



Texas Secretary of State
ELECTIONS DIVISION



Money Talks: Chapter 19 and HAVA

43rd Annual
Election Law Seminar
for County Election Officials
August 11-13, 2025



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ELECTIONS DIVISION



Overview of EFM



Core Functions

- Perform quality assurance reviews and monitor program compliance
- Verify and approve funding requests from subrecipients, such as counties and county chairs
- Process revenue for the Elections Division
- Prepare applications for federal grants
- Provide technical assistance
- Prepare reports for state legislature, federal government, and other stakeholders

FORM = FUNCTION



EFM Funding Programs

- Appropriation Strategies:

B.1.2. Strategy

Primary Funding/VR Postage

B.1.4. Strategy

Elections Improvement (HAVA)

B.1.2. Strategy

Financing Voter Registration (Chapter 19)



Eligible Recipients

Primary Funding	VR Postage*	Election Security (HAVA)	Financing Voter Registration (Chapter 19)
• County Chairs • County Election Officers • Voting System Vendors	• County Voter Registrars	• County Election Officers • County Voter Registrars	• County Voter Registrars

*Payments are issued to the local USPS postmaster but delivered to the county voter registrar



General Expenditure Eligibility

Primary Funding	VR Postage	Election Security (HAVA)	Financing Voter Registration (Chapter 19)
• Ballots • Programming • Election Kits • Election Workers • Central Counting Station • Other Costs Necessary for the Conduct of the Election	• Annual 4511 Business Reply Permit • Account Maintenance Fee for Larger Counties • Postage	• Voting Equipment • ePollbook Replacement • Video Recording of Ballots • Other Election Security Activities	• Increase Voter Registration • Maintain Accurate List of Registered Voters • Increase Efficiency Thru Technology • Early Voting Poll Worker Costs*

*Only applies to counties of less than 55,000 to keep the main EV location open pursuant to Tex. Elec. Code §§ 85.005(c), 85.006(e), and 85.064(d)



Funding Period

Primary Funding	VR Postage	Election Security (HAVA)	Financing Voter Registration (Chapter 19)
Primary Estimates November of odd-numbered year preceding election year	4511 Permit Renewed annually based on calendar year	1/1/2024 - 7/31/2026	June 1 of Fiscal Year + 27 Months* - Example: 6/1/2023 – 8/31/2025
Runoff Estimates March – April of election year	Account Maintenance Fee Renewed annually based on calendar year		
Final Costs March – August of election year	Postage As needed		

* Comptroller imposes a deadline prior to August 31 for any documents or transactions for expiring appropriations



Funding Allocations

Primary Funding	VR Postage	Election Security (HAVA)	Financing Voter Registration (Chapter 19)
Primary Estimates Based on previous election	4511 Permit Renewed by state	Formula grants based on VR data	Based on VR Activity - New => x 0.25 - Cancellations => x 0.40 - Reimbursements/Changes => x 0.40 - Number of voters as of January 1*
Runoff Estimates Based on previous election	Account Maintenance Fee Counties receiving 925 or more VR apps via mail during calendar year only	Discretionary amounts depend on total submission amount	Deduct number of "new" voters from two prior voting years [Sec. 19.002 (a)(4)]*
Final Costs Actual costs	Postage As needed	Funds must be matched at 20%	Difference of total registered and new voters => x 0.40*

