



**MONTANA SECRETARY
OF STATE'S OFFICE**



DATE: August 30, 2024

TO: Jerry Howe, Executive Director
Legislative Services Division

FROM: Angela Nunn, Chief Deputy
Montana Secretary of State

Subject: Annual Report on the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Fiscal Year 2024 Grant Activity

In accordance with 13-1-209 and 5-11-210, MCA, enclosed is a report titled Annual Report to the Montana State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee on Help America Vote Act Funds.

The report contains information regarding HAVA grant funding received and expenditures made during fiscal year 2024.

Montana Secretary of State



Report to the Montana State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee

Report Period: Fiscal Year 2024

August 30, 2024

Help America Vote Act (HAVA)

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) established a program to provide federal funds to states and territories to upgrade voting systems and improve the administration and security of federal elections. The law also mandated the creation of the Election Assistance Commission to administer HAVA grant programs.

The Election Assistance Commission Office of Grants Management (EAC/OGM) is responsible for awarding, distributing, and monitoring grant funds authorized by Congress under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). The EAC/OGM works closely with grantees to ensure the appropriate use of funds and provides regular grant training and technical assistance to grantees. The grants office also negotiates indirect cost rates with grantees, resolves audit findings on the use of HAVA funds, and reports to Congress on grant expenditures and activities.

Montana Secretary of State HAVA Grant Activities for Fiscal Year 2024

The EAC awarded the Secretary of State's Office (SOS) an allocation of \$1 million in HAVA grant funding during fiscal year 2024 in addition to past awards received. The awarded funds also require a 20% state match. SOS was approved to use the newly allocated funds for the following:

- Subgrants to counties
- Election auditing
- Personnel
- Indirect cost recovery

During fiscal year 2024, the Secretary of State's Office expended \$1,297,335 in HAVA funds. The expended funds were for payments for the completed project deliverables of the new ElectMT system, issuing subgrant funds to Montana counties for items allowable under HAVA provisions and SOS objectives, Express Vote printing equipment rental for a voting accessibility pilot program completed during the Primary Election for visually impaired electors, and payments for project deliverables of a voter education video series program. SOS also incurred indirect administrative costs during FY2024.

The Secretary of State's Office currently has one active allocation being offered to Montana counties through the subgrant program.

HAVA Allocation: \$1,000,000 with a 20% match requirement

This subgrant allocation was offered to counties on November 2, 2022, with a deadline that has been extended to September 30, 2024. Any requests received by counties for this allocation must fall within the following objectives:

- Implementing requirements from Election Security Administrative Rules (44.3.2901 through 44.3.2905)
- Hiring a third-party to complete a security assessment (if a no-cost option is not available)
- Implementing recommendations from a third-party security assessment
- Implementing physical security enhancements – such as to safeguard staff, ballots, and election equipment.
- Other items allowable under HAVA provisions (e.g. tabulators, ExpressVote machines, etc.) if the following prerequisites have been implemented:
 - Implemented Endpoint Detection & Response (EDR) tools or similar tools on county endpoints (e.g. Center for Internet Security’s Endpoint Security Services).
 - Implemented vulnerability scanning on at least a monthly basis (e.g. CISA’s Cyber Hygiene Services).
 - Migrated to a .gov domain for the county website and email addresses.
 - Joined Center for Internet Security’s Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EI-ISAC).

HAVA Funds Awarded to Counties in Fiscal Year 2024

<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Beaverhead County	\$ 10,534.37
Blaine County	\$ 12,642.71
Broadwater County	\$ 4,596.00
Dawson County	\$ 2,208.00
Gallatin County	\$ 58,895.35
Glacier County	\$ 2,500.74
Jefferson County	\$ 14,691.96
Lewis and Clark County	\$ 2,003.32
Meagher County	\$ 8,626.05
Phillips County	\$ 1,357.60
Ravalli County	\$ 28,312.50
Silver Bow County	\$ 4,000.00
Sweet Grass County	\$ 7,347.64
Yellowstone County	\$ 76,599.81

Additional Resources and Information Publicly Available

Elections Assistance Commission Grant Website - <https://www.eac.gov/grants>
 SOS Past Reporting to EAC - <https://www.eac.gov/payments-and-grants/es-snapshot>
 Awarded Funding to Secretary of State’s Office - <https://www.eac.gov/funding-levels-by-state>
 Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA) - <https://budget.mt.gov/SingleAudits/>