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PART 15b—NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF HANDICAP IN PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES RECEIVING FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

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APPENDIX A TO PART 15b—LIST OF FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM USDA

AUTHORITY: 29 U.S.C. 794.

SOURCE: 47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General Provisions

§ 15b.1 Purpose.

The purpose of this part is to implement section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, to the end that no otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States shall solely by reason of his or her handicap be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

§ 15b.2 Applicability.

This part applies to all programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance extended by the Department of Agriculture after the effective date of this part whether or not the assistance was approved after the effective date. Subparts A, B, and C are of general applicability. Subparts D, E, and F are more specifically tailored. Subpart G is procedural.

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 55 FR 52139, Dec. 19, 1990; 68 FR 51342, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 15b.3 Definitions.

As used in this part, the term or phrase:

(a) *The Act* means the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Public Law 93–112, 87 Stat. 390 (1973), as amended by the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1974, Public Law 93–651, 89 Stat. 2 (1974) and Public Law 93–516, 88 Stat. 1617 (1974) and the Rehabilitation, Comprehensive Services and Developmental Disabilities

Amendments of 1978, Public Law 95–602, 92 Stat. 2955 (1978). The Act appears at 29 U.S.C. 701–794.

(b) *Section 504* means section 504 of the Act, 29 U.S.C. 794.

(c) *Education of the Handicapped Act* means the Education of the Handicapped Act, Public Law 92–230, Title VI, 84 Stat. 175 (1970), as amended by the Education of the Handicapped Amendments of 1974, Public Law 93–380, Title VI, 88 Stat. 576 (1974), the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975, Public Law 94–142, 89 Stat. 773 (1975), and the Education of the Handicapped Amendments of 1977, Public Law 95–49, 91 Stat. 230 (1977). The Education of the Handicapped Act appears at 20 U.S.C. 1401–1461.

(d) *Department* means the Department of Agriculture and includes each of its operating agencies and other organizational units.

(e) *Secretary* means the Secretary of Agriculture or any officer or employee of the Department to whom the Secretary has delegated or may delegate the authority to act under the regulations of this part.

(f) *Recipient* means any State or its political subdivision, any instrumentality of a State or its political subdivision, any public or private agency, institution, organization, or other entity, or any person to which Federal financial assistance is extended directly or through another recipient, including any successor, assignee, or transferee of a recipient, but excluding the ultimate beneficiary of the assistance.

(g) *Federal financial assistance* or *assistance* means any grant, contract (other than a procurement contract or a contract of insurance or guaranty), cooperative agreement, formula allocation, loan, or any other arrangement by which the Department provides or otherwise makes available assistance in the form of:

(1) Funds;

(2) Services of Federal personnel;

(3) Real and personal Federal property or any interest in Federal property, including:

(i) A sale, transfer, lease or use (on other than a casual or transient basis) of Federal property for less than fair market value, for reduced consideration or in recognition of the public nature of the recipient's program or activity; and

(ii) Proceeds from a subsequent sale, transfer or lease of Federal property if the Federal share of its fair market value is not returned to the Federal Government.

(4) Any other thing of value.

(h) *Facility* means all or any portion of buildings, structures, equipment, roads, walks, parking lots, or other real or personal property or interest in such property.

(i) *Handicapped person* means any person who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such an impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment.

(j) *Physical or mental impairment* means (1) any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems: Neurological; musculoskeletal; special sense organs; respiratory, including speech organs; cardiovascular; reproductive; digestive; genitourinary; hemic and lymphatic; skin; and endocrine; or (2) any mental or psychological disorder, such as mental retardation, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities. The term *physical or mental impairment* includes, but is not limited to, such diseases and conditions as orthopedic, visual, speech, and hearing impairments; cerebral palsy; epilepsy; muscular dystrophy; multiple sclerosis, cancer; heart disease; diabetes; mental retardation; emotional illness; and drug addiction and alcoholism.

(k) *Major life activities* means functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working.

(l) *Has a record of such an impairment* means has a history of, or has been misclassified as having, a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

(m) *Is regarded as having an impairment* means (1) has a physical or mental impairment that does not substantially limit major life activities but that is treated by a recipient as constituting such a limitation; (2) has a

physical or mental impairment that substantially limits major life activities only as a result of the attitudes of others towards such impairments, or (3) has none of the impairments defined in paragraph (j) of this section but is treated by a recipient as having such an impairment.

(n) *Qualified handicapped person* (used synonymously with *otherwise qualified handicapped individual*) means:

(1) With respect to employment, a handicapped person who, with reasonable accommodation, can perform the essential functions of the job in question, but the term does not include any individual who is an alcoholic or drug abuser whose current use of alcohol or drugs prevents such individual from performing the duties of the job in question or whose employment, by reason of such current alcohol or drug abuse, would constitute a direct threat to property or the safety of others;

(2) With respect to public preschool, elementary, secondary, or adult educational services, a handicapped person, (i) of an age during which nonhandicapped persons are provided such services, (ii) of an age during which it is mandatory under State law to provide such services to handicapped persons, or (iii) to whom a State is required to provide a free appropriate public education under section 612 of the Education of the Handicapped Act; and

(3) With respect to postsecondary and vocational education services, a handicapped person who meets all academic and technical standards requisite to admission or participation in the recipient's education program or activity;

(4) With respect to other services, a handicapped person who meets the essential eligibility requirements for the receipt of such services.

(o) *Handicap* means any condition or characteristic that renders a person a handicapped person as defined in paragraph (i) of this section.

(p) For purposes of §15b.18(d), *Historic Preservation Programs* are those that receive Federal financial assistance that has preservation of historic properties as a primary purpose.

(q) For purposes of §15b.18(e), *Historic properties* means those buildings or facilities that are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, or such properties designated as historic under a statute of the appropriate State or local government body.

(r) For purposes of §15b.18(d), *Substantial impairment* means a significant loss of the integrity of finished materials, design quality or special character which loss results from a permanent alteration.

