

Election Security Resource Guide

The enhancement of election security and the protection of soft targets and crowded places continue to be two priorities of the Department of Homeland Security with regards to the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). The emphasis of these priorities recognizes that the United States' election infrastructure is of such vital importance to the American way of life that its incapacitation or destruction would have a devastating effect on the country. Additionally, the [Homeland Threat Assessment 2024](#) indicates that electoral processes remain an attractive target for many adversaries.

This brief guide outlines important reference materials to guide or adjust current and future prioritization in this area for recipients of the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). As a reminder, *State Administrative Agencies (SAAs) must coordinate with their State's Chief Election Official on all HSGP projects related to election security.*

Eligible Activities

There are a wide variety of election security activities for which recipients may use HSGP funding. These activities include, but are not limited to:

- Physical security domain:
 - Physical security planning and support.
 - Physical security measures for facilities, such as:
 - Locks;
 - Shatter proof glass;
 - Alarms;
 - Security cameras;
 - Encrypted radios; or
 - Access controls.
 - Projects that address vulnerabilities identified in physical security assessments.
- Cybersecurity domain:
 - Iterative or encrypted backups.
 - Network segmentation or modernization.
 - Software to monitor/scan.
 - Endpoint protection.
 - Migrating online services to the .gov web domain.



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- Distributed Denial of Service protection.
- Cyber navigator support programs.
- Projects that address vulnerabilities in cybersecurity assessments.
- Multi-domain:
 - Election security navigator support.
 - Online harassment and targeting prevention services.
 - Public awareness/preparedness campaigns discussing election security or integrity.
 - Intelligence collaboration through fusion centers.
 - Operational support or overtime during elections.
 - Security trainings, tabletop exercises, or updating emergency plans and protocols.

Sample Projects

- Funding to enhance election security through target hardening initiatives that will increase the security and protection of election-related sites, election-related infrastructure, candidates and voters throughout the state.
- Enhanced network and security camera surveillance at the County’s Elections Warehouse that would allow for 24-hour monitoring and recording inside and outside the facility where elections equipment and confidential voter registration records are stored.
- A Board of Elections Office has been improving access controls such as added fencing, bollards and protective window film. Two remaining doors require access controls for better security and a panic button is needed in the early voting room. The door to the server room and the door to the ballot vault are currently secured with two physical keys. With the addition of access controls, the doors will require key cards instead. The panic button in the early voting room will be used as a silent alarm to call for assistance if there is an incident taking place there. Adding these additional controls will prevent unauthorized access to sensitive areas in the building.

Reference Links

1. [Election Security Navigators Program Guidebook \(cisa.gov\)](https://www.cisa.gov/election-security-navigators-program-guidebook).

This guidebook offers examples of ongoing practices and experiences of states that have implemented navigator programs to reinforce or supplement local and state level election security efforts.

2. [Election Infrastructure Security Resource Guide | Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency U.S. Department of Homeland Security \(cisa.gov\)](https://www.cisa.gov/election-infrastructure-security-resource-guide)

Tools and information for states and local governments to address their cybersecurity needs and protect themselves from cyber threats and electoral infrastructure incidents.

3. [Cybersecurity Toolkit and Resources to Protect Elections | CISA](#)

Free services and tools to help state and local government officials, election officials, and vendors enhance the cybersecurity and cyber resilience of U.S. election infrastructure.

4. [#Protect2024 | CISA](#)

Help for election officials and election infrastructure stakeholders to protect against the cyber, physical, and operational security risks to election infrastructure during the 2024 election cycle.

5. [Election Security | NIST](#)

NIST provides research on cybersecurity challenges and implementation guidelines to improve election security.

6. [CISA Tabletop Exercise Packages | CISA](#)

Tools for stakeholders to conduct planning exercises on a wide range of threat scenarios.