
Sponsor: Information Services

Meeting Date: 5/3/2022

Title: Grant Agreement with the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State for Help America Vote Act Grants Program for Elections-related Cybersecurity Improvements

File Number: 2022-206

Background and Rationale:

During its 2021 1st Special Session, the Minnesota Legislature, Chapter 11, Article 1, Section 41, authorized the distribution of \$3 million from federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Grant Program appropriations as grants to political subdivisions. Per statute, these funds must be used to “improve accessibility,” “implement security improvements for elections systems,” and/or for “funding other activities to improve the security of elections.”

Information Security team submitted an application to the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State for Help America Vote Act Grants Program for elections-related cybersecurity improvements. As a result, Ramsey County was awarded \$142,589. The funds will be used to purchase products and services that increase the cybersecurity of elections related infrastructure by providing integrated monitoring of Ramsey County’s internet facing addresses, including elections websites. Funding will be used to increase election information security. Phishing campaigns target election employees and election judges. The funding will be used to protect these accounts and mitigate actions taken by threat actors to compromise election related accounts promoting fairness and equity in the election process.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Ratify the submittal of the grant application to Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State in the amount of \$142,589 for Help America Vote Act Grants Program for elections-related cybersecurity improvements.
2. Accept a grant award from and approve a grant agreement with the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State for Help America Vote Act Grants Program for elections-related cybersecurity improvements for the period of execution through March 23, 2027 in the amount of \$142,589.
3. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the grant agreement.
4. Authorize the County Manager to enter into agreements and execute amendments to agreements in accordance with the county’s procurement policies and procedures, provided the amounts are within the limits of the grant funding.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner McGuire, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Motion passed.

Aye: - 5: Carter, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

Absent: - 2: Frethem, and MatasCastillo

By: 
Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board