



STATE OF VERMONT
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

To: Joint Fiscal Committee members
From: Sorsha Anderson, Staff Associate
Date: October 27, 2020
Subject: Grant Requests – JFO #3025

Enclosed please find one (1) item, which the Joint Fiscal Office has received from the Administration. **The Secretary of State's office has requested expedited review of this item.** Members will be contacted by **October 30, 2020** for a decision unless the member has responded prior to that date.

JFO #3025 - \$405,000 to the VT. Secretary of State from the Center for Election Innovation and Research. Funds will be used to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of educating voters during the 2020 election given the voting challenges presented by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. *This request does stem from the state or federal response to the COVID-19 pandemic.*
[JFO received 10/27/2020]

Please review the enclosed materials and notify the Joint Fiscal Office (Sorsha Anderson: sanderson@leg.state.vt.us) if you have questions or would like this item held for legislative review.

STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT (*) ACCEPTANCE (Form AA-1)

BASIC GRANT INFORMATION				
1. Agency:	Vermont Secretary of State's Office			
2. Department:	Elections			
3. Program:	Elections Education and Outreach			
4. Legal Title of Grant:	CEIR Voter Education Grant			
5. Federal Catalog #:	N/A			
6. Grant/Donor Name and Address:				
Center for Election Innovation and Research, 1120 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 1040, Washington, DC 20036				
7. Grant Period:	From:	10/1/2020	To:	12/18/2020
8. Purpose of Grant:				
Through this grant-making program, CEIR seeks to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of election administration by funding Secretaries of State to educate, inform, and communicate with voters. Our goal is to ensure a safe, secure, and informed November 2020 election, particularly in the face of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.				
9. Impact on existing program if grant is not Accepted:				
Funding for this kind of education comes from state funds or is not funded, leading to less voter education around the necessarily different voting process required this year due to C-19				
10. BUDGET INFORMATION				
	SFY 1	SFY 2	SFY 3	Comments
Expenditures:	FY 21	FY	FY	
Personal Services	\$	\$	\$	
Operating Expenses	\$405,000	\$	\$	
Grants	\$	\$	\$	
Total	\$405,000	\$	\$	
Revenues:				
State Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
Cash	\$	\$	\$	
In-Kind	\$	\$	\$	
Federal Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
(Direct Costs)	\$	\$	\$	
(Statewide Indirect)	\$	\$	\$	
(Departmental Indirect)	\$	\$	\$	
Other Funds:	\$405,000	\$	\$	
Grant (source CEIR)	\$405,000	\$	\$	
Total	\$405,000	\$	\$	
Appropriation No:	2230010000	Amount:	\$405,000	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	
			\$	

STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT (*) ACCEPTANCE (Form AA-1)

		\$
		\$
	Total	\$405,000

PERSONAL SERVICE INFORMATION

11. Will monies from this grant be used to fund one or more Personal Service Contracts? Yes No
 If "Yes", appointing authority must initial here to indicate intent to follow current competitive bidding process/policy.

Appointing Authority Name: Chris Winters for Jim Condos Agreed by: W (initial)

12. Limited Service Position Information:	# Positions	Title
Total Positions		

12a. Equipment and space for these positions: Is presently available. Can be obtained with available funds.

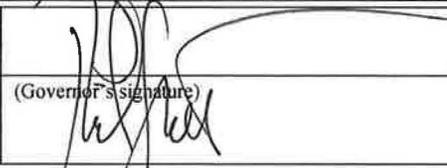
13. AUTHORIZATION AGENCY/DEPARTMENT

I/we certify that no funds beyond basic application preparation and filing costs have been expended or committed in anticipation of Joint Fiscal Committee approval of this grant, unless previous notification was made on Form AA-1PN (if applicable):	Signature: 	Date: 10/13/2020
	Title: Deputy Secretary of State	
	Signature:	Date:
	Title:	

14. SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved:	(Secretary or designee signature) Kristin Clouser	Digitally signed by Kristin Clouser Date: 2020.10.16 14:51:43 -04'00'	Date:
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15. ACTION BY GOVERNOR

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check One Box: Accepted		Date:
<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected		10/26/20

16. DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED

Required GRANT Documentation

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Request Memo	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Donation (if any)
<input type="checkbox"/> Dept. project approval (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grant (Project) Timeline (if applicable)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Award	<input type="checkbox"/> Request for Extension (if applicable)
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant Agreement	<input type="checkbox"/> Form AA-1PN attached (if applicable)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grant Budget	

End Form AA-1

(*) The term "grant" refers to any grant, gift, loan, or any sum of money or thing of value to be accepted by any agency, department, commission, board, or other part of state government (see 32 V.S.A. §5).

