCRIPTION	STATE FUNDS	OTHER	TOTAL:
Primary Election Assistance	\$ 2,744,222.00		\$ 2,744,222.00
Cyber and Physical Security Contingency	\$ 1,009,940.00		\$ 1,009,940.00
			\$ -
			\$ -
	\$ 3,754,162.00	\$ -	\$ 3,754,162.00