

§ 9918. Limitations on use of funds**(a) Construction of facilities****(1) Limitations**

Except as provided in paragraph (2), grants made under this chapter (other than amounts reserved under section 9903(b)(3) of this title) may not be used by the State, or by any other person with which the State makes arrangements to carry out the purposes of this chapter, for the purchase or improvement of land, or the purchase, construction, or permanent improvement (other than low-cost residential weatherization or other energy-related home repairs) of any building or other facility.

(2) Waiver

The Secretary may waive the limitation contained in paragraph (1) upon a State request for such a waiver, if the Secretary finds that the request describes extraordinary circumstances to justify the purchase of land or the construction of facilities (or the making of permanent improvements) and that permitting the waiver will contribute to the ability of the State to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(b) Political activities**(1) Treatment as a State or local agency**

For purposes of chapter 15 of title 5, any entity that assumes responsibility for planning, developing, and coordinating activities under this chapter and receives assistance under this chapter shall be deemed to be a State or local agency. For purposes of paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1502(a) of such title, any entity receiving assistance under this chapter shall be deemed to be a State or local agency.

(2) Prohibitions

Programs assisted under this chapter shall not be carried on in a manner involving the use of program funds, the provision of services, or the employment or assignment of personnel, in a manner supporting or resulting in the identification of such programs with—

(A) any partisan or nonpartisan political activity or any political activity associated with a candidate, or contending faction or group, in an election for public or party office;

(B) any activity to provide voters or prospective voters with transportation to the polls or similar assistance in connection with any such election; or

(C) any voter registration activity.

(3) Rules and regulations

The Secretary, after consultation with the Office of Personnel Management, shall issue rules and regulations to provide for the enforcement of this subsection, which shall include provisions for summary suspension of assistance or other action necessary to permit enforcement on an emergency basis.

(c) Nondiscrimination**(1) In general**

No person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be

subjected to discrimination under, any program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available under this chapter. Any prohibition against discrimination on the basis of age under the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.) or with respect to an otherwise qualified individual with a disability as provided in section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), or title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12131 et seq.) shall also apply to any such program or activity.

(2) Action of Secretary

Whenever the Secretary determines that a State that has received a payment under this chapter has failed to comply with paragraph (1) or an applicable regulation, the Secretary shall notify the chief executive officer of the State and shall request that the officer secure compliance. If within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 60 days, the chief executive officer fails or refuses to secure compliance, the Secretary is authorized to—

(A) refer the matter to the Attorney General with a recommendation that an appropriate civil action be instituted;

(B) exercise the powers and functions provided by title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.), the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.), section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), or title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12131 et seq.), as may be applicable; or

(C) take such other action as may be provided by law.

(3) Action of Attorney General

When a matter is referred to the Attorney General pursuant to paragraph (2), or whenever the Attorney General has reason to believe that the State is engaged in a pattern or practice of discrimination in violation of the provisions of this subsection, the Attorney General may bring a civil action in any appropriate United States district court for such relief as may be appropriate, including injunctive relief.

(Pub. L. 97-35, title VI, §678F, as added Pub. L. 105-285, title II, §201, Oct. 27, 1998, 112 Stat. 2747.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, referred to in subsec. (c)(1), (2)(B), is title III of Pub. L. 94-135, Nov. 28, 1975, 89 Stat. 728, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 76 (§6101 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 6101 of this title and Tables.

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, referred to in subsec. (c)(1), (2)(B), is Pub. L. 101-336, July 26, 1990, 104 Stat. 327, as amended. Title II of the Act is classified generally to subchapter II (§12131 et seq.) of chapter 126 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 12101 of this title and Tables.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964, referred to in subsec. (c)(2)(B), is Pub. L. 88-352, July 2, 1964, 78 Stat. 241, as amended. Title VI of the Act is classified generally to subchapter V (§2000d et seq.) of chapter 21 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2000a of this title and Tables.

§ 9919. Drug and child support services and referrals

(a) Drug testing and rehabilitation

(1) In general

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit a State from testing participants in programs, activities, or services carried out or provided under this chapter for controlled substances. A State that conducts such testing shall inform the participants who test positive for any of such substances about the availability of treatment or rehabilitation services and refer such participants for appropriate treatment or rehabilitation services.

(2) Administrative expenses

Any funds provided under this chapter expended for such testing shall be considered to be expended for administrative expenses and shall be subject to the limitation specified in section 9907(b)(2) of this title.

(3) Definition

In this subsection, the term “controlled substance” has the meaning given the term in section 802 of title 21.

(b) Child support services and referrals

During each fiscal year for which an eligible entity receives a grant under section 9907 of this title, such entity shall—

- (1) inform custodial parents in single-parent families that participate in programs, activities, or services carried out or provided under this chapter about the availability of child support services; and
- (2) refer eligible parents to the child support offices of State and local governments.

(Pub. L. 97-35, title VI, §678G, as added Pub. L. 105-285, title II, §201, Oct. 27, 1998, 112 Stat. 2749.)

§ 9920. Operational rule

(a) Religious organizations included as non-governmental providers

For any program carried out by the Federal Government, or by a State or local government under this chapter, the government shall consider, on the same basis as other nongovernmental organizations, religious organizations to provide the assistance under the program, so long as the program is implemented in a manner consistent with the Establishment Clause of the first amendment to the Constitution. Neither the Federal Government nor a State or local government receiving funds under this chapter shall discriminate against an organization that provides assistance under, or applies to provide assistance under, this chapter, on the basis that the organization has a religious character.

(b) Religious character and independence

(1) In general

A religious organization that provides assistance under a program described in subsection (a) shall retain its religious character and control over the definition, development, practice, and expression of its religious beliefs.

(2) Additional safeguards

Neither the Federal Government nor a State or local government shall require a religious organization—

(A) to alter its form of internal governance, except (for purposes of administration of the community services block grant program) as provided in section 9910 of this title; or

(B) to remove religious art, icons, scripture, or other symbols;

in order to be eligible to provide assistance under a program described in subsection (a).

(3) Employment practices

A religious organization’s exemption provided under section 2000e-1 of this title regarding employment practices shall not be affected by its participation in, or receipt of funds from, programs described in subsection (a).

(c) Limitations on use of funds for certain purposes

No funds provided directly to a religious organization to provide assistance under any program described in subsection (a) shall be expended for sectarian worship, instruction, or proselytization.

(d) Fiscal accountability

(1) In general

Except as provided in paragraph (2), any religious organization providing assistance under any program described in subsection (a) shall be subject to the same regulations as other nongovernmental organizations to account in accord with generally accepted accounting principles for the use of such funds provided under such program.

(2) Limited audit

Such organization shall segregate government funds provided under such program into a separate account. Only the government funds shall be subject to audit by the government.

(e) Treatment of eligible entities and other intermediate organizations

If an eligible entity or other organization (referred to in this subsection as an “intermediate organization”), acting under a contract, or grant or other agreement, with the Federal Government or a State or local government, is given the authority under the contract or agreement to select nongovernmental organizations to provide assistance under the programs described in subsection (a), the intermediate organization shall have the same duties under this section as the government.

(Pub. L. 97-35, title VI, §679, as added Pub. L. 105-285, title II, §201, Oct. 27, 1998, 112 Stat. 2749.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 679 of Pub. L. 97-35 was classified to section 9908 of this title, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 105-285.

§ 9921. Discretionary authority of Secretary

(a) Grants, contracts, arrangements, loans, and guarantees

(1) In general

The Secretary shall, from funds reserved under section 9903(b)(3) of this title, make grants, loans, or guarantees to States and pub-