(s) *Program or activity* means all of the operations of any entity described in paragraphs (s)(1) through (4) of this section, any part of which is extended Federal financial assistance:

(1)(i) A department, agency, special purpose district, or other instrumentality of a State or of a local government; or

(ii) The entity of such State or local government that distributes such assistance and each such department or agency (and each other State or local government entity) to which the assistance is extended, in the case of assistance to a State or local government;

(2)(i) A college, university, or other postsecondary institution, or a public system of higher education; or

(ii) A local educational agency (as defined in 20 U.S.C. 7801), system of vocational education, or other school system;

(3)(i) An entire corporation, partnership, or other private organization, or an entire sole proprietorship—

(A) If assistance is extended to such corporation, partnership, private organization, or sole proprietorship as a whole; or

(B) Which is principally engaged in the business of providing education, health care, housing, social services, or parks and recreation; or

(ii) The entire plant or other comparable, geographically separate facility to which Federal financial assistance is extended, in the case of any other corporation, partnership, private organization, or sole proprietorship; or

(4) Any other entity which is established by two or more of the entities

described in paragraph (s)(1), (2), or (3) of this section.

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 55 FR 52139, Dec. 19, 1990; 68 FR 51342, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 15b.4 Discrimination prohibited.

(a) *General.* No qualified handicapped person shall, on the basis of handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving assistance from this Department.

(b) *Discriminatory actions prohibited.* (1) A recipient, in providing any aid, benefit or service, may not, directly or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements, on the basis of handicap:

(i) Deny a qualified handicapped person the opportunity to participate in or benefit from the aid, benefit or services;

(ii) Afford a qualified handicapped person an opportunity to participate in or benefit from the aid, benefit or services that is not equal to that afforded others;

(iii) Provide a qualified handicapped person with an aid, benefit or service that is not as effective in affording equal opportunity to obtain the same result, to gain the same benefit or to reach the same level of achievement in the most integrated setting appropriate as that provided to others;

(iv) Provide a different or separate aid, benefit or service to handicapped persons or to any class of handicapped persons unless such action is necessary to provide qualified handicapped persons with an aid, benefit or service that are as effective as those provided to others;

(v) Aid or perpetuate discrimination against a qualified handicapped person by providing significant assistance to an agency, organization, or person that discriminates on the basis of handicap in providing any aid, benefit or service to beneficiaries of the recipient's program or activity;

(vi) Deny a qualified handicapped person the opportunity to participate as a member of planning or advisory boards; or

(vii) Otherwise limit a qualified handicapped person in the enjoyment of any rights, privilege, advantage, or opportunity enjoyed by others receiving an aid, benefit or service.

(2) For purposes of this part, aids, benefits and services, to be equally effective, are not required to produce the identical result or level of achievement for handicapped and nonhandicapped persons, but must afford handicapped persons equal opportunity to obtain the same result, to gain the same benefit, or to reach the same level of achievement, in the most integrated setting appropriate to the person's needs.

(3) Despite the existence of separate or different aid, benefits, or services provided in accordance with this part, a recipient may not deny a qualified handicapped person the opportunity to participate in such programs or activities that are not separate or different.

(4) A recipient may not, directly or through contractual or other arrangements, utilize criteria or methods of administration (i) that have the effect of subjecting qualified handicapped persons to discrimination on the basis of handicap, (ii) that have the purpose or effect of defeating or substantially impairing accomplishment of the objectives of the recipient's program or activity with respect to handicapped persons, or (iii) that perpetuate the discrimination of another recipient if both recipients are subject to common administrative control or are agencies of the same State.

(5) In determining the site or location of a facility, an applicant for assistance or a recipient may not make selections (i) that have the effect of excluding handicapped persons, from denying them the benefits of, or otherwise subjecting them to discrimination under any program or activity that receives Federal financial assistance or (ii) that have the purpose or effect of defeating or substantially impairing the accomplishment of the objectives of the program or activity with respect to handicapped persons.

(6) As used in this section, an aid, benefit or service provided under a program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance includes any aid, benefit or service provided in or through a facility that has been constructed, expanded, altered, leased or

rented, or otherwise acquired, in whole or in part, with Federal financial assistance.

(c) *Aid, benefits, or services limited by Federal law.* The exclusion of nonhandicapped persons from aid, benefits, or services limited by Federal statute or executive order to handicapped persons or the exclusion of a specific class of handicapped persons from aid, benefits, or services limited by Federal statute or executive order to a different class of handicapped persons is not prohibited by this part.

(d) *Communications.* Recipients shall take appropriate steps to ensure that communications with their applicants, employees, and beneficiaries are available to persons with impaired vision and hearing.

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 68 FR 51342, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 15b.5 Assurances required.

(a) *Assurances.* An applicant for Federal financial assistance to which this part applies shall submit an assurance, on a form specified by the Secretary, that the program or activity will be operated in compliance with this part. An applicant may incorporate these assurances by reference in subsequent applications to the Department.

(b) *Duration of obligation.* (1) In the case of Federal financial assistance extended in the form of real property or to provide real property or structures on the property, the assurance will obligate the recipient, or, in the case of a subsequent transfer, the transferee, for the period during which the real property or structures are used for the purpose for which Federal financial assistance is extended or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits.

(2) In the case of Federal financial assistance extended to provide personal property, the assurance will obligate the recipient for the period during which it retains ownership or possession of the property.

(3) In all other cases, the assurance will obligate the recipient for the period during which Federal financial assistance is extended.

(c) *Covenants.* (1) Where Federal financial assistance is provided in the form of real property or interest in the property from the Department, the instrument effecting or recording this transfer shall contain a covenant running with the land to assure nondiscrimination for the period during which the real property is used for the purpose for which the Federal financial assistance is extended or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits.