**STATE OF VERMONT
 FINANCE & MANAGEMENT GRANT REVIEW FORM**

Grant Summary:		The intention of this grant is to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of elections, specifically through the use of PSAs across various mediums (TV, internet, radio, newspaper).			
Date:		10/12/2020			
Department:		Secretary of State			
Legal Title of Grant:		CEIR Voter Education Grant			
Federal Catalog #:		N/A			
Grant/Donor Name and Address:		Center for Election Innovation & Research, 1120 Connecticut Ave NW, Ste.1040, Washington, DC 20036			
Grant Period:		From:	To:		
		10/1/2020	12/18/2020		
Grant/Donation		\$405,000			
	SFY 1	SFY 2	SFY 3	Total	Comments
Grant Amount:	\$405,000	\$	\$	\$	
Position Information:	# Positions	Explanation/Comments			
	0				
Additional Comments:					
Department of Finance & Management		Adam Greshin <small>Digitally signed by Adam Greshin Date: 2020.10.13 16:21:55 -0400</small>	(Initial)		
Secretary of Administration		Kristin Clouser <small>Digitally signed by Kristin Clouser Date: 2020.10.16 14:49:01 -0400</small>	(Initial)		
Sent To Joint Fiscal Office		Ariel Murphy <small>Digitally signed by Ariel Murphy Date: 2020.10.27 08:51:56 -0400</small>	Date		





State of Vermont

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James C. Condos, Secretary of State
Christopher D. Winters, Deputy Secretary

MEMORANDUM

To: Adam Greshin, Commissioner
From: Chris Winters, Deputy Secretary of State
RE: Elections Grant Approval Sought
DA: October 5, 2020

The Secretary of State's Office has been awarded a \$405,000.00 grant from the [Center for Election Innovation & Research](#) to be used toward voter education and outreach for the 2020 election. CEIR is a nonprofit corporation administering the funding granted from Mark Zuckerberg and his wife, Priscilla Chan.

As you might imagine, time is of the essence to get some of this communication and outreach out the door over the next month. Many of the logistics are already under way but we are excited to take advantage of this funding to bolster those efforts for Vermont voters at a time when elections are looking very different for some voters who have never voted by mail or who need to be aware of how to safely vote in person.

I have attached what I think is the relevant documentation you will need.

I would appreciate you taking a look at this at your earliest convenience and letting you know if it meets with your approval so that we can set up the wire transfer.

Please do let me know if you have any questions.

<i>Vermont Secretary of State's Office</i>	Approx. Date	Rate	Unit	#	Amount
Direct Mail					
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
<i>Total Costs for Direct Mail</i>					\$ -
Paid Media					
TV Ad Buys: PSAs re: general early voting guidance, drop box options and in-person voting safety precautions	10/1/2020				\$ 250,000.00
Facebook ad buys	10/1/2020				\$ 30,000.00
Radio Ad Buys: PSAs re: general early voting guidance, drop box options and in-person voting safety precautions	10/1/2020				\$ 40,000.00
Newspaper Ad Buys: general voting guidance	10/1/2020				\$ 30,000.00
Front Porch Forum Ad Buys: general guidance					\$ 10,000.00
					\$ -
<i>Total Costs for Paid Media</i>					\$ 360,000.00
Other Communication					
PSA video and audio creation	9/21/2020				\$ 30,000.00
Animated voter education video creation	9/28/2020				\$ 5,000.00
ads	9/28/2020				\$ 10,000.00
					\$ -
<i>Total Costs for Other Communication</i>					\$ 45,000.00
Total Amount Requested					\$ 405,000.00