Center for Tech and Civic Life

Jurisdiction: **Fulton County, GA**

Office: **Department of Registration and Elections**

Richard Barron, Director

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1. Total CTCL COVID-19 Response Grant received: $6,309,436.00.
2. Grant funds spent
   a. Ballot drop boxes: **0**
   b. Drive-through voting: **0**
   c. Personal protective equipment (PPE):   0
   d. Poll Worker Recruitment funds, hazard pay: **$2,392,747**
   e. Polling place rental & cleaning expenses: $ 47,820
   f. Temporary staffing support: **$2,505,902**
   g. Election department real estate costs: $ 5,000
   h. Vote-by-mail/Absentee Voting Equipment: $ 516,520
   i. Election Administration Equipment: $ 0
   j. Voting material in languages: 0
   k. Non-partisan voter education: 0
3. Total grant expenditures on sections 2a-2k: **$5,467,991**
4. Questions 1 – 3 do not match:
5. Certify (signature):
6. If all grant funds have not been expended, you may request a 6-month extension which will give you additional time to expend funds.

Are you interested in requesting a 6-month extension to your grant agreement in order to spend down your grant funds?

We are interested in a six month extension. If we have funds that are left over, we need to retain some supplemental staff to work on post-2020 election projects, to determine if we have further equipment needs and to bring in a consultant to audit our procedures and processes to improve our operations and efficiencies.

7. Optional: Here's a chance to toot your own horn. What did you do with the CTCL COVID-19 Response grant funds that you're most proud of?

   The CTCL grant has allowed the Fulton County Elections Department to extend the mail ballot program to meet the unprecedented demands for the November 2020 General & Special Elections. The mail ballot program, which has historically processed 40,000 applications, expanded to process 180,000 applications in November 2020.

   The new equipment, additional staff for processing applications and ballots made it not only possible to handle the volume, but also have improved the efficiency and accuracy of the process.

   Lastly, the grant has allowed us to recruit and train additional poll workers both during Early Voting and on Election Day. This in turn, has allowed us to serve the voters of Fulton County more efficiently by cutting the wait time significantly and making the voting more accessible.

8. Optional: If your election office annual budget doubled, what would you be able to accomplish?

We could expand the space where we work in order to make our department more efficient. Our operations could be consolidated to one space. It could be designed to streamline operations in terms of absentee by mail from beginning to end, as well as to make warehouse operations more efficient. In 2020 we operated out of eight locations. We need a call center, warehouse operations, training, elections operations and voter registration and absentee by mail to be co-located.

In addition, we could hire more full-time staff and reorganize it to be more efficient. We are short staffed. We have few middle managers and that became apparent this year. We rely too much on supplemental staff.

9.

> Due to the COVID-19 pandemic during a presidential election year, many election offices forged new partnerships with community organizations and nonprofits to help recruit more election workers, identify new voting locations, source personal protective equipment, educate voters, and more. Did your election office develop or deepen any new partnerships in 2020? What was your experience? Do you plan to maintain those new partnerships? Why or why not?

We forged new partnerships with Vote-at-Home, Elections Group and US Digital Response. Vote-at-Home provided their expertise through on site and remote consulting pertaining to ballot by mail processing. They helped us with planning for processing incoming ballots and streamlining all ballot by mail procedures. It was a great experience working with them as they have much experience in the area of ballot by mail.

Elections Group provided consulting on a wide range of issues. They helped with ballot by mail applications processing by acting as a liaison with US Digital Response to build intake tools for ballot by mail application processing. In addition, they liaised with BlueCrest to help intake of ballots. Elections Group staff aided with check in center efficiencies, training manuals, warehouse support and management support during the COVID outbreak. They helped us with the hand tally and recount, as well. Our experience with Elections Group was positive.

Thank You!

From everyone here at CTCL, THANK YOU! Your incredible work running elections during a global pandemic does not go unrecognized. We're deeply grateful for your public service, and honored that we could provide some support.

Free Self-Paced Cybersecurity Training

Now that the new year is here, it's a great time to take training courses to prepare for the next election cycle. We invite you to take our training series, Cybersecurity for Election Officials, which is available for free through a partnership with the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. This three-part series is completely online and self-paced, so you can tune in at any time that's convenient for you.

Learn more and register at learn.techandciviclife.org

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