

Subject: Testimony and Fiscal Impact Statement

To: Lonnie Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer

From: Guy Mickley
Election Director, Howard County Board of Elections

Date: October 19, 2020

The Board of Elections requests the transfer of \$688,226 from the Grants Fund Contingency Reserve for unanticipated grant award received.

Background

In September, CTCL (Center for Tech and Civic Life) announced that there was grant money available to local election offices to offset the historic costs of running a Presidential General Election through the COVID 19 pandemic. I applied for the grant, explaining that this county will have conducted three separate elections through the pandemic. The money can be used for any election-related cost that has been incurred because of the pandemic, including but not limited to the purchase of PPE, payment of judges, payment of additional employees or extended overtime pay, purchase of equipment, rentals of equipment, and a wide array of other items. CTCL, upon the County signing off on the grant, will provide a guide on how the money can be applied.

Fiscal Impact

At no time during this process were any of the applicants, including Howard County, notified of an imminent award. Since we only became aware of the grant in September, well after our fiscal year budget was approved, spending authority for the grant was not included in the FY 2021 budget. As a result, \$688,226 is needed from the Grants Fund Contingency Reserve account in order to be able to spend this unanticipated grant award. All of the funds from this grant must be spent by December 31, 2020.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or need additional information.

Cc: Jennifer Sager
Brook Mamo