

Maryland State Board of Elections Agreement Number: EAC-ELSEC18MD Program Narrative Submission Submitted: May 2, 2022



### Overview

The Maryland State Board of Elections (SBE) is pleased to receive \$1,226,483 in federal funds to continue to "improve the administration of elections for Federal office, including to enhance election technology and make election security improvements." With the State's 20% match of funds, SBE will have an additional \$1,472,328 available to fulfill Congress' intent to improve election security and technology.

Securing systems and data is a continuous effort in Maryland's elections community, and the systems and data we use are protected by the industry accepted best practices for critical information systems. From the voter registration process to the voting process to the posting of election results, we have ways to protect, monitor, test, and restore the systems and processes. We are constantly looking for ways to enhance how we protect these systems and respond to new risks, and these funds will enable Maryland's election community to enhance election technology and the security measures protecting the systems and data we use to conduct elections.

### **Proposed Election Security Activities**

U. S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC), proposed activities are assigned to six categories. SBE will use the HAVA 2022 election security additional grant funds for cyber and physical security.

# Cyber and Physical Security

- 1. 2022 and Future Election Activities: Identifying and mitigating vulnerabilities will continue to be a top priority for State and local elections officials. Assessing and mitigating vulnerabilities is a continuous task, and SBE will continue to perform these assessments regularly and address any identified issues immediately.
- 2. *Budget Narrative:* SBE will allocate the \$1,472,328 of the 2022 HAVA additional security grant to identify and mitigate cyber security risks. These actions include acquiring and upgrading equipment and software, implementing 2-factor authentication on workstations, automating SBE's patch management process, hiring information security experts, and enhancing the cybersecurity program's security standards, threat assessment, monitoring, provide physical security, incident response functions and continue social media threat monitoring.

Maryland State Board of Elections Agreement Number: MD20101001 Program and Budget Narrative Submission

#### **Grant Administration**

SBE has deposited into an interest-bearing account all federal funds. Interest earned on these funds will be retained in the account and used for only allowable activities.

# Annual Performance Reports and Quarterly Financial Reports

SBE will file annually program narrative and quarterly expenditure reports covering activities and expenditures during the federal fiscal year. Each narrative report will include a summary of expenditures aligned with budget categories in SBE's plan, a list of equipment obtained with these funds, and a description of how the funded activities meet the goals of the plan.

#### **Title to Property**

SBE understands that it acquires title to any property purchased using these funds and retains ownership of this property if SBE has the property.

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REVISION/CONTINUA	TION	MATCH %:	13%							
3/23/2018		INDIRECT COST %								
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\$ 353,185.00	1,589,276.00	245,297.00								
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