(2) Where no transfer of property is involved but property is purchased or improved with Federal financial assistance, the recipient shall agree to include the covenant described in paragraph (c)(1) of this section in the instrument effecting or recording any subsequent transfer of the property.

(3) Where Federal financial assistance is provided in the form of real property or interest in the property from the Department, the covenant shall also include a condition coupled with a right to be reserved by the Department to revert title to the property in the event of a breach of the covenant. If a transferee of real property proposes to mortgage or otherwise encumber the real property as security for financing construction of new, or improvement of existing, facilities on the property for the purposes for which the property was transferred, the Secretary may, upon request of the transferee and if necessary to accomplish such financing and upon such conditions as the Secretary deems appropriate, agree to forebear the exercise of such right to revert title for so long as the lien of such mortgage or other encumbrance remains effective.

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 68 FR 51342, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 15b.6 Designation of responsible employee and adoption of grievance procedures.

(a) *Designation of responsible employee.* A recipient that employs fifteen or more persons shall designate at least one person to coordinate its efforts to comply with this part.

(b) *Adoption of grievance procedures.* A recipient that employs fifteen or more persons shall adopt grievance procedures that incorporate appropriate due process standards and that provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of

complaints alleging any action prohibited by this part. Such procedures need not be established with respect to complaints from applicants for employment or from applicants for admission to postsecondary educational institutions.

(c) The Secretary may require any recipient with fewer than fifteen employees to designate a responsible employee and adopt grievance procedures when the Secretary finds a violation of this part or finds that complying with these administrative requirements will not significantly impair the ability of the recipient to provide benefits or services.

§ 15b.7 Notice of nondiscrimination and accessible services.

(a) A recipient shall take appropriate initial and continuing steps to notify participants, beneficiaries, applicants, and employees, including those with impaired vision or hearing, and unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the recipient that it does not discriminate on the basis of handicap in violation of section 504 and this part. The notification shall state, where appropriate, that the recipient does not discriminate in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. The recipient shall also identify the responsible employee designated pursuant to §15b.6(a), and identify the existence and location of accessible services, activities, and facilities. A recipient shall make the initial notification required by this paragraph within 90 days of the effective date of this part. Methods of initial and continuing notification may include but are not limited to the posting of notices, placement of notices in the recipient's publications, radio announcements, and the use of other visual and aural media.

(b) If a recipient publishes or uses recruitment materials or publications containing general information that it makes available to participants, beneficiaries, applicants or employees, it shall include in those materials or publications a statement of the policy described in paragraph (a) of this section. A recipient may meet the requirement of this paragraph either by including appropriate inserts in existing materials and publications or by revising and reprinting the materials and publications.

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 68 FR 51342, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 15b.8 Remedial action, voluntary action, and self-evaluation.

(a) *Remedial action.* (1) If the Secretary finds that a recipient has discriminated against persons on the basis of handicap in violation of section 504 or this part, the recipient shall take such remedial action as the Secretary deems necessary to overcome the effects of the discrimination.

(2) Where a recipient is found to have discriminated against persons on the basis of handicap in violation of section 504 or this part and where another recipient exercises control over the recipient that has discriminated, the Secretary, where appropriate, may require either or both recipients to take remedial action.

(3) The Secretary may, where necessary to overcome the effects of discrimination in violation of section 504 or this part, require a recipient to take remedial action (i) with respect to handicapped persons who are no longer participants in the recipient's program or activity but who were participants in the program when such discrimination occurred or (ii) with respect to handicapped persons who would have been participants in the program or activity had the discrimination not occurred, or (iii) with respect to handicapped persons presently in the program or activity, but not receiving full benefits or equal and integrated treatment within the program.

(b) *Voluntary action.* A recipient may take steps, in addition to any action that is required by this part, to overcome the effects of conditions that resulted in limited participation in the recipient's program or activity by qualified handicapped persons.

(c) *Self-evaluation.* (1) A recipient shall, within one year of the effective date of this part:

(i) Evaluate, with the assistance of interested persons, including handicapped persons or organizations representing handicapped persons, its current policies and practices and the effects thereof that do not or may not meet the requirements of this part.

(ii) Modify, after consultation with interested persons, including handicapped persons or organizations representing handicapped persons, any policies and practices that do not meet the requirements of this part; and

(iii) Take, after consultation with interested persons, including handicapped persons or organizations representing handicapped persons, appropriate remedial steps to eliminate the effects of any discrimination that resulted from adherence to these policies and practices.

(2) A recipient shall, for at least three years following completion of the evaluation required under paragraph (c)(1) of this section, maintain on file, make available for public inspection, and provide to the Secretary upon request: (i) A list of the interested persons consulted, (ii) a description of areas examined and any problems identified, and (iii) a description of any modifications made and of any remedial steps taken.

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 68 FR 51342, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 15b.9 Effect of State or local law or other requirements, and effect of employment opportunities.

(a) The obligation to comply with this part is not obviated or alleviated by the existence of any State or local law or other requirement that, on the basis of handicap, imposes prohibitions or limits upon the eligibility of qualified handicapped persons to receive services or to practice any occupation or profession.

(b) The obligation to comply with this part is not obviated or alleviated because employment opportunities in any occupation or profession are or may be more limited for handicapped persons than for nonhandicapped persons.

§ 15b.10 Effect of compliance with regulations of other Federal agencies.

A recipient that has designated a responsible official and established a grievance procedure, provided notice, completed a self-evaluation, or prepared a transition plan in the course of complying with regulations issued by other Federal agencies under section 504 will be in compliance with § 15b.6, § 15b.7, § 15b.8(c), or § 15b.18(f), respectively, if all requirements of those sections have been met in regard to programs or activities assisted by this Department.

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 68 FR 51342, Aug. 26, 2003]

Subpart B—Employment Practices

§ 15b.11 Applicability.

This subpart applies to all programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance provided by the Department of Agriculture after the effective date of this part.

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 55 FR 52139, Dec. 19, 1990; 68 FR 51342, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 15b.12 Discrimination prohibited.

