



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA 2024 HAVA ELECTION SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM NARRATIVE

Program Description

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is pleased to receive the funds authorized under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024 (Public Law 118-47), to “improve the administration of elections for Federal office, including to enhance election technology and make certain election security improvements, as authorized under Title I Section 101, 103, and 104 of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).” Specifically, we intend to use these funds and our matching funds to support the voting process for the 2024 general election. Pennsylvania is working with various partners within state government to strategize on accomplishing these goals.

Because the continued work through the 2024 general election is important at both the state and the local levels, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will equally share these funds with county election offices. Funds retained and spent directly will benefit the entire state while the remaining funds will be distributed as subgrants to the counties.

Background and Approach

The PA Department of State (Department) continues to encourage election modernization efforts around the state. From the onset of the Election Security Grants, \$22,752,884 in both federal and state-matched dollars has been made available to counties to replace outdated voting machines; increase personnel and equipment as needed due to changes under Pennsylvania’s Act 77 of 2019 (Act 77); increase funding related to cyber and physical security measures, increase expenditures to expand vote by mail and other voter services; and to address county needs due to the ongoing modernization efforts of the voter registration system.



The Department continues to utilize the funds towards statewide efforts including post-election audits; election security and technology enhancements for both counties and the Commonwealth pertaining to voter registration and other voting systems; voter education relating to changes in voting and elections under Act 77, including the ability for all voters to vote by mail; and election modernization as it relates to the implementation of the Commonwealth's statewide voter registration System.

The 2024 Election Security award will allow the Department to distribute \$500,000 of Pennsylvania's funds as subgrants to the counties, divided proportionally based on the number of registered voters in each county as of April 23, 2024. Counties will be required to submit documentation of their acceptance of the subgrants and proof of use for approved purposes, to receive their funds. County election offices will be permitted to use funds for any allowable expense under the grant, however, it is anticipated most subaward dollars will be spent towards efforts surrounding the 2024 general election.

With the fifty percent of funds retained by the Commonwealth, it will be important for the Department to continue to evaluate needs from all levels and entities to mitigate potential concerns that arise surrounding daily administrative functions within the elections arena. Ensuring adequate funds are available to make necessary changes will be vital as the 2024 general election draws near.

Additionally, the Department continues to maintain the security and integrity of the current voter registration system with election modernization efforts moving forward. Lastly, as efforts progress, there may be a need for additional enhancements to the statewide voter registration system which grant funds can assist with, if necessary.

Budget, Timeframes, and Progress Reporting

Pennsylvania will use the funds provided under the FY24 funding for activities consistent with the provisions described in Section 101 of HAVA and will not use the funds in a manner that is inconsistent with the requirements of Title I. It is our intent to spend down Pennsylvania's \$1,000,000



grant award as the authorized expenditures are made and funds utilized. Pennsylvania will also contribute its twenty percent match of \$200,000 by FY 2024-2025, which will be used for continuation of upgrading the Commonwealth's voter registration and election management systems. The Department will submit any required financial and program narrative reports that track the Commonwealth's and counties' progress as required by the grant.

Additionally, the Department is requesting to realign budgeted funds from the 2023 Election Security grant for the following changes:

- \$56,760 previously listed under Voter Registration Systems and \$71,000 listed under Cyber and Physical Security to the Other "Miscellaneous" Election Administration category. As part of the new statewide voter registration IT system, the Department is required to increase staffing and expand physical workspace for new election staff to assist counties with the implementation of the new system.
- \$247,000 previously listed under Voting Equipment to be reallocated to Voter Education to cover outreach efforts during the 2024 Primary and General Election.
- \$143,000 previously listed under Other to be reallocated to Voting Education for unspent county subgrant dollars that were returned to the Department to cover outreach efforts during the 2024 Primary and General Election.

Conclusion

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is pleased to accept the funds authorized under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024 (Public Law 118-47), to improve the administration of elections for Federal office, by using federal and our matching funds for improving voting processes throughout the Commonwealth.

