

2020 HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT (HAVA) ELECTION SECURITY SUB-GRANT TO TEXAS COUNTIES

Notice of Grant Award

Grantor: Texas Secretary of State
P.O. Box 12887
Austin, TX 78711

Grantee: Hidalgo

Obligation Information

CFDA Number: 90.404

Grant Period: 12/21/2019 – 12/31/2021

Agreement No.: TX18101001-01-108

Funds Description

This obligation of funds constitutes the subgrantee's allocation of funds provided by the State of Texas under its grants from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (52 U.S.C. §§ 20901, 20903-20905) authorized by the U.S. Congress under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141) and U.S. Congress under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-93).

Funding Information

Are you requesting more than \$40,000? Yes

| | <u>Maximum Award</u> | <u>Requested Amount</u> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Federal Share | \$120,000 | \$ 120,000.00 |
| Required Matching Funds | \$16,000 | \$ 16,000.00 |

Purpose

As authorized under Section 101 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-252) (HAVA) and provided for in the Consolidated Appropriations Acts, 2018 (Public Law 115-141) and 2020 (Public Law 116-93), the purpose of this award is to “improve the administration of elections for Federal office, including to enhance election technology and make election security improvements” to the systems, equipment and processes used in federal elections.

Receipt of Funds

All funds must be deposited into an interest-bearing account in a fund designated for HAVA funds. Interest earned on this award’s funds and any net program income shall be retained in the fund and used for allowable activities described in Section 101 of HAVA. Program income is defined as revenue received from a grant-supported activity during the grant period, such as fees from the use or rental of real or personal property acquired with grant funds.

Matching Funds

Total expenditures exceeding \$40,000 must be matched at 20% using county funds, e.g., if a county requests \$120,000, \$80,000 must be matched at 20%.

Grant Administration

Award recipients and sub-recipients must adhere to all applicable federal and state requirements including Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance: [Title 2 C.F.R. Subtitle A, Chapter II, Part 200-Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards \(2 C.F.R. § 200\)](#) and the [Texas Uniform Grant Management Standards \(UGMS\)](#) maintained by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

Reporting Requirements

1. The county must comply with all expenditure reporting requirements prescribed by the Secretary of State and other reports deemed necessary by the Secretary of State or the federal government.
2. The final expenditure report must be submitted to the Secretary of State no later than January 31, 2022. Any unexpended funds will revert back to the state.
3. Failure to comply with any and all reporting requirements may result in the Secretary of State withholding any funds distributed to the county, including, but not limited to, Chapter 19 funds, Primary Finance funds issued pursuant to Chapter 173, Texas Election Code, and any other HAVA funding awarded to the county.

Award Contingencies

This award is contingent upon the completion of the following activities:

1. Completion of the data entry fields in this agreement, including the electronic signature of the county judge.
2. A resolution from the county commissioners court acknowledging certain terms and conditions.
3. Implement or have implemented the Drug-Free Workplace Requirements of 2 C.F.R. § 182.200 and comply with subpart C of 2 C.F.R. Part 180- Debarment & Suspension & include in lower-tier covered transactions.

Acknowledgement

By signing this award agreement, the county agrees to comply with all terms and conditions in this Notice, including the attached HAVA Assurances.



06/10/2020

Ruth R. Hughes
Texas Secretary of State

DocuSigned by:

Hidalgo - Richard Cortez

8/14/2020

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Hidalgo

County Judge

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Required County Match

Describe how the county will meet the required match.

Hidalgo County will use General Fund monies for the required match

Funding Purpose Areas

Describe how the county will use the funds outlined in this award to “improve the administration of elections for federal office, including enhancements to elections related information systems and technologies and election security improvements” to include systems, equipment and processes used in federal elections. Where applicable, identify the method or tool used to arrive at the election security need, including but not limited to, an election security assessment, SOS-prescribed policies and templates, federal election security resources, etc.

Voting Equipment: Upgrades and replacement equipment – must be HAVA-compliant and paper verifiable

Proposed Activities:

N/A

Election Auditing: Costs to conduct review after polls close for the purpose of determining whether the votes were counted accurately

Proposed Activities:

N/A

Voter Registration Systems: Costs to enhance voter registration system security

Proposed Activities:

In response to Election Security and Cyber Security mandates, we will purchase backup servers and a Votec Voter Database System Backup server so that all voter files are backed up daily. This process will insure the security of all voter registration processing data.