(a) *General.* (1) No qualified handicapped person shall, on the basis of handicapped, be subjected to discrimination in employment under any program or activity receiving assistance from this Department.

(2) A recipient shall make all decisions concerning employment in a manner which ensures that discrimination on the basis of handicap does not occur and may not limit, segregate, or classify applicants or employees in any way that adversely affects their opportunities or status because of handicap.

(3) A recipient may not participate in a contractural or other relationship that has the effect of subjecting qualified handicapped applicants or employees to discrimination prohibited by this subpart. This includes relationships with employment and referral agencies, with labor unions with organizations providing or administering fringe benefits to employees of the recipient, and with organizations providing training and apprenticeships.

(4) All provisions of this subpart pertaining to employment, apply equally to volunteer service.

(b) *Specific activities.* The provisions of this subpart apply to:

(1) Recruitment, advertising, and the processing of applications for employment;

(2) Hiring, upgrading, promotion, award of tenure, demotion, transfer, layoff, termination, right to return from layoff, and rehiring;

(3) Rates of pay or any other form of compensation and changes in compensation;

(4) Job assignments, job classifications, organizational structures, position descriptions, lines of progression, and seniority lists;

(5) Leaves of absence, sick leave, or any other leave;

(6) Fringe benefits available by virtue of employment, whether or not administered by the recipient;

(7) Selection and financial support for training, including apprenticeship, professional meetings, conferences, and other related activities, and selection for leaves of absence to pursue training;

(8) Employer sponsored activities, including those that are social or recreational; and

(9) Any other term, condition, or privilege of employment.

(c) A recipient's obligation to comply with this subpart is not affected by any inconsistent term of any collective bargaining agreement to which it is a party.

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 68 FR 51343, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 15b.13 Reasonable accommodation.

(a) A recipient shall make reasonable accommodation to the known physical or mental limitations of an otherwise qualified handicapped applicant or employee unless the recipient can demonstrate that the accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the operation of its program or activity.

(b) Reasonable accommodation may include (1) Making facilities used by employees readily accessible to and useable by handicapped persons, and (2) Job restructuring, part-time or modified work schedules, acquisition or modification of equipment or devices, the provisions of readers or interpreters, and other similar actions.

(c) In determining pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section whether an accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the operation of a recipient's programs or activities, factors to be considered include:

(1) The overall size of the recipient's program or activity with respect to number of employees, number and type of facilities, and size of budget;

(2) The type of the recipient's operation, including the composition and structure of recipient's workforce;

(3) The nature and cost of the accommodation needed.

(d) A recipient may not deny any employment opportunity to a qualified handicapped employee or applicant if the basis for the denial is the need to make reasonable accommodation to the physical or mental limitations of the employee or applicant.

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 68 FR 51343, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 15b.14 Employment criteria.

(a) A recipient may not make use of any employment test or other selection criterion that screens out or tends to screen out handicapped persons or any class of handicapped persons unless: (1) The recipient shows that the test score or other selection criterion, as used by the recipient, is job-related for the position in question, and (2) the Secretary cannot show that alternative job-related tests or criteria are available that do not screen out or tend to screen out as many handicapped persons.

(b) A recipient shall select and administer tests concerning employment so as best to ensure that, when administered to an applicant or employee who has a handicap that impairs sensory, manual, or speaking skills, the test results accurately reflect the applicant's or employee's job skills, aptitude, or whatever other factor the test purports to measure, rather than reflecting the applicant's or employee's impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills (except where those skills are the factors that the test purports to measure).

§ 15b.15 Preemployment inquiries.

(a) Except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section, a recipient may not conduct a preemployment medical examination or may not make preemployment inquiry of an applicant as to whether the applicant is a handicapped person or as to the nature or severity of a handicap. A recipient may, however, make preemployment inquiry into an applicant's ability to perform job-related functions.

(b) When a recipient is taking remedial action to correct the effects of past discrimination pursuant to §15b.8(a), when a recipient is taking voluntary action to overcome the effects of conditions that resulted in limited participation in its federally assisted program or activity pursuant to §15b.8(b), or when a recipient is taking affirmative action pursuant to section 503 of the Act, the recipient may invite applicants for employment to indicate whether and to what extent they are handicapped: *Provided,* That (1) the recipient states clearly on any written questionnaire used for this purpose or makes clear orally if no written questionnaire is used that the information requested is intended for use solely in connection with its remedial action obligations or its voluntary affirmative action efforts; and (2) the recipient states clearly that the information is being requested on a voluntary basis, that it will be kept confidential as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, that refusal to provide it will not subject the applicant or employee to any adverse treatment, and that it will be used only in accordance with this part.

(c) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a recipient for conditioning an offer of employment on the results of a medical examination conducted prior to the employee's entrance on duty: *Provided,* That (1) all entering employees are subjected to such an examination regardless of handicap; and (2) the results of such an examination are used only in accordance with the requirements of this part.

(d) Information obtained in accordance with this section as to the medical condition or history of the applicant shall be collected and maintained on separate forms that shall be accorded the same confidentiality as medical records except that:

(1) Supervisors and managers may be informed regarding restrictions on the work or duties of handicapped persons and regarding necessary accommodations;

(2) First aid and safety personnel may be informed, where appropriate, if the condition might require emergency treatment; and

(3) Governement officials investigating compliance with the Act shall be provided relevant information upon request.

Subpart C—Accessibility

§ 15b.16 Applicability.

This subpart applies to all programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance provided by the Department of Agriculture after the effective date of this part.

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 55 FR 52139, Dec. 19, 1990; 68 FR 51343, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 15b.17 Discrimination prohibited.

No qualified handicapped person shall, because a recipient's facilities are inaccessible to or unusuable by handicapped persons, be denied the benefits of, be excluded from participation in, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving assistance from this Department.

§ 15b.18 Existing facilities.

