

# U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

## Progress Report (PR) Guidance

Your State Plan (251) or your Program Narrative (101 grants) established the programmatic objectives that EAC will monitor over the course of the performance period. The Election Assistance Commission (EAC) requires all grantees to submit a Progress Report (PR). *EAC also requires grantees to submit financial reports of expenditures related to the state plan and objectives. Please refer to the EAC Federal Financial Report Guidance for more information.*

**Due dates.** Reports are due semi-annually until all funds and interest are disbursed. The mid-year report covers the period from October 1 through March 31 and is due by April 30.

The annual report covers the 12-month period from October 1 - September 30 and is due by December 29.

The final progress report is due 90 days after all funds under the grant have been expended, including federal, state, program income and interest.

**Submission Instructions.** States must submit separate reports for each individual grant from EAC. Reports should be completed in the appropriate electronic format.

### COMPLETING THE PROGRESSREPORT

#### Section I: Cover Page

1. State or Territory: Enter the name of the state or territory that received the grant and is submitting the report.
2. Grant Number: Enter the grant number from the Notice of Grant Award (NGA)
3. Grant Type:
  - 101
  - 251
  - Election Security
  - CARES
4. Report Type:
  - Semi-Annual (Oct 1 - March 31)
  - Annual (Oct 1 - Sept 30)
  - Final Report (Start of Grant-End)
  - Other [e.g., CARES]:
5. Reporting Period  
Reporting Period Start Date: Enter the start date of the reporting period (MM/DD/YYYY)  
Reporting Period End Date: Enter the end date of the reporting period (MM/DD/YYYY)

**Section II: Progress Narrative**

Instructions: Reports due for the period ending March 31 should describe the activities of the previous six-month period and reports due for the period ending September 30 should cover the previous 12- month period. Final reports should cover the entire performance period from the start of the grant.

EAC grants reports will be made publicly available. Therefore, your report narrative should:

- Be written in clear, concise, and plain language
  - Not include sensitive confidential information
6. Describe in detail what happened during this reporting period and explain how you implemented the approved grant activities in accordance with your State Plan/Program Narrative. (Note: Your activities should align with your category expenditures in Section IV, and you may use those categories as headings in your response as applicable.)
  7. Provide a description of any training conducted, including security training.
  8. Report on the number and type of articles of voting equipment obtained with the funds. Include the amount expended on the expenditure chart.
  9. Subgrants (if applicable): Describe the activities carried out by your subgrantees during the reporting period.
  10. Provide a breakdown of aggregate subaward expenditures across major categories. (Total subaward expenditures should be provided in the expenditure table in Section IV).

| Subgrant Program Category   | Subgrant Federal Expenditures |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Voting Equipment            |                               |
| Voting Processes            |                               |
| Voter Registration Systems  |                               |
| Election Auditing           |                               |
| Cyber and Physical Security |                               |
| Voter Education             |                               |
| Accessibility               |                               |
| Other (write in):           |                               |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Total Subgrant Federal Expenditure:</b> |  |
|--|--|

11. Match (if applicable): Describe how you are meeting or have met the matching requirement. *The territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands are exempt from match.*

**EXPENDITURE REPORTING IN PREDEFINED PROGRAM CATEGORIES**

**General Guidance**

Please categorize your expenditures in the predefined program categories as much as possible. Only use the Other categories for items that you cannot allocate to specific program categories. Include all budget line items related to the activity in the category, such as staffing, travel, training, contracts for services, and maintenance of any systems associated with the category. For example, if you have an annual software upgrade for your Voter Registration system or conduct training for counties on the system, you should allocate those expenditures under the Voter Registration System program category.

If you can estimate staff time to allocate to specific categories, please do so. For example, if you can estimate that a staff person generally spends 50% of their time on Voter Registration Systems and 50% on Voting Processes, report 50% of the salary costs to each Program Category. This does not mean the staff person’s timekeeping process must allocate time to different program categories. You can estimate time spent on each category for the purpose of progress reporting. However, you must still allocate time separately if a specific staff person is paid with funds from more than one grant, e.g., if you cover a specific staff person’s salary with funds from both your Section 251 and Election Security grant, the timesheet must allocate their time to the different grants.

**PROGRAM CATEGORIES DESCRIPTIONS**

These descriptions will help you determine how to allocate expenditures to specific predefined program categories.

1. Voting Equipment: This is a specialized category for software and hardware related to voting equipment only. It includes funds to local election offices for voting equipment. You can also include any costs related to the voting equipment program such as specific contracts and services related to voting equipment, including storage, as described under General Guidance.

