



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
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For Immediate Release: February 19, 2010

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[\\$750,000 in Federal Grants Available to Recruit College Poll Workers](#)

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WASHINGTON - Colleges, universities and nonprofit organizations are eligible to compete for 10 to 15 grants worth up to \$65,000 to recruit students to serve as poll workers during the 2010 mid-term elections.

The grant program, known as the Help America Vote College Program, is administered by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC), a federal agency established by Congress in 2002 to provide assistance to states in the administration of federal elections.

EAC has awarded 72 grants worth a total of \$2.4 million to recruit and train college poll workers since the program was established in 2004.

"Poll workers are central to the success of elections, and this program helps drive that message home to young people," said EAC Chair Donetta Davidson. "Students want to serve their community and engage in the process, and this initiative makes it easy for them to sign up and get the necessary training."

Reports of poll worker shortages are not uncommon during election season. According to EAC's [Election Administration and Voting Survey](#), 46 percent of jurisdictions across the country reported having difficulty recruiting poll workers during the 2008 election cycle.

Who Can Apply?

Eligibility for the program is broad -- public and private institutions of higher education (including community colleges) and nonprofit organizations who partner with a local election office may apply.

Deadlines and Instructions

Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Wednesday, March 31, 2010. EAC strongly encourages applicants to thoroughly read the grant notification, and to attend an EAC-hosted technical assistance call on Wednesday, March 10, 2010, to learn more about the program and application process.

Grant Restrictions

Project funds may not be used for tasks and activities that are carried out with partisan bias or that promote any particular political point of view regarding any election issue or candidate.

Background

The College Program grants are authorized by the Help America Vote Act of 2002. Information about past recipients and grant amounts is available at eac.gov/program-areas/grants. EAC has also developed the [Guidebook for Recruiting College Poll Workers](#).

EAC is an independent commission created by the Help America Vote Act. EAC serves as a national clearinghouse and resource of information regarding election administration. It is charged with administering payments to states and developing guidance to meet HAVA requirements, adopting voluntary voting system guidelines, and accrediting voting system test laboratories and certifying voting equipment. It is also charged with developing and maintaining a national mail voter registration form. The three EAC commissioners are Donetta Davidson, chair; Gineen Bresso Beach; and Gracia Hillman. There is one vacancy on the commission.