(a) *Accessibility.* A recipient shall operate each assisted program or activity so that when each part is viewed in its entirety it is readily accessible to and usable by qualified handicapped persons. This paragraph does not necessarily require a recipient to make each of its existing facilities or every part of an existing facility accessible to and usable by qualified handicapped persons.

(b) *Method.* A recipient may comply with the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section through such means as redesign of equipment, reassignment of classes or other services to accessible

buildings, assignment of aides to beneficiaries, home visits, delivery of services at alternate accessible sites, alteration of exiting facilities and construction of new facilities in conformance with the requirements of §15b.19, or any other method that results in making its program or activity accessible to qualified handicapped persons. A recipient is not required to make structural changes in existing facilities where other methods are effective in achieving compliance with paragraph (a) of this section. In choosing among available methods for meeting the requirement of paragraph (a) of this section, a recipient shall give priority to those methods that serve qualified handicapped persons in the most intergrated setting appropriate.

(c) *Small providers.* If a recipient with fewer than fifteen employees finds, after consultation with a handicapped person seeking its services, that there is no method of complying with paragraph (a) of this section other than by making a significant alteration in its existing facilities, the recipient may, as an alternative, refer the handicapped person to other providers of those services that are accessible at no additional cost to handicapped persons.

(d) *Application for modification of requirements.* Recipients that determine after a self-evaluation conducted according to the requirements of §15b.8(c), that accessibility can only be accomplished through substantial modifications which would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of the program or activity, may apply to the Secretary for a modification of the requirements of this section.

(e) *Historic Preservation Programs; Application for waiver of program accessibility requirements.* (1) A recipient shall operate each assisted program or activity involving Historic Preservation Programs so that when each part is viewed in its entirety it is readily accessible to and usable by handicapped persons. This paragraph does not necessarily require a recipient to make each of its existing historic properties or every part of an historic property accessible to and usable by handicapped persons. Methods of achieving accessibility include:

(i) Making physical alterations which enable handicapped persons to have access to otherwise inaccessible areas or features of historic properties;

(ii) Using audio-visual materials and devices to depict otherwise inaccessible areas or features of historic properties;

(iii) Assigning persons to guide handicapped persons into or through otherwise inaccessible portions of historic properties;

(iv) Adopting other innovative methods to achieve accessibility. Because the primary benefit of an Historic Preservation Program is the experience of the historic property itself, in taking steps to achieve accessibility, recipients shall give priority to those means which make the historic property, or portions thereof physicially accessible to handicapped individuals.

(2) Where accessibility cannot be achieved without causing a substantial impairment of significant historic features, the Secretary may grant a waiver of the accessibility requirement. In determining whether accessibility can be achieved without causing a substantial impairment, the Secretary shall consider the following factors:

(i) Scale of property, reflecting its ability to absorb alterations;

(ii) Use of the property, whether primarily for public or private purpose;

(iii) Importance of the historic features of the property to the conduct of the program or activity; and,

(iv) Cost of alterations in comparison to the increase in accessibility.

The Secretary shall periodically review any waiver granted under this section and may withdraw it if technological advances or other changes so warrant.

(3) Where the property is federally owned or where Federal funds may be used for alterations, the comments of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation shall be obtained when required by section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470), and 36 CFR part 800, prior to effectuation of structural alterations.

(f) *Time period.* A recipient shall comply with the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section within sixty days of the effective date of this part except that where structural changes in facilities are necessary, such changes shall

be made within three years of the effective date of this part and as expeditiously as possible.

(g) *Transition plan.* In the event that structural changes to facilities are necessary to meet the requirement of paragraph (a) of this section, a recipient shall develop, within one year of the effective date of this part, a transition plan setting forth the steps necessary to complete such changes. The plan shall be developed with the assistance of interested persons, including handicapped persons or organizations representing handicapped persons. A copy of the transition plan shall be made available for public inspection. The plan shall, at a minimum:

(1) Identify physical obstacles in the recipient's facilities that limit the accessibility of its program or activity to handicapped persons;

(2) Describe in detail the methods that will be used to make the facilities accessible;

(3) Specify the schedule for taking the steps necessary to achieve full accessibility under paragraph (a) of this section and if the time period of the transition plan is longer than one year, identify steps that will be taken during each year of the transition period; and

(4) Identify the person responsible for implementation of the plan.

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 68 FR 51342, 51343, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 15b.19 New construction.

(a) *Design and construction.* Each facility or part of a facility constructed by, on behalf of, or for the use of a recipient shall be designed and constructed in such manner that the facility or part of the facility is readily accessible to and usable by handicapped persons, if the construction is commenced after the effective date of this part.

(b) *Alteration.* Each facility or part of a facility which is altered by, on behalf of, or for the use of a recipient after the effective date of this part in a manner that affects or could affect the usability of the facility or part of the facility shall to the maximum extent feasible, be altered in such manner that the altered portion of the facility is readily accessible to and usable by handicapped persons.

(c) *Conformance with Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards.* (1) Effective as of January 18, 1991, design, construction, or alteration of buildings in conformance with sections 3-8 of the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (USAF) (appendix A to 41 CFR subpart 101–19.6) shall be deemed to comply with the requirements of this section with respect to those buildings. Departures from particular technical and scoping requirements of UFAS by the use of other methods are permitted where substantially equivalent or greater access to and usability of the building is provided.

(2) For purposes of this section, section 4.1.6(1)(g) of UFAS shall be interpreted to exempt from the requirements of UFAS only mechanical rooms and other spaces that, because of their intended use, will not require accessibility to the public or beneficiaries or result in the employment or residence therein of persons with physical handicaps.

(3) This section does not require recipients to make building alterations that have little likelihood of being accomplished without removing or altering a load-bearing structural member.

(d) *Compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968.* Nothing in this section of §15b.18 relieves recipients, whose facilities are covered by the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4151–4157) from their responsibility of complying with the requirements of that Act and any implementing regulations.