2. Voting Processes: Non-voting equipment-related costs to support the voting process including staffing, maintenance and storage of voting equipment, training on use of the equipment, travel, and equipment purchased to support the voting process that is not voting equipment, such as copiers with a per unit cost over \$5,000, as described under General Guidance.

3. Voter Registration Systems

Software and hardware related to updating and maintaining the statewide voter registration system and processes, service contracts on voting equipment and processes, and all other identifiable costs related to the Voter Registration System as described under General Guidance.

4. Election Auditing: All costs associated with post-election auditing, including staffing, etc. as described under General Guidance.

5. Cyber and Physical Security: All costs associated with cyber and physical security such as security cameras and as described under General Guidance.

6. Voter Education

Activities related to voter education, including any contracts related to communicating voter education through various print, online or other media. Also include here the state toll-free phone number expenses for the public to communicate with state and county election offices, including for the public to report suspected fraud, as described under General Guidance.

7. Accessibility: All costs associated with ensuring polling places and election-related facilities are fully accessible as described under General Guidance.

8. Other (write in)

- Costs associated with the pandemic
- Bank Fees
- Audit Fees
- Software and licenses not directly allocable to one of the main program categories
- Overall election management/administration that cannot be allocated to main program categories

If you have any questions about how to categorize a specific allowable grant cost in these predefined categories or whether to use Other, please reach out to the EAC Grants Office at [Grants@eac.gov](mailto:Grants@eac.gov) for technical assistance.

**Section III. Challenges and Changes**

12. Issues Encountered: Describe any issues that arose during the implementation of the project. Describe how and whether the issues were resolved. Also, briefly discuss the implications of any unresolved issues or concerns.

13. Describe any significant changes to your program during the reporting period, including changes to your original State Plan/Program Narrative or favorable developments that improved program efficiency and/or service delivery.

**Section IV: Expenditures**

14. Fill out the table below with both the Federal and State Match expenditures for the current reporting period. Include federal and state interest expenditures and write-in any cost areas that do not fit into the predefined program categories. If applicable, the subgrants field should align with the total amount reported in your narrative section discussing subgrants. Calculate total expenditures for each column and verify any system generated totals, including any write-in expenditures prior to submission.

***Expenditures should be consistent with the activities described in your narrative and with the amounts in your financial reports. (EAC uses the difference between your current and previous period FFR to calculate current period expenditures).***

| Program Category | Federal | Match** |
|------------------|---------|---------|
| Voting Equipment |         |         |

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Voting Processes  |  |  |
| Voter Registration Systems  |  |  |
| Election Auditing   |  |  |
| Cyber and Physical Security   |  |  |
| Voter Education   |  |  |
| Accessibility   |  |  |
| Other (write in):   |  |  |
| <b>Total (calculate the total for each column, Federal and Match)</b> |  |  |

*\*Match: The territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands are exempt from match.*

**Section V: Final Assessment**

The final progress report is your opportunity to share the significant successes of your project and present information about the results your project achieved. The report should cover the entire period of performance.

- 15. Self-Assessment – Assess whether the goals set out in your State plan/Narrative were met as intended during the grant program. Highlight any needs that were not met or ongoing/under resourced areas for future consideration.
- 16. Impact and Achievements - Describe how this grant program impacted elections in your state/territory. Highlight your accomplishments and successes.
- 17. Lessons Learned – Describe any lessons learned during the grant that may be replicated, expanded and/or help others.

**Section VI. CERTIFICATION**

- 18. / 19. The EAC-PR form must be submitted by an authorized individual. Fill in the Name and Contact information of the authorized certifying official of the grant recipient, with complete signature.

**CHANGES TO STATE PLAN OR BUDGET**

EAC understands that plans can change over the life of a grant. Consult the EAC Grants Office (grants@eac.gov) if you need to revise plans and the budget in the future. For example, if the

approved grant budget currently only includes costs associated with post-election auditing, you cannot allocate costs related to printing additional ballots to the grant. However, you can request a budget amendment from EAC to include costs related to voting systems and, thus, printing ballots. The EAC will work to approve such budget amendments within 48 hours.

### **EXTENSION**

Extensions must be approved by EAC and requests must be made in advance of the reporting deadline. Any missed reports are recorded as late and out of compliance. Late reports may require a corrective action plan and other enforcement remedies available to the agency under 2CFR200.339 – 343.