Cyber Security: Security enhancements to protect the election process (e.g., remediation from election security assessments)

Proposed Activities:

In response to the growing awareness and mandates regarding cyber security and security infrastructure, we will purchase a new access control system so that the Elections office, which maintains all of the election supplies, equipment and retention documents, will be secure. Due to the cyber security mandates, this system will keep track of employee traffic and will only allow authorized personnel into secure areas. To address the assurance that polling location laptops are secure, we will purchase a security software system that guarantees that all polling location laptops are impenetrable while in use before and during an election.

Communications: Costs needed to communicate with the public regarding election security

Proposed Activities:

N/A



SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT AND PAYMENT INFORMATION

Name Maria Arcilia Duran, CPA

Title Hidalgo County Auditor

Phone 956-318-2511 Fax 956-318-2577

Email arcilia.duran@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us

Address 2808 S. Business Highway 281 Edinburg, Texas 78539

Mail Code* 051

*Payments will be issued using the county vendor ID 17460007176 and a designated mail code. Please provide the three-digit mail code in the space provided above. If you are unsure of what mail code to use, please contact your county treasurer/auditor.

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HAVA GRANT ASSURANCES

Resolution from the Governing Body

A resolution from the county Commissioners Court must be on file with the Secretary of State that includes, at a minimum, the following statements (the same resolution may be used for any HAVA funds awarded to the county provided the statements remain true and correct):

_____ Commissioners Court agrees that the expenditure of the funds will be in accordance with applicable federal and state law and any agreement between _____ County and the State of Texas, Office of the Secretary of State as authorized under Section 101 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 and in consultation and agreement with the county election official(s) as defined in Sections 12.001 and 31.091 of the Texas Election Code.

_____ Commissioners Court agrees to assign a single point of contact (SPOC) to act on behalf of the county in communicating with the Office of the Secretary of State, including the submission of all necessary reports.

_____ Commissioners Court agrees claims against the fund shall be audited and approved in the same manner as other claims against the county before they are paid.

_____ Commissioners Court agrees that it will not consider the availability of the funds in adopting the county budget.

_____ Commissioners Court agrees that in the event of loss, misuse, or noncompliance pursuant to any grant award agreement with the Secretary of State, _____ Commissioners Court assures that the funds will be returned to the Office of the Secretary of State in full.

State Voting System Certification

If equipment or software is being acquired that requires Secretary of State prior approval pursuant to Section 123.035 of the Texas Election Code, the county must comply with the following:

1. Provide a copy of the relevant portions of the contract containing the identifying information that the Secretary of State needs to determine whether the version of what is being acquired under the contract complies with the applicable requirements.
2. The county may not expend funds unless it has received a letter from the Secretary of State confirming that the acquisition under the contract satisfies the applicable requirements for approval.

Financial Management Standards

The financial management system of the county must meet the following standards:

1. Financial reporting. Accurate, current, and complete disclosure of the financial results of financially assisted activities must be made in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the grant award.
2. Accounting records. The county must maintain records which adequately identify the source and application of funds provided for financially-assisted activities. These records must contain information pertaining to grant awards and authorizations, obligations, unobligated balances, assets, liabilities, outlays or expenditures, and income.
3. Internal control. Effective control and accountability must be maintained for all grant award cash, real and personal property, and other assets. The county must adequately safeguard all such property and must assure that it is used solely for authorized purposes.
4. Budget control. Actual expenditures or outlays must be compared with budgeted amounts for each grant award. Financial information must be related to performance or productivity data, including the development of unit cost information whenever appropriate or specifically required in the grant award agreement. If unit cost data are required, estimates based on available documentation will be accepted whenever possible.
5. Allowable cost. Applicable OMB cost principles, agency program regulations, and the terms of grant award agreement will be followed in determining the reasonableness, allowability, and allocability of costs.
6. Source documentation. Accounting records must be supported by such source documentation as canceled checks, paid bills, payrolls, time and attendance records, contract and grant award documents, etc.
7. The Secretary of State or its designee may review the adequacy of the financial management system of any applicant for financial assistance as part of a pre-award review or at any time subsequent to award.