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 55 FR 52138, 52139, Dec. 19, 1990]

Subpart D—Preschool, Elementary, Secondary, Adult, and Extension Education

§ 15b.20 Applicability.

Except as otherwise noted, this subpart applies to public and private schools, elementary, secondary, adult, and extension education programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance provided by the Department of Agriculture after the effective date of this part and to recipients that

operate, or that receive Federal financial assistance for the operation of, such programs or activities.

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 55 FR 52139, Dec. 19, 1990; 68 FR 51343, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 15b.21 Location and notification.

A recipient that operates a public elementary or secondary education program or activity shall annually:

(a) Undertake to identify and locate every qualified handicapped person residing in the recipient's jurisdiction who is not receiving a public education; and

(b) Take appropriate steps to notify handicapped persons and their parents or guardians of the recipient's duty under this subpart.

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 68 FR 51343, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 15b.22 Free appropriate public education.

(a) *General.* A recipient that operates a public elementary or secondary education program or activity shall provide a free appropriate public education to each qualified handicapped person who is in the recipient's jurisdiction, regardless of the nature or severity of the person's handicap.

(b) *Appropriate education.* (1) For the purpose of this subpart, the provision of an appropriate education is the provision of regular or special education and related aids and services that (i) are designed to meet individual educational needs of handicapped persons as adequately as the needs of nonhandicapped persons are met and (ii) are based upon adherence to procedures that satisfy the requirements of §§ 15b.23, 15b.24, and ;15b.25.

(2) Implementation of an Individualized Education Program developed in accordance with the Education of the Handicapped Act is one means of meeting the standard established in paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section.

(3) A recipient may place a handicapped person or refer such person for aid, benefits, or services other than those that it operates or provides as its means of carrying out the requirements of this subpart. If so, the recipient remains responsible for ensuring that the requirements of this subpart are met with respect to any handicapped person so placed or referred.

(c) *Free education*—(1) *General.* For the purpose of this section, the provision of a free education is the provision of educational and related services without cost to handicapped persons or their parents or guardians, except for those fees that are imposed on nonhandicapped persons or their parents or guardians. It may consist either of the provision of free services or, if a recipient places a handicapped person in or refers such person for aid, benefits, or services not operated or provided by the recipient as its means of carrying out the requirements of this subpart, payment for the costs of the aid, benefits, or services. Funds available from any public or private agency may be used to meet the requirements of this subpart. Nothing in this section shall be construed to relieve an insurer or similar third party from an otherwise valid obligation to provide or pay for services provided to a handicapped person.

(2) *Transportation.* If a recipient places a handicapped person or refers such person for aid, benefits, or services not operated or provided by the recipient as its means of carrying out the requirements of this subpart, the recipient shall ensure that adequate transportation to and from aid, benefits, or services is provided at no greater cost than would be incurred by the person or his or her parents or guardian if the person were placed in the program operated by the recipient.

(3) *Residential placement.* If a public or private residential placement is necessary to provide a free appropriate public education to a handicapped person because of their handicap, the placement, including nonmedical care and room and board, shall be provided at no cost to the person or his or her parents or guardian.

(4) *Placement of handicapped persons by parents.* If a recipient has made available in conformance with the requirements of this section and § 15b.23, a free appropriate public education to a handicapped person and the person's parents or guardian choose to place the person in a private school, the recipient is not required to pay for the person's education in the private school.

Disagreements between a parent or guardian and a recipient regarding whether the recipient has made a free appropriate education available or otherwise regarding the question of financial responsibility are subject to the due process procedures of §15b.25.

(d) *Compliance.* A recipient may not exclude any qualified handicapped person from a public elementary or secondary education after the effective date of this regulation. A recipient that is not, on the effective date of this regulation, in full compliance with the other requirements of the preceding paragraphs of this section shall meet such requirements at the earliest practicable time but in no event later than September 1, 1982.

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 68 FR 51343, Aug. 26, 2003]

§15b.23 Educational setting.

(a) *Academic setting.* A recipient to which this subpart applies shall educate, or shall provide for the education of each qualified handicapped person in its jurisdiction with persons who are not handicapped to the maximum extent appropriate to the needs of the handicapped person. A recipient shall place a handicapped person in the regular educational environment operated by the recipient unless it is demonstrated by the recipient that the education of the person in the regular environment with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. Whenever a recipient places a person in a setting other than the regular educational environment pursuant to this paragraph, it shall take into account the proximity of the alternate setting to the person's home.

(b) *Nonacademic setting.* In providing or arranging for the provision of nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities, including meals, recess periods, and the services and activities set forth in §15b.26(a)(2), a recipient shall ensure that handicapped persons participate with nonhandicapped persons in such activities and services to the maximum extent appropriate to the needs of the handicapped person in question.

(c) *Comparable facilities.* If a recipient, in compliance with paragraph (a) of this section, operates a facility that is identifiable as being for handicapped persons, the recipient shall ensure that the facility and the services and activities provided therein are comparable to the other facilities, services, and activities of the recipient.

§15b.24 Evaluation and placement.

(a) *Placement evaluation.* A recipient that operates a public elementary or secondary education program or activity shall conduct an evaluation in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (b) of this section of any person who, because of handicap, needs or is believed to need special education or related services before taking any action with respect to the initial placement of the person in regular or special education and any subsequent significant change in placement.

(b) *Evaluation procedures.* A recipient to which this section applies shall establish standards and procedures for the evaluation and placement of persons who, because of handicap, need or are believed to need special education or related services which ensure that:

(1) Tests and other evaluation materials have been validated for the specific purpose for which they are used and are administered by trained personnel in conformance with the instructions provided by their producer;

(2) Tests and other evaluation materials include those tailored to assess specific areas of educational need and not merely those which are designed to provide a single general intelligence quotient; and

(3) Tests are selected and administered so as best to ensure that, when a test is administered to a student with impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills, the test results accurately reflect the student's aptitude or achievement level or whatever other factor the test purports to measure, rather than reflecting the student's impaired sensory, manual or speaking skills (except where those skills are the factors that the test purports to measure).

