



NORTH CAROLINA

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Mailing Address:

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TO: County Boards of Election
RE: Considerations for Expending 2020 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Grant Funds
DATE: January 29, 2021

Session Law 2020-17 designated \$9,616,929 in nonrecurring funds to county boards of elections and entitled each county a minimum of \$10,000 and no more than \$250,000. The General Assembly further stipulated that in reimbursement of these funds, counties must certify that HAVA funds will not be used to supplant county funds. Use of the funds must adhere to the categories and permissible purposes established by the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission and the federal standards set by the Congressional grant authorization.

While we considered an application process to receive additional funds above \$10,000 (not to exceed \$250,000), we were concerned that this would not be a fair and equitable decision-making process and would limit a county's ability to address its specific needs. Similar to the criteria used by the General Assembly to award CARES Act funds, we have calculated each county's award based upon economic tiers defined by the North Carolina Department of Commerce and the number of registered voters. Through this formulary, we aim to give the decision making to you directly since you know your county's needs best. The session law appropriating these funds requires the counties to seek reimbursement from the State Board for eligible expenses. The attached FAQ document explains the reimbursement process, which is the same as CARES Act reimbursement processes.

As you determine the needs of your county, please be mindful that at present time no additional funds have been authorized by Congress or the General Assembly. This means it is important to prioritize and effectively address multiple needs. While many counties may consider voting equipment to be a top priority, the designation of elections as critical infrastructure means it is also our duty to place even greater emphasis on both physical and cyber security than ever before. Please review any assessments conducted by the Department of Homeland Security or the National Guard and consider applying HAVA funds to remedy identified issues or areas of concern. Ideally, counties have designated capital funds to purchase voting equipment since there has been no federal or state commitment of funds for this purpose since the initial statewide procurement in 2006. Bottomline – please spend your funds wisely as we are not guaranteed additional funds in the near future.

Please carefully review the additional documents provided with this letter. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to Amy Strange, COO; Neil Baddour, Voting Systems Certification Manager; or me.

Thank you for all you do,

Karen Brinson Bell
Executive Director