

§ 2556.750

who has an application for any compensation, grant, contract, ruling, license, permit, or certificate pending before AmeriCorps or the VISTA program.

(b) A VISTA may not knowingly solicit or discourage the participation in any political activity of any individual who is the subject of, or a participant in, an ongoing audit, investigation, or enforcement action being carried out by or through AmeriCorps or the VISTA program.

§ 2556.750 What restrictions and prohibitions are VISTAs who campaign for a spouse or family member subject to?

A VISTA who is the spouse or family member of a candidate for partisan political office, candidate for political party office, or candidate for public office in a nonpartisan election is subject to the same restrictions and prohibitions as other VISTAs, as set forth in § 2556.725.

§ 2556.755 May VISTAs participate in lawful demonstrations?

In accordance with the prohibitions set forth in § 2556.710, VISTAs may participate in lawful demonstrations, political rallies, and other political meetings, so long as such participation is in conformance with all of the following:

- (a) Occurs only while on authorized leave or while otherwise off duty;
- (b) Does not include attempting to represent, or representing, the views of VISTAs or the VISTA program on any public issue;
- (c) Could not be reasonably understood by the community as being identified with the VISTA program, the project, or other elements of VISTA service; and
- (d) Does not interfere with the discharge of VISTA duties.

§ 2556.760 May a sponsor or subrecipient approve the participation of a VISTA in a demonstration or other political meeting?

(a) No VISTA sponsor or subrecipient may approve a VISTA to be involved in planning, initiating, participating in, or otherwise aiding or assisting in any demonstration or other political meeting.

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(b) If a VISTA sponsor or subrecipient, subsequent to the receipt of any AmeriCorps financial assistance, including the assignment of VISTAs, approves the participation of a VISTA in a demonstration or other political meeting, that VISTA sponsor or subrecipient is subject to procedures related to the suspension or termination of such assistance, as provided in subpart B of this part, §§ 2556.135 through 2556.140.

§ 2556.765 What disciplinary actions are VISTAs subject to for violating restrictions or prohibitions on political activities?

Violations by a VISTA of any of the prohibitions or restrictions set forth in this subpart may warrant termination for cause, in accordance with proceedings set forth at §§ 2556.420, 2556.425, and 2556.430.

§ 2556.770 What are the requirements of VISTA sponsors and subrecipients regarding political activities?

(a) All sponsors and subrecipients are required to:

- (1) Understand the restrictions and prohibitions on the political activities of VISTAs, as set forth in this subpart;
- (2) Provide training to VISTAs on all applicable restrictions and prohibitions on political activities, as set forth in this subpart, and use training materials that are consistent with these restrictions and prohibitions;
- (3) Monitor on a continuing basis the activity of VISTAs for compliance with this subpart; and
- (4) Report all violations or questionable situations immediately to the appropriate AmeriCorps Region Office.

(b) Failure of a sponsor to comply with the requirements of this subpart, or a violation of the requirements contained in this subpart by the sponsor or subrecipient, sponsor or subrecipient's covered employees, agents, or VISTAs, may be deemed a material failure to comply with terms or conditions of the VISTA program. In such a case, the sponsor is subject to procedures related to the denial or reduction, or suspension or termination, of such assistance, as provided in §§ 2556.125, 2556.130, and 2556.140.