

LIMITED-SCOPE AUDIT PROPOSAL

Grants Received by Local Election Officials

SOURCE

This audit proposal was requested by Senator Caryn Tyson.

BACKGROUND

The Center for Technology and Civic Life (CTCL) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Chicago, Illinois. As of September 2020, the group described itself as a “team of civic technologists, trainers, researchers, election administration and data experts working to foster a more informed and engaged democracy and helping to modernize U.S. elections.”

During the 2020 election cycle, CTCL awarded more than 2,500 coronavirus response grants to city and county election offices across the county. The grants provided funds to cover expenses like personal protective equipment, additional election worker recruitment and training, and absentee voting equipment and supplies. The grants were funded in part by a \$250 million donation to CTCL from Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Facebook.

According to CTCL website, 25 Kansas counties were awarded grants in the 2020 election cycle. Grantees were required to report back to CTCL on uses of the grant funds by January 31, 2021. Legislators have expressed concerns that there may be obligations or strings attached to these grants.

AUDIT OBJECTIVES AND TENTATIVE METHODOLOGY

The audit objectives listed below are the questions we would answer through our audit work. The steps listed for each objective convey the type of work we would do. These may change as we learn more about the audit issues.

Objective 1: What are the amounts received and obligations associated with the CTCL grants awarded to Kansas counties? Our tentative methodology would include:

- Determine which Kansas counties applied for and received CTCL grants in the 2020 election cycle. For those counties, summarize the January 2021 reports or other documentation which show amount received and what the moneys were used for.
- Review documentation related to grant application, acceptance letter and awards and summarize any requirements such as matching funds, data sharing, or other grant obligations.
- Follow up with CTCL staff and county staff to confirm our understanding of the grant process and terms.

ESTIMATED RESOURCES

We estimate this audit would require a one auditor 100 hours (from the time the audit starts to our best estimate of when it would be ready for the committee).