(c) *Placement procedures.* In interpreting evaluation data and in making placement decisions, a recipient shall (1) draw upon information from a variety of sources, including aptitude and

achievement tests, teacher recommendations, physical conditions, social or cultural background, and adaptive behavior, (2) establish procedures to ensure that information obtained from all such sources is documented and carefully considered, (3) ensure that the placement decision is made by a group of persons, including persons knowledgeable about the child, the meaning of the evaluation data, and the placement options, and (4) ensure that the placement decision is made in conformity with § 15b.23.

(d) *Reevaluation.* A recipient to which this section applies shall establish procedures, in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section, for periodic reevaluation of students who have been provided special education and related services. A reevaluation procedure consistent with the Education for the Handicapped Act is one means of meeting this requirement.

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 68 FR 51343, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 15b.25 Procedural safeguards.

A recipient that provides a public elementary or secondary education shall establish and implement, with respect to action regarding the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of persons who, because of handicap, need or are believed to need special instruction or related services, a system of procedural safeguards that includes notice, an opportunity for the parents or guardian of the person to examine relevant records, an impartial hearing with opportunity for participation by the person's parents or guardian and representation by counsel, and a review procedure. Compliance with the procedural safeguards of section 615 of the Education of the Handicapped Act is one means of meeting this requirement.

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 68 FR 51343, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 15b.26 Nonacademic services.

(a) *General.* (1) Recipients to which this subpart applies shall provide nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities in such a manner as is necessary to afford handicapped students an equal opportunity for participation in such services and activities.

(2) Nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities may include counseling services, physical education and athletics, food services, transportation, health services, recreational activities, special interest groups or clubs sponsored by the recipient, referrals to agencies which provide assistance to handicapped persons, and assistance in obtaining outside employment.

(b) *Counseling services.* A recipient to which this subpart applies that provides personal, academic, or vocational counseling, guidance, or placement services to its students shall provide these services without discrimination on the basis of handicap. The recipient shall ensure that qualified handicapped students are not counseled toward more restrictive career objectives than are nonhandicapped students with similar interests and abilities.

(c) *Physical education and athletics.* (1) In providing physical education courses and athletics and similar aid, benefits, and services to any of its students, a recipient to which this subpart applies may not discriminate on the basis of handicap. A recipient that offers physical education courses or that operates or sponsors interscholastic, club, or intramural athletics shall provide to qualified handicapped students an equal opportunity for participation.

(2) A recipient may offer handicapped students physical education and athletic activities that are separate or different from those offered to nonhandicapped students only if separation or differentiation is consistent with requirements of § 15b.23, and only if no qualified handicapped student is denied the opportunity to compete for teams or to participate in courses that are not separate or different.

(d) *Food services.* In providing food services to any of its students, a recipient to which this subpart applies may not discriminate on the basis of handicap. (1) Recipients shall serve special meals, at no extra charge, to students whose handicap restricts their diet. Recipients may require students to provide medical certification that special meals are needed because of their handicap.

(2) Where existing food service facilities are not completely accessible and usable, recipients may provide aides or use other equally effective methods to serve food to handicapped persons. Recipients shall provide all food services in the most intergrated setting appropriate to the needs of handicapped persons as required by §15b.23(b).

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 68 FR 51343, Aug. 26, 2003]

§15b.27 Extension education.

(a) *General.* A recipient to which this subpart applies that provides extension education may not, on the basis of handicap, exclude qualified handicapped persons. A recipient shall take into account the needs of such persons in determining the benefits or services to be provided.

(b) *Delivery sites.* (1) Where existing extension office facilities are inaccessible, recipients may make aid, benefits, or services normally provided at those sites available to qualified handicapped persons through other methods which are equally effective. These methods may include meetings in accessible locations, home visits, written or telephonic communications, and other equally effective alternatives.

(2) For aid, benefits, or services delivered at other publicly-owned facilities, recipients shall select accessible facilities wherever possible. If accessible facilities cannot be selected because they are unavailable or infeasible due to the nature of the activity, recipients shall use other methods to deliver aid, benefits, or services to qualified handicapped persons. These methods may include the redesign of activities or some sessions of activities, the provision of aides, home visits, or other equally effective alternatives.

(3) For aid, benefits, or services delivered at privately-owned facilities, such as homes and farm buildings, recipients shall use accessible facilities whenever qualified handicapped persons requiring such accessibility are participating, have expressed an interest in participating, or are likely to participate. If accessible facilities cannot be selected because they are unavailable or infeasible due to the nature of the activity, recipients shall use other methods to deliver aid, benefits, or services to qualified handicapped persons. These methods may include the redesign of activities or some sessions of activities, the provision of aides, home visits, or other equally effective alternatives.

(4) Recipients shall make camping activities accessible to qualified handicapped persons. Recipients are not required to make every existing camp, all existing camp facilities, or all camp sessions accessible, but recipients who operate more than one camp or session may not limit qualified handicapped persons to one camp or session.

(c) *Materials.* Recipients shall make materials accessible to qualified handicapped persons with sensory or mental impairments. Commonly-used materials shall be readily available in alternate forms such as Braille or tape. Upon request, recipients shall make other materials available through appropriate means such as Braille, tape, readers, large print formats, simplified versions, written scripts, or interpreters. Recipients need not provide individually prescribed devices, readers for personal use or study, or other devices or services of a personal nature.

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 68 FR 51342, 51343, Aug. 26, 2003]

§15b.28 Private education.

(a) A recipient that provides private elementary or secondary education may not, on the basis of handicap, exclude a qualified handicapped person if the person can, with minor adjustments, be provided an appropriate education, as defined by §15b.22(b)(1)(i). Each recipient to which this section applies is also subject to the provisions of §§15b.23 and 15b.26.