Procurement

The county shall use its own procurement procedures and regulations, provided that the procurement conforms to applicable laws and the standards identified in Chapter III (State Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements), Subpart C, Section 36 of the Uniform Grant Management Standards.

Property Management

Procedures for managing equipment (including replacement equipment), whether acquired in whole or in part with grant funds, until disposition takes place will, at a minimum, meet the following requirements:

1. Property records must be maintained that include a description of the property, a serial number or other identification number, the source of property, who holds title, the acquisition date and cost of the property, percentage of the Secretary of State participation in the cost of the property, the location, use and condition of the property, and any ultimate disposition data including the date of disposal and sale price of the property.
2. A physical inventory of the property must be taken and the results reconciled with the property records at least once every two years.
3. A control system must be developed to ensure adequate safeguards to prevent loss, damage, or theft of the property. Any loss, damage, or theft shall be investigated. Certain types of equipment are classified as "controlled assets". The Comptroller's State Property Accounting User Manual, available on the Internet, contains the most current listing.

4. Adequate maintenance procedures must be developed to keep the property in good condition.
5. Counties should attempt to get trade-in value or sell HAVA-funded equipment after it is no longer needed for its original intended purpose, and use the proceeds toward replacement equipment or other related activities. Proper sales procedures must be established to ensure the highest possible return.

Records Retention

1. The county must maintain records for at least three years following the submission of the final expenditure report.
2. If any litigation, claim, negotiation, audit or other action involving the records has been started before the expiration of the 3-year period, the records must be retained until completion of the action and resolution of all issues which arise from it, or until the end of the regular 3-year period, whichever is later.

Compliance Reviews

1. Compliance reviews include programmatic and financial auditing.
2. The Secretary of State reserves the right to conduct its own audit or contract with another entity to audit the county.
3. The Secretary of State or its designee may conduct compliance reviews throughout the existence of a grant or conduct an audit after the grant period has ended. The county must make all grant-related records available to the Secretary of State or its representatives unless the information is sealed by law.
4. Compliance reviews may be on-site or desk reviews and may include any information that the Secretary of State deems relevant to the project.

Remedies for Noncompliance

If a county fails to comply with any term or condition of this award agreement or any applicable statutes, rules, regulations, or guidelines, Secretary of State may take one or more of the following actions:

1. Require the return of funds if disbursements have already been made.
2. Temporarily withhold all payment to the county pending correction of the deficiency by the county.
3. Temporarily withhold all payments for other HAVA grant funds awarded to the county pending correction of the deficiency by the county.
4. Disallow all or part of the cost of the activity or action that is not in compliance.
5. Impose administrative sanctions, other than fines, on the county.
6. Withhold further HAVA grant funds from the county.
7. Terminate the award agreement in whole or in part.
8. Exercise other remedies that may be legally available.

Collection of Amount Due

Any funds paid to the county in excess of the amount to which the county is finally determined to be entitled under the terms of the award constitute a debt to the Secretary of State. If not paid within 30 days after demand, the federal or state agency may reduce the debt by:

1. Making an administrative offset against other requests for reimbursements;
2. Withholding payments otherwise due to the county; or
3. Other action permitted by law.

Except where otherwise provided by statutes or regulations, the federal government may charge interest on an overdue debt in accordance with the Federal Claims Collection Standards (4 CFR Ch. II). The date from which interest is computed is not extended by litigation or the filing of any form of appeal.

Standard Federal Assurances

Certification Regarding Lobbying for Contracts, Grants, Loans and Cooperative Agreements

The signing authority certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

- (1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the signing authority, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
- (2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the signing authority shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions.
- (3) The signing authority shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction

imposed by Section 1352, Title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Certification Regarding Trafficking in Persons

The signing authority certifies to his or her understanding that this grant is subject to the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. § 7104) as follows:

