

WAC 434-250-360 Hub grant program. (1) Each year that funding has been made available by the legislature, a county that is required to operate a student engagement hub under chapter 29A.40 RCW, section 10, chapter 208, Laws of 2020 (ESB 6313), may request grant funding from the secretary of state for the operation of a student engagement hub during any portion of the in-person voter registration period associated with each general election.

(a) Funding may be provided only after completion of a grant agreement between the county auditor and secretary of state pursuant to section 23, chapter 208, Laws of 2020.

(b) Funding may be provided for the purposes of obtaining equipment necessary for hub operation that will become the property of the county auditor for use in conducting elections.

(c) Funding may be provided for the purposes of obtaining hardware and software necessary for compliance with WAC 434-250-350 (2) (d).

(d) Funding may be provided for operational costs of the hub for staffing, materials, rent, information technology needs related to security and connectivity, and other costs agreed upon between the county auditor and the university or college for operation.

(e) Funding may be provided to county auditors to pay staffing costs at the auditor's office to accommodate operation of the hub during hub hours.

(f) Funding may be provided to county auditors for preparation, planning and training required to coordinate hub operation.

(g) Funding will be prorated based on the number of students enrolled on campus at the university or college, and the number of days of operation of each hub.

(h) Funding may be provided to the county auditor for the associated student organization of the university or college up to a maximum of three thousand dollars per hub for assistance in operation and promotion of the hub availability on campus.

(i) Funding may be provided on a case by case basis for additional requirements identified by the county auditor in a grant application.

(2) The application for grant funding to operate a hub must:

(a) Provide a detailed description of hub operations, hours, and intended expenditures to the secretary of state for review;

(b) Be accompanied by the signed agreement between the county auditor and the university or college pursuant to WAC 434-250-350;

(c) Be accompanied by any other grant funding requests pursuant to subsection (1) of this section;

(d) The grant application deadline is the third Monday in September.

(3) The Washington state director of elections will review each application and request additional documentation where necessary.

(a) Once the application and plan has been reviewed, the grant may be funded in full or in part at the sole discretion of the director of elections or designee.

(b) Grant amounts will vary based on the number of students enrolled on the university or college campus, the number of days of hub operation, and available funding.

(4) After each general election, any funds granted to a county that were not expended shall be returned to the secretary of state.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 29A.04.611. WSR 20-19-045, § 434-250-360, filed 9/10/20, effective 10/11/20.]