

## Corporation for National and Community Service

## § 2540.207

(3) A fingerprint-based check of the FBI criminal history record database through the State criminal history record repository or agency-approved vendor.

(b) One way for grant recipients or subrecipients to obtain and document the required components of the National Service Criminal History Check is through the use of agency-approved vendors.

[86 FR 11147, Feb. 24, 2021]

### **§ 2540.205 By when must the National Service Criminal History Check be completed?**

(a) The National Service Criminal History Check must be conducted, reviewed, and an eligibility determination made by the grant recipient or subrecipient based on the results of the National Service Criminal History Check *before* a person begins to work or serve in a position specified in § 2540.201(a).

(b) If a person serves consecutive terms of service or employment with the same organization in a position specified in § 2540.201(a) and does not have a break in service or employment longer than 180 days, then no additional National Service Criminal History Check is required, as long as the original check complied with the requirements of § 2540.204. If a National Service Criminal History Check was not conducted on a person because they were under the age of 18 at the time they began their prior term(s) of service or employment in a covered position, pursuant to § 2540.201(b), a National Service Criminal History check must be conducted prior to the individual beginning a subsequent term of work or service for which the person is 18 years of age or older at the start of work or service.

(c) Persons working or serving in positions specified in § 2540.201(a) prior to May 1, 2021, who continue working or serving in a position specified in § 2540.201(a) on or after November 1, 2021, must have a National Service Criminal History Check conducted, reviewed, and an eligibility determination made by the grant recipient or subrecipient based on the results of the National Service Criminal History Check completed in accordance with

this part. For these people, the National Service Criminal History Check must be completed no later than November 1, 2021.

[86 FR 11147, Feb. 24, 2021]

### **§ 2540.206 What procedural steps are required, in addition to conducting the National Service Criminal History Check described in this subpart?**

(a) In addition to conducting the National Service Criminal History Check described in § 2540.204, grant recipients or subrecipients must:

(1) Obtain a person's consent before conducting the state and FBI components of the National Service Criminal History Check;

(2) Provide notice that selection for work or service for a position specified in § 2540.201(a) is contingent upon the organization's review of the National Service Criminal History Check component results;

(3) Provide a reasonable opportunity for the person to review and challenge the factual accuracy of a result before action is taken to exclude the person from the position;

(4) Take reasonable steps to protect the confidentiality of any information relating to the criminal history check, consistent with authorization provided by the applicant;

(5) Maintain documentation of the National Service Criminal History Check as grant records; and

(6) Pay for the cost of the NSCHC. Unless specifically approved by CNCS under § 2540.207, the person who is serving or working in the covered position may not be charged for the cost of any component of a National Service Criminal History Check.

(b) CNCS-approved vendors may facilitate obtaining and documenting the requirements in paragraphs (a)(1) through (5) of this section.

[86 FR 11147, Feb. 24, 2021]

### **§ 2540.207 Waiver.**

CNCS may waive provisions of §§ 2540.200 through 2540.206 for good cause, or for any other lawful basis. To request a waiver, submit a written request to NSCHC Waiver Requests, 250 E Street SW, Washington DC 20525, or

## § 2540.208

send your request to  
[NSCHCWaiverRequest@cns.gov](mailto:NSCHCWaiverRequest@cns.gov).

[86 FR 11148, Feb. 24, 2021]

### **§ 2540.208 Under what circumstances may participants be engaged?**

A State may not engage a participant to serve in any program that receives Corporation assistance unless and until amounts have been appropriated under section 501 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12681) for the provision of AmeriCorps educational awards and for the payment of other necessary expenses and costs associated with such participant.

[59 FR 13808, Mar. 23, 1994. Redesignated at 72 FR 48582, Aug. 24, 2007]

### **§ 2540.210 What provisions exist to ensure that Corporation-supported programs do not discriminate in the selection of participants and staff?**

(a) An individual with responsibility for the operation of a project that receives Corporation assistance must not discriminate against a participant in, or member of the staff of, such project on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or political affiliation of such participant or member, or on the basis of disability, if the participant or member is a qualified individual with a disability.

(b) Any Corporation assistance constitutes Federal financial assistance for purposes of title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d *et seq.*), title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 *et seq.*), section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6101 *et seq.*), and constitutes Federal financial assistance to an education program or activity for purposes of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 *et seq.*).

(c) An individual with responsibility for the operation of a project that receives Corporation assistance may not discriminate on the basis of religion against a participant in such project or a member of the staff of such project who is paid with Corporation funds. This provision does not apply to the employment (with Corporation assistance) of any staff member of a Corporation-supported project who was em-

## 45 CFR Ch. XXV (10–1–23 Edition)

ployed with the organization operating the project on the date the Corporation grant was awarded.

(d) Grantees must notify all program participants, staff, applicants, and beneficiaries of:

(1) Their rights under applicable federal nondiscrimination laws, including relevant provisions of the national service legislation and implementing regulations; and

(2) The procedure for filing a discrimination complaint with the Corporation's Office of Civil Rights and Inclusiveness.

[59 FR 13808, Mar. 23, 1994, as amended at 73 FR 53760, Sept. 17, 2008]

### **§ 2540.215 What should a program participant, staff members, or beneficiary do if the individual believes he or she has been subject to illegal discrimination?**

A program participant, staff member, or beneficiary who believes that he or she has been subject to illegal discrimination should contact the Corporation's Office of Civil Rights and Inclusiveness, which offers an impartial discrimination complaint resolution process. Participation in a discrimination complaint resolution process is protected activity; a grantee is prohibited from retaliating against an individual for making a complaint or participating in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing.

[73 FR 53760, Sept. 17, 2008]

### **§ 2540.220 Under what circumstances and subject to what conditions are participants in Corporation-assisted programs eligible for family and medical leave?**

(a) *Participants in State, local, or private nonprofits programs.* A participant in a State, local, or private nonprofit program receiving support from the Corporation is considered an eligible employee of the program's project sponsor under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 CFR part 825) if—

(1) The participant has served for at least 12 months and 1,250 hours during the year preceding the start of the leave; and

(2) The program's project sponsors engages in commerce or any industry or activity affecting commerce, and