- I. Provisions applicable to a recipient that is a private entity.
 - A. You as the recipient, your employees, subrecipients under this award, and subrecipients' employees may not:
 1. Engage in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect;
 2. Procure a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect; or
 3. Use forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.
 - B. We as the federal awarding agency may unilaterally terminate this award, without penalty, if you or a subrecipient that is a private entity
 1. Violates a prohibition in paragraph A of this award term; or
 2. Has an employee who violates a prohibition in paragraph A of this award term through conduct that is either:
 - a) Associated with performance under this award; or
 - b) Imputed to you or the subrecipient using the standards and due process for imputing the conduct of an individual to an organization that are provided in 2 CFR Part 180, "OMB guidelines to Agencies on Government-wide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement)".
- II. Provisions applicable to a recipient other than a private entity. We as the Federal awarding agency may unilaterally terminate this award, without penalty, if a subrecipient that is not a private entity—
 - A. Is determined to have violated an applicable prohibition of paragraph I.A of this award
 - B. term; or
 - C. Has an employee who is determined by the agency official authorized to terminate the award to have violated an applicable prohibition in paragraph I.A of this award term through conduct that is—
 1. Associated with performance under this award; or
 2. Imputed to you using the standards and due process for imputing conduct of an individual to an organization that are provided in 2 CFR Part 180, "OMB 12 Guidelines to Agencies on Government-wide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement)," as implemented by our agency at 2 CFR Part 2200.
- III. Provisions applicable to any recipient.
 - A. You must inform us immediately of any information you receive from any source alleging a violation of a prohibition in paragraph I A of this award term.
 - B. Our right to terminate unilaterally that is described in paragraph (1) and (2) of this section:
 1. Implements section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104(g)), and
 2. Is in addition to all other remedies for noncompliance that are available to us under this award.
 - C. You must include the requirements of paragraph I A of this award term in any subaward you make to a private entity.
- IV. Definitions. For purposes of this award term:
 - A. "Employee" means either:

1. An individual employed by you or a subrecipient who is engaged in the performance of the project or program under this award; or
 2. Another person engaged in the performance of the project or program under this award and not compensated by you including, but not limited to, a volunteer or individual whose service are contributed by a third party as an in-kind contribution toward cost sharing or matching requirements.
- B. “Forced labor” means labor obtained by any of the following methods: the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.
- C. “Private entity”:
1. Means any entity other than a State, local government, Indian tribe, or foreign public entity, as those terms are defined in 2 CFR §175.25.
 2. Includes:
 - a) A nonprofit organization, including any non-profit institution of higher education, hospital, or tribal organization other than one included in the definition of Indian tribe at 2 CFR § 175.25(b).
 - b) A for-profit organization.
- D. “Severe forms of trafficking in persons,” “commercial sex act,” and “coercion” have the meanings given at section 103 of the TVPA, as amended (22 U.S.C. § 7102).

Resolution in Support of the 2020 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Cares Act Sub-Grant to Texas Counties

WHEREAS, Hidalgo County Commissioners Court agrees that the expenditure of the funds will be in accordance with applicable federal and state law and any agreement between Hidalgo County and the State of Texas, Office of the Secretary of State as authorized under Section 101 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 and in consultation and agreement with the county election official(s) as defined in Sections 12.001 and 31.091 of the Texas Election Code; and

WHEREAS, Hidalgo County Commissioners Court agrees to assign a single point of contact (SPOC) to act on behalf of the county in communicating with the Office of the Secretary of State, including the submission of all necessary reports; and


WHEREAS, Hidalgo County Commissioners Court agrees claims against the fund shall be audited and approved in the same manner as other claims against the county before they are paid; and

WHEREAS, Hidalgo County Commissioners Court agrees that it will not consider the availability of the funds in adopting the county budget; and


WHEREAS, Hidalgo County Commissioners Court agrees that in the event of loss, misuse, or noncompliance pursuant to any grant award agreement with the Secretary of State, Hidalgo County Commissioners Court assures that the funds will be returned to the Office of the Secretary of State in full.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court approves this resolution in support of the 2020 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Cares Act Sub-Grant to Texas Counties.

Approved this 26th day of May, 2020.



DAVID FUENTES
County Commissioner, Pct. 1



RICHARD F. CORTEZ
County Judge



EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU
County Commissioner, Pct. 2



JOE M. FLORES
County Commissioner, Pct. 3



ELLIE TORRES
County Commissioner, Pct. 4



Attest: ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.
County Clerk