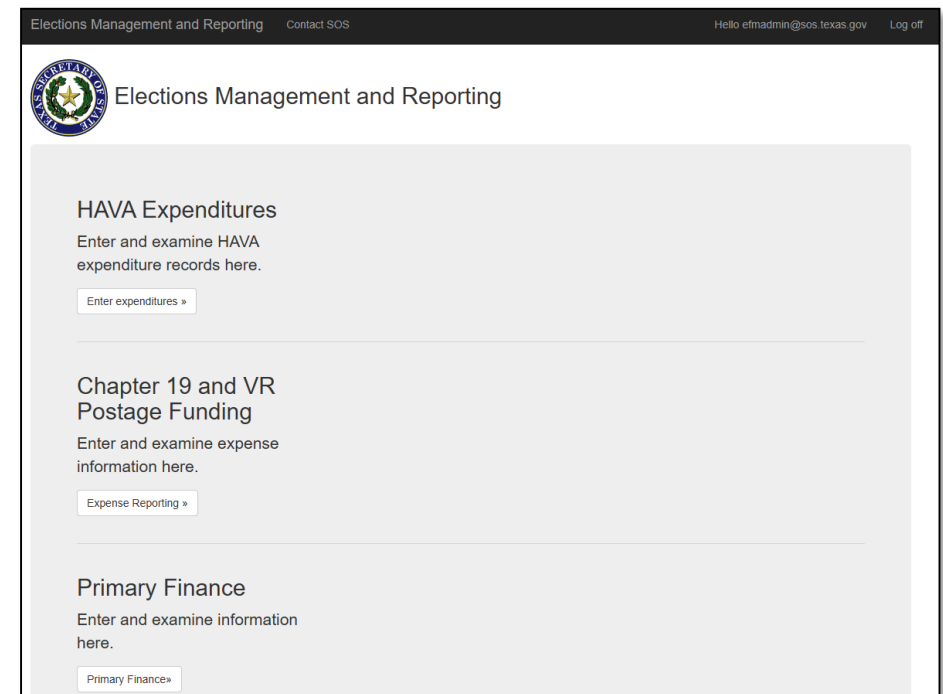
* Even-numbered years only



Accessing the Funds

emr.sos.texas.gov

- The **Elections Management and Reporting System (EMR)** is a single sign-on system for County Election Officers, Voter Registrars, and County Chairs
- The EMR System houses Election Funds Management applications, including HAVA grants, Chapter 19 and Voter Registration Postage, Primary Finance, and County and Precinct Chair Information



Note: All EFM applications will be migrating to the TEAM system in **FY2026**



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Exploring the Funding

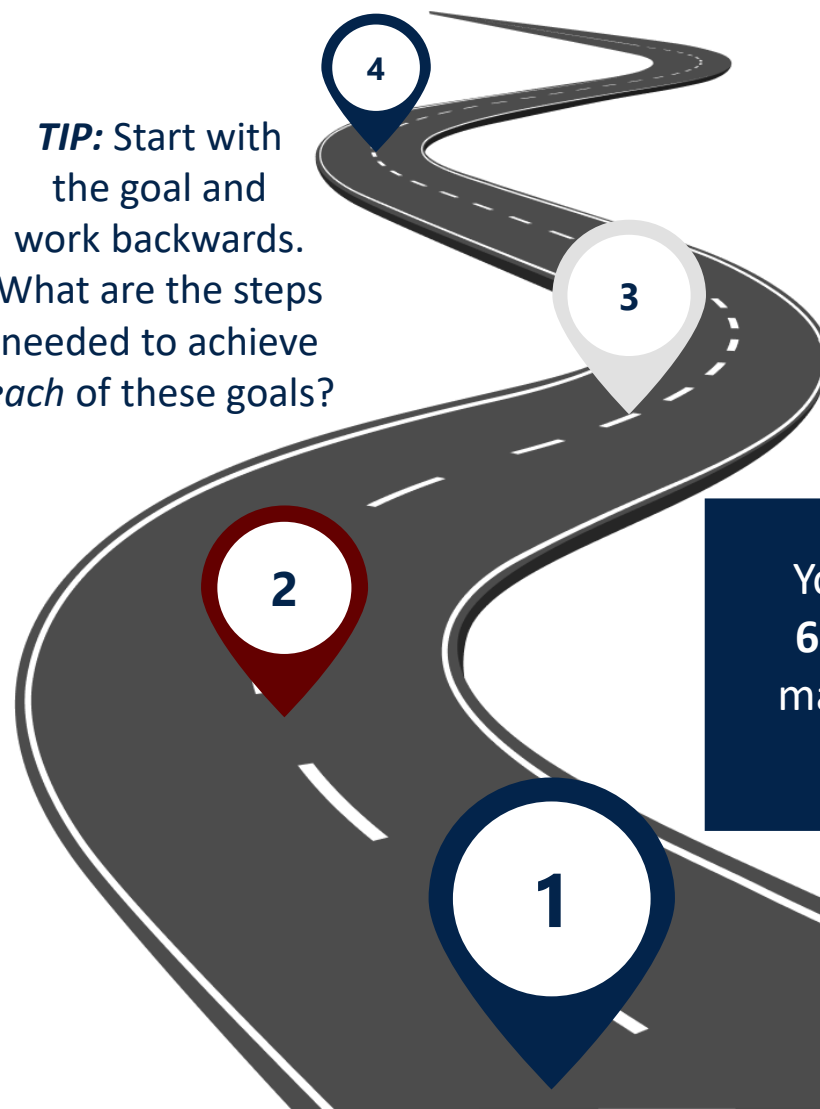


Mapping it Out

Prompt:

- How do you determine if the expenditure is necessary?
- Is it eligible under the funding guidelines (statutorily and regulatory)?
- Is it allocable to the specific funding program?

