



NASS

National Association
of Secretaries of State

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ISSUE BRIEFING: Federal Grant Programs for SLTT Security Expenses

The Issue: Several federal grant programs may be available to offices of Secretaries of State for security-related expenses. This document was created to help NASS members and other officials navigate the commonly referenced programs. Please note, this is not a comprehensive list.

HAVA Election Security Funds:

[Election security funds through the Help America Vote Act \(HAVA\)](#) are periodically authorized and appropriated by Congress. When appropriated, these funds are available to the offices of NASS members who serve as their state's Chief Election Official. HAVA funds are currently the only federal grant funds solely focused on election administration and security. These funds do not currently have a regular funding cycle.

DHS Preparedness "FEMA" Grants:

Two grant programs offered under the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) umbrella of [Preparedness Grants](#) include the new [State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program \(SLCGP\)](#) and the [Homeland Security Grant Program \(HSGP\)](#). Secretaries of State are not eligible to apply directly for these funds, but Secretaries may work with your [State Administrative Agency \(SAA\)](#) to request a portion of the state's funds or to coordinate with other state entities on a funded project.

Both of these grant programs largely target local governments and therefore, require the bulk of the funds to support local government entities. The SLCGP is only for cybersecurity-related expenses. For FY 2023, DHS encouraged, but did not require, states to include Secretaries of State and other election officials on state planning committees for SLCGP. The HSGP targets terrorism prevention and can be used for a broader range of projects, including cybersecurity and physical security initiatives. The HSGP encompasses several grant programs, including the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). In FY 2024, DHS recognized election security as a national priority area for HSGP funds and required states to apply three percent of SHSP and UASI funds toward enhancing election security. Your SAA should coordinate with the office of the Chief State Election Official on fulfilling the minimum spend for election security.

JAG Program:

The [Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant \(JAG\) Program](#) is a Department of Justice (DOJ) grant program for state and local jurisdictions. It funds justice-related initiatives in the areas of law enforcement, prosecution, indigent defense, courts, crime prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, planning, evaluation, technology improvement, crime victim and witness initiatives, mental health programs, and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams. Each state has a [State Administrative Agency \(SAA\)](#) through DOJ's Office of Justice Programs specific to this program. (In most cases, this SAA will be different from your state's DHS SAA.) Your DOJ SAA should be able to provide more information and help your office understand the available options for potentially accessing JAG Program funds.

The table on the next page provides a comparison between these four grants and links to additional information.

Grant	Distinguishing Factors	Purpose	Administering Entity	Recipients	Funding Cycles	How to Access	Match Requirement	Providing Funds to Local Governments	Links Related to Most Recent FY	More Information
Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Election Security Funds	This funding is election-specific.	To help states improve the administration of elections for Federal office, including to enhance technology and make certain election security improvements.	Election Assistance Commission (EAC)	Office of State Chief Election Official	Funds are periodically authorized and appropriated by Congress. There is no regular funding cycle.	State Chief Election Officials may apply for funds through the EAC. States must comply with award packet requirements.	Match requirements vary based on specific congressional appropriation.	State Chief Election Officials can choose to provide subgrants to local election administration offices. There is currently no requirement.	2023 Award Packet	https://www.eac.gov/grants/election-security-funds
Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)	HSGP funds broadly apply to physical security, cybersecurity, and emergency preparedness. These funds fall under the umbrella of "DHS Preparedness Grants."	HSGP encompasses several grant programs intended to assist SLTT efforts in preventing, protecting against, mitigating, responding to and recovering from acts of terrorism and other threats.	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) within Department of Homeland Security (DHS)	FEMA State Administrative Agencies (SAA)	This is an annual grant program. Its funding depends on an annual appropriation from Congress.	Only FEMA-designated SAAs may apply for these funds. Secretary of State and Lt. Governor offices may coordinate with the SAA to request funding or participation in funded projects.	None	For the programs within HSGP most relevant to NASS members (SHSP and UASI), states must pass 80% of the funds to local or tribal governments.	FY24 HSGP Notice of Funding Opportunity	https://www.fcma.gov/grants/preparedness/homeland-security
State & Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP)	This funding is cybersecurity-specific. These funds fall under the umbrella of "DHS Preparedness Grants."	SLCGP provides funds to help state and local governments address cybersecurity risks and threats to information systems.	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) within Department of Homeland Security (DHS)	FEMA State Administrative Agencies (SAA)	This is a four-year grant program administered annually. Specific amounts have been authorized for each year of the program.	Only FEMA-designated SAAs may apply for these funds. Secretary of State and Lt. Governor offices may coordinate with the SAA to request funding or participation in funded projects.	The cost share requirement for states varies for each year of the program: 2022 - 10% 2023 - 20% 2024 - 30% 2025 - 40%	Each year, at least 80% of the funding must support local entities and at least 25% of the funding must support rural entities.	SLCGP 2023 FAQs	https://www.cisa.gov/cybergrants
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program	The JAG Program funds justice-related initiatives. It is traditionally thought of as law enforcement funding, but there are broader potential applications.	The JAG Program provides funding to SLTT governments to support a range of program areas related to law enforcement, crime prevention, and corrections.	Office of Justice Programs (OJP) within the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) within the Department of Justice (DOJ)	DOJ State Administering Agencies	This is an annual grant program. Its funding depends on an annual appropriation from Congress.	OJP-designated SAAs may apply for these funds. Secretary of State and Lt. Governor offices may coordinate with their state's SAA to request funding or participation in funded projects.	None	JAG Program requirements for pass-through to local entities	JAG Program - 2023 FAQs	https://bjaojp.gov/program/overview