

The mission of the S.C. State Election Commission (“SEC”) is to ensure every eligible citizen in South Carolina has the opportunity to register to vote, to participate in fair, impartial, and secure elections, and have the assurance that their vote will count. Challenges this agency faces include the constant threat of cyber-attacks as well as the implementation of the state’s new voting system.

Thanks to the efforts of our agency’s cyber security team and those of our private sector partners, as well as those of our colleagues at our state and federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies, the SEC has never suffered a cyber security breach. Nevertheless, the SEC is aware that it is a target of constant (albeit unsuccessful) cyber-attacks.

After the SEC implemented the new statewide voting system in late 2019 and saw its first statewide election with the new system in February 2020 (with the Democratic Presidential Preference Primary), the SEC has endeavored to work with county election offices to better help them meet the challenges they face at the county level, including keeping our elections secure at the county level.

As such, we intend to utilize the \$1,084,886 in 2022 HAVA Election Security grant funds to take all reasonable measures that will better secure our state’s election infrastructure.

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SUMMARY:

In determining the use of the HAVA grant funds, the SEC used expertise derived from our state and federal law enforcement, defense, and intelligence partners, the SEC’s private cyber security consultants, as well as county election officials. After consulting with the aforementioned parties who have conducted cyber and physical security assessments, penetration tests, vulnerability assessments, and security-related training, the SEC will invest the HAVA grant funds into remediating and implementing the security recommendations of our partners, as well as increasing the cyber and physical security of the state’s new voting system, with added emphasis on investment at the county level.

It should be noted that delivery of ordered equipment will depend on how quickly the vendors can fulfill the orders, considering the manufacturing and shipping challenges posed by COVID-19.

EXPEDITURES:

1. Voting Equipment

- a. The SEC conducted a survey of all SC county election offices to determine what additional voting equipment are needed in their offices and voting precincts in order to more safely conduct elections. This voting equipment includes additional ballot scanners and ballot marking devices. The addition of these devices allows more voters to vote at a single time (using social distancing) and will decrease voter wait time.
- b. Timeframe: June-November 2022

2. Election Auditing

- a. The State Election Commission is beginning the process of implementing a Risk Limiting Audit (“RLA”) program. An RLA checks that the voting equipment and procedures used to count votes worked properly, and that an election yielded the correct outcome. While these audits are not new, they have gained attention in the last three years as election security has come to the policy foreground. A post-election audit may be able to detect whether any outside interference occurred, and security experts recommend them as one method of protecting the integrity of elections.
 - b. The costs include the price of the consultants and proprietary RLA software licenses/maintenance.
 - c. Timeframe: May-November 2022

- 3. Voting Registration Systems and Management (Section Not Applicable)

- 4. Cyber Vulnerabilities
 - a. Contract with a vendor to conduct periodic phishing campaign engagements for election officials with access to the statewide voter registration system and the election management system.
 - i. Timeline: June 2022-December 2026

- 5. Training
 - a. Increase cybersecurity awareness and preparedness of county election directors, staff, and board members by conducting a Cyber Tabletop Exercise in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Funding will pay for rental space, foodstuffs, and miscellaneous materials not provided by DHS.
 - i. Timeline: August 2022

 - b. Host a Voting and Election Systems workshop for election officials across the State. Objectives for this workshop will be, but not limited to, physical and cyber security, view voting systems offered by EAC certified manufactures, and hear from leading experts in these areas.
 - i. Timeline: August 2022

- 6. Communication (Section Not Applicable)

EAC HAVA GRANT - BUDGET WORKSHEET

GRANTEE NAME:	South Carolina State Election Commission	MATCH %:	20%
AWARD TYPE:	FORMULA	INDIRECT COST % (IF APPLIED):	
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	\$ 6,040,794.00	\$ 6,793,192.00	\$ 1,084,886.00	\$ 13,918,872.00
NON FEDERAL MATCH	\$ 302,040.00	\$ 1,358,638.00	\$ 216,977.00	\$ 1,877,655.00
TOTAL:	\$ 6,342,834.00	\$ 8,151,830.00	\$ 1,301,863.00	\$ 15,796,527.00

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	\$ 11,373,872.00									\$ 11,373,872.00	82%
TRAINING				\$ 135,000.00						\$ 135,000.00	1%
CONTRACTUAL		\$ 500,000.00								\$ 500,000.00	4%
OTHER (Describe)				\$ 1,600,000.00	\$ 160,000.00	\$ 150,000.00				\$ 1,910,000.00	14%
OTHER (Describe)										\$ -	0%
SUBGRANTS										\$ -	0%
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	\$ 11,373,872.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,735,000.00	\$ 160,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,918,872.00	100%
INDIRECT COSTS (if applied)										\$ -	0%
TOTAL PROGRAM BUDGET	\$ 11,373,872.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,735,000.00	\$ 160,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,918,872.00	100%
PERCENTAGE BY CATEGORY	82%	4%	0%	12%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%		

SECTION C: NON FEDERAL MATCH RESOURCES

SOURCE DESCRIPTION	STATE FUNDS	OTHER	TOTAL:
Voting Equipment	\$ 1,477,655.00		\$ 1,477,655.00
Election Auditing	\$ 400,000.00		\$ 400,000.00
			\$ -
			\$ -
	\$ 1,877,655.00	\$ -	\$ 1,877,655.00