



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Office of Policy and Management

Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division
(OPM/CJPPD)

Effective Date: 6/25/2014

Policy for Responding to Discrimination Complaints from Clients, Customers, Program Participants, or Consumers of OPM/CJPPD's Sub-recipients.

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures regarding complaints of discrimination by clients, customers, program participants or consumers against a sub-recipient funded by the Department of Justice (DOJ) grant.

II. Policy

All clients, customers, program participants, or consumers of grant sub-recipients have the right to participate in programs and activities operated by such sub-recipients regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, and disability. Sub-recipients are required to comply with all applicable federal laws regarding discrimination as a condition of implementing funding from DOJ and certify compliance with the following statutes upon acceptance of the grant award:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin in the delivery of services (42 U.S.C. § 2000d), and the DOJ implementing regulations at 28 C.F.R. Part 42, Subpart C;
- The Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, or sex in the delivery of services and employment practices (42 U.S.C. § 3789d(c)(1)), and the DOJ implementing regulations at 28 C.F.R. Part 42, Subpart D;
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in the delivery of services and employment practices (29 U.S.C. § 794), and the DOJ implementing regulations at 28 C.F.R. Part 42, Subpart G;
- Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in the delivery of services and employment practices (42 U.S.C. § 12132), and the DOJ implementing

regulations at 28 C.F.R. Part 35;

- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs (20 U.S.C. § 1681), and the DOJ implementing regulations at 28 C.F.R. Part 42, Subpart I.
- The DOJ regulations on the Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion in the delivery of services and prohibit organizations from using DOJ funding on inherently religious activities (28 C.F.R. Part 38).
- The grant sub-recipient agrees and warrants that in the performance of the grant such grant sub-recipient will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, mental retardation, mental disability or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such grant sub recipient that such disability prevents performance of the work involved, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the State of Connecticut. Connecticut General Statutes §§ 46a-51, 46a-58, 46a-60, 46a-81a, 46a-81b, and 46a-81c, and with each regulation or relevant order issued by CHRO pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes.

These laws prohibit grantees from retaliating against an individual for taking action or participating in action to secure rights protected by these laws.

III. Complaint Procedures

The Office of Policy and Management, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division (OPM/CJPPD) does not receive or investigate complaints, including complaints of discrimination. If OPM/CJPPD employees should become aware of any complaints of discrimination against a DOJ-funded sub-recipient (through phone inquiry, email or site visit) from clients, customers, program participants, or consumers, the OPM staff should refer the complainant to the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) or the Department of Justice (DOJ), Office for Civil Rights (OCR). The CHRO website has a tab entitled "How to File a Discrimination Complaint", which concerns the procedure for filing a discrimination complaint. You may access the tab by going to the CHRO website.

Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities

25 Sigourney Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
Phone: 860-541-3400

Website: <http://www.ct.gov/chro/site/default.asp>

Office for Civil Rights, Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice
810 7th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20531

Website: <http://ojp.gov/about/offices/ocr.htm>

IV. Notice

A general condition requires that all grant sub-recipients must have procedures in place for responding to discrimination complaints that clients, customers, program participants or consumers file directly with the sub-recipient also stating that the sub-recipients are required to forward the complaint to the Department of Justice Office for Civil Rights (OCR) or the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. OPM/CJPPD must also be notified of the referral. Program monitors will include addressing this in their compliance checklist for site visits.

Notice of prohibited discrimination for clients, customers, program participants or consumers of our sub-recipients will be achieved through posting policies and complaint procedures on the OPM/CJPPD website, referencing prohibited discrimination in program materials, and distributing copies of complaint procedures in training sessions and other public events that may occur.

V. Training

OPM/CJPPD staff will be trained to assist sub-recipient clients, customers, program participants or consumers in contacting CHRO officials or DOJ OCR officials, including their responsibility to advise sub-recipients of the foregoing procedures.

Policy and procedures will be posted on the OPM/CJPPD website and other OPM/CJPPD grants management on-line portals currently servicing OPM/CJPPD sub-recipients. In addition, copies will be distributed to all relevant OPM employees.

Grantees must have a representative complete all online Civil Rights training programs provided by the OCR. A link to the training programs can be found below. Such training is a mandatory condition as specified on the Special Grant Conditions form received by all grantee's at the start of the grant.

Website: <http://ojp.gov/about/ocr/ocr-training-videos/video-ocr-training.htm>