CARES Act Funding — Appropriations for Elections

Emergency funds have been appropriated through the CARES Act as a supplemental appropriation for the 2020 federal election cycle, distributed by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission in response to COVID-19. Each state and U.S. territory received a federal allocation and required a 20.0% state match based on the allocation. Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds were last appropriated in 2010 and 2018.

All 99 County Auditors were provided with the opportunity to apply for a HAVA COVID-19 grant to purchase protective and hygienic materials. The Iowa Secretary of State granted County Auditors $300 per each base precinct.

Election Security Grants Received by County Auditors — As of August 24, 2020

Federal Funds Allocated to Iowa
($400.0 M Appropriated Nationwide)

State of Iowa Matching Funds

Funds Expended to Date

County Auditors Awarded
$636,000 in HAVA Funds

Awards by County

- $1,500 - $5,000
- $5,001 - $10,000
- $10,001 - $15,000
- $15,001 - $26,100

Iowa HAVA Funds — 2010-2020

- A 20% State match is required for HAVA fund allocations.
- 2018 funds were used in addition to Technology Reinvestment Fund dollars to update the State’s voter registration system, provide mandatory training for county officials who conduct elections, purchase equipment for disabled voters, and hire Secretary of State staff to provide digital security assistance to counties.
- It is uncertain when the next round of funding may be available.

For more information on the status of CARES Act Funding see LSA’s State of Iowa Financial Update.

Sources: Iowa Department of Management, LSA calculations
LSA Staff Contact: Angel Banks-Adams (515.281.6301) angel.banks-adams@legis.iowa.gov