TIP: Start with the goal and work backwards. What are the steps needed to achieve *each* of these goals?



You will have **6 minutes** to map out these processes



Work together with people at your table and the table directly behind you.



Brainstorm

Prompt:

- How do you achieve county buy-in for a proposal, get the necessary support to make an expenditure, and get approval?

Solicit input
from staff

Work with
county budget
and accounting
staff (e.g.,
County Auditor)

Engage County
Judge and
Commissioners



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at your table and the table
directly behind you.**

Ensure that everyone has a
turn to share their thoughts,
ideas, or perspective.

You will have
5 minutes to
brainstorm

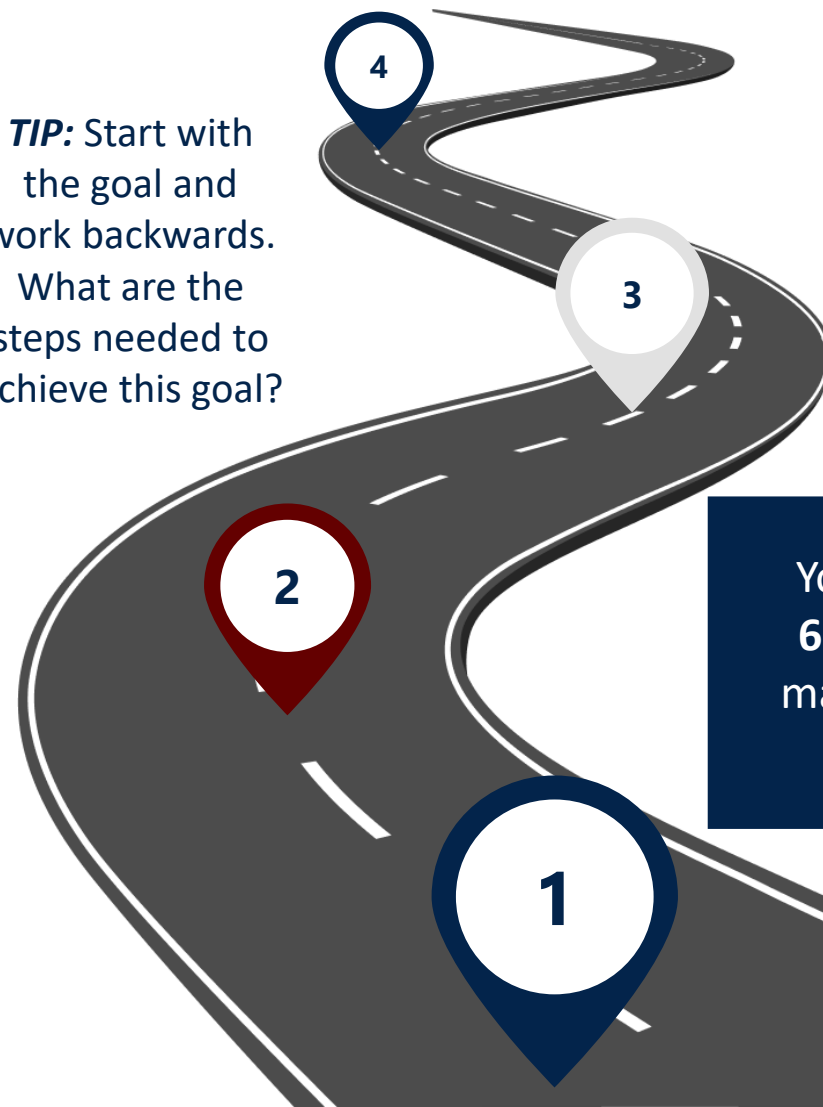


Mapping it Out

Prompt:

- How do you submit information to SOS?
- In your mapping include:
 - Who is responsible and how is that determined?
 - How and where is the supporting documentation maintained?

TIP: Start with the goal and work backwards. What are the steps needed to achieve this goal?



You will have
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Brainstorm

Prompt:

Share your best practices to:

1. Determine what is necessary and reasonable for office;
2. Get county involved;
3. Receiving final approval from county for request; and
4. Purchase and get successfully paid from SOS.

(#1)
Document the need
and ensure to solicit
feedback from all
stakeholders

(#2)
Speak with
procurement officer;
present proposal to
financial staff; get
the county on-board

(#3)
Bring it to the county
for official approval

(#4)
Task appropriate
staff with making
the purchase and
requesting payment
from SOS



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Available Support



WEBINARS



TRAINING



RESOURCES

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800-252-VOTE • 512-463-5650

sos.texas.gov