



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS

Susan J. Beals
Commissioner

May 17, 2022

Mark Robbins
Interim Executive Director
U.S. Election Assistance Commission
1335 East West Highway, Suite 4300
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Mr. Robbins:

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117-103) provided \$75,000,000 in Help America Vote Act (HAVA) money to improve the administration of U.S. elections. Virginia's share of this appropriation, funded through the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) is \$1,567,743 that requires a state 20 percent match of \$313,549. This narrative lays out how Virginia will use these funds to "improve the administration of federal elections" by the continued strengthening of the elections security posture of both Virginia's Department of Elections and its 133 local election offices.

The Department of Election's (Department) spending plan allows the Department to modernize and provide additional security for the existing state voter registration and election administration system (Virginia Election and Registration Information System (VERIS), which was developed in 2008. The Department has and will continue to implement additional security updates to VERIS to protect voter registration information, however, the necessary long term solution is to implement a modern system.

The Virginia General Assembly directed the Department to use the federal HAVA funding to develop and implement a new central election system to replace the current system. The technology and best practices have changed dramatically since 2008. The costs for the new system will include development and implementation. In addition to procuring a modern State Voter Registration System (SVRS) Virginia continues to develop and implement best practices security improvements.

Pre-2020 Election Project Initiatives

Virginia used/is using the 2018 HAVA funds to enhance the election infrastructure and security systems at the Department and the 133 cities and counties of the state.

The Department has substantially increase the security posture of the election infrastructure used in the Commonwealth of Virginia through cost-effective implementation of standards, policies and best practices developed by Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) and the Center for Internet Security (CIS).

Another major implementation of the 2018 HAVA funds was/is the deployment of a Risk Limiting Audits (RLA) tool kit that can be used by all cities and counties of the state. The tool kit is tailored to Virginia elections.

Post-2020 Election Project Initiatives

Specifically, Virginia's use of the 2020 HAVA Election Security Grant was in one of the seven major categories; Voting Registration Systems and Management.

In 2019 the Department was instructed by the legislature to produce a draft Request for Purposal (RFP) with a recommendation to either upgrade or replace the Virginia Election and Registration Information System (VERIS). The report was completed and issued on December 1, 2019 with the recommendation to replace the current system due to its age, cost associated with maintaining **and** modernizing it, and the level of effort needed to ensure the security of the system.

The Department issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) and received several qualified proposals. ELECT is currently evaluating the proposals and anticipates awarding a contract by the end of calendar year 2022. The Department anticipates it will take 18 to 24-month for full implementation of a new Voter Registration System. This would mean a planned first use of the new system during the 2024 election cycle or thereafter.

The modernization of the State Voter Registration System will allow the Department to take full advantage of new technologies in both security and functionality. The new system will offer easier updating and enhanced capabilities that are more cost effective and secure.

The 2022 HAVA funds will be used to continue to build on security improvements that were made with the 2018 HAVA funds. The 2022 funds will be used to address gaps identified by security efforts paid for with the 2018 funds. ELECT will continue to mitigate risks using best practices developed by the Virginia Information Technologies Agency and the Center for Internet Security.


The Department will expand security training availability to all 133 cities and counties of the state . This will be accomplished with the purchase of software that allows ELECT to meet VITA's new security standards and provide services for the localities that do not have compliant Security Awareness Programs. We currently send security checklists to them but only conduct limited training. The goal of the additional services will be to provide a comprehensive enough awareness program that security becomes part of the culture and everyday mindset of the users. The additional training will enhance the protection of Commonwealth voters' information. The training will be provided through software and temporary contract personnel. Additionally 2022

HAVA funds will be used to continue to purchase other software that has or will improved the security position of ELECT.

State Match

Virginia has available the required **\$313,549** to match the federal allocation of the 2022 HAVA grant.

Sincerely,



Susan Beals
Commissioner

EAC HAVA GRANT - BUDGET WORKSHEET

GRANTEE NAME:	Virginia Department of Elections	MATCH %:	
AWARD TYPE:	FORMULA	INDIRECT COST % (IF APPLIED):	NA
PROJECT PERIOD START DATE:	3/16/2022	INDIRECT COST TYPE:	
PROJECT PERIOD END DATE:			

SECTION A: GRANT BUDGET	YEAR ONE	YEAR TWO	YEAR THREE	TOTAL:
FEDERAL AMOUNT	\$ 9,080,731.00	\$ 10,220,313.00	\$ 1,567,743.00	\$ 20,868,787.00
NON FEDERAL MATCH	\$ 454,037.00	\$ 2,044,062.00	\$ 313,549.00	\$ 2,811,648.00
TOTAL:	\$ 9,534,768.00	\$ 12,264,375.00	\$ 1,881,292.00	\$ 23,680,435.00

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										\$ -	0%
TRAINING				\$ 75,000.00	\$ 450,000.00					\$ 525,000.00	3%
CONTRACTUAL			\$ 12,100,000.00		\$ 6,143,787.00	\$ 450,000.00				\$ 18,693,787.00	90%
OTHER (Security related software)				\$ 150,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00					\$ 1,650,000.00	8%
OTHER (Describe)										\$ -	0%
SUBGRANTS										\$ -	0%
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,100,000.00	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 8,093,787.00	\$ 450,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,868,787.00	100%
INDIRECT COSTS (if applied)										\$ -	0%
TOTAL PROGRAM BUDGET	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,100,000.00	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 8,093,787.00	\$ 450,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,868,787.00	100%
PERCENTAGE BY CATEGORY	0%	0%	58%	1%	39%	2%	0%	0%	0%		

SECTION C: NON FEDERAL MATCH RESOURCES

SOURCE DESCRIPTION	STATE FUNDS	OTHER	TOTAL:
In-kind match	\$ 454,037.00		\$ 454,037.00
State cash match	\$ 2,357,611.00		\$ 2,357,611.00
			\$ -
			\$ -
	\$ 2,811,648.00	\$ -	\$ 2,811,648.00