(b) A recipient to which this section applies may not charge more for the provision of an appropriate education to handicapped persons than to nonhandicapped persons except to the extent that any additional charge is justified by a substantial increase in cost to the recipient.

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 68 FR 51343, Aug. 26, 2003]

Subpart E—Postsecondary Education

§ 15b.29 Applicability.

Subpart E applies to public and private postsecondary education programs or activities, including postsecondary vocational education programs and activities, that receive Federal financial assistance provided by the Department of Agriculture after the effective date of this part.

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 55 FR 52139, Dec. 19, 1990; 68 FR 51343, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 15b.30 Admissions and recruitment.

(a) *General.* Qualified handicapped persons may not, on the basis of handicap, be denied admission or be subjected to discrimination in admission or recruitment by a recipient to which this subpart applies.

(b) *Admissions.* In administering its admission policies, a recipient to which this subpart applies:

(1) May not apply limitations upon the number or proportion of handicapped persons who may be admitted;

(2) May not make use of any test or criterion for admission that has a disproportionate, adverse effect on handicapped persons or any class of handicapped persons unless (i) the test or criterion, as used by the recipient, has been validated as a predictor of success in the education program or activity in question and (ii) alternate tests or criteria that have a less disproportionate, adverse effect are not shown by the Secretary to be available.

(3) Shall assure itself that (i) admissions tests are selected and administered so as best to ensure that, when a test is administered to an applicant who has a handicap that impairs sensory, manual, or speaking skills, the test results accurately reflect the applicant's aptitude or achievement level or whatever other factor the test purports to measure, rather than reflecting the applicant's impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills (except where those skills are the factors that the test purports to measure); (ii) admissions tests that are designed for persons with impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills are offered as often and in as timely a manner as are other admissions tests; and (iii) admissions tests are administered in facilities that, on the whole, are accessible to handicapped persons; and

(4) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, may not make preadmission inquiry as to whether an applicant for admission is a handicapped person but, after admission, may take inquiries on a confidential basis as to handicaps that may require accommodation.

(c) *Preadmission inquiry exception.* When a recipient is taking remedial action to correct the effects of past discrimination pursuant to §15b.8(a) or when a recipient is taking voluntary action to overcome the effects of conditions that resulted in limited participation in its federally assisted program or activity pursuant to §15b.8(b), the recipient may invite applicants for admissions to indicate whether and to what extent they are handicapped: *Provided,* That (1) the recipient states clearly on any written questionnaire used for this purpose or makes clear orally if no written questionnaire is used that the information requested is intended for use solely in connection with its remedial action obligations or its voluntary action efforts; and (2) the recipient states clearly that the information is being requested on a voluntary basis, that it will be kept confidential, that refusal to provide it will not subject the applicant to any adverse treatment, and that it will be used only in accordance with this part.

(d) *Validity studies.* For the purpose of paragraph (b)(2) of this section, a recipient may base prediction equations on first year grades, but shall conduct periodic validity studies against the criterion of overall success in the education program or activity in question in order to monitor the general validity of the test scores.

§ 15b.31 Treatment of students.

(a) *General.* No qualified handicapped student shall, on the basis of handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any

academic, research, occupational training, housing, health, insurance, counseling, financial aid, physical education, athletics, recreation, transportation, other extracurricular, other postsecondary education aid, benefits, or services to which this subpart applies.

(b) A recipient to which this subpart applies that considers participation by students in education programs or activities not operated wholly by the recipient as part of, or equivalent to, an education program or activity operated by the recipient shall assure itself that the other education program or activity, as a whole, provides an equal opportunity for the participation of qualified handicapped persons.

(c) A recipient to which this subpart applies may not, on the basis of handicap, exclude any qualified handicapped student from any course, course of study, or other part of its education program or activity.

(d) A recipient to which this subpart applies shall operate its programs or activities in the most integrated setting appropriate.

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 68 FR 51343, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 15b.32 Academic adjustments.

(a) *Academic requirements.* A recipient to which this subpart applies shall make such modifications to its academic requirements as are necessary to ensure that such requirements do not discriminate or have the effect of discriminating on the basis of handicap, against a qualified handicapped applicant or student. Academic requirements that the recipient can demonstrate are essential to the instruction being pursued by such student or to any directly related licensing requirement will not be regarded as discriminatory within the meaning of this section. Modifications may include changes in the length of time permitted for the completion of degree requirements, substitution of specific courses required for the completion of degree requirements, and adaptation of the manner in which specific courses are conducted.

(b) *Other rules.* A recipient to which this subpart applies may not impose upon handicapped students other rules, such as the prohibition of tape recorders in classrooms or of dog guides in campus buildings, that have the effect of limiting the participation of handicapped students in the recipient's education program or activity.

(c) *Course examinations.* In its course examinations or other procedures for evaluating students' academic achievement, a recipient to which this subpart applies shall provide such methods for evaluating the achievement of students who have a handicap that impairs sensory, manual, or speaking skills as will best ensure that the results of the evaluation represent the students' achievements in the course, rather than reflecting the students' impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills (except where such skills are the factors that the test purports to measure).

(d) *Auxiliary aids.* (1) A recipient to which this subpart applies shall take such steps as are necessary to ensure that no handicapped student is denied the benefits of, excluded from participation in, or otherwise subjected to discrimination because of the absence of educational auxiliary aids for students with impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills.

(2) Auxiliary aids may include taped texts, interpreters or other effective methods of making orally delivered materials available to students with hearing impairments, readers in libraries for students with visual impairments, classroom equipment adapted for use by students with manual impairments, and other similar services and actions. Recipients need not provide attendants, individually prescribed devices, readers for personal use or study, or other devices or services of a personal nature.

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 68 FR 51343, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 15b.33 Housing.

(a) *Housing provided by the recipient.* A recipient that provides housing to its nonhandicapped students shall provide comparable, convenient, and accessible housing to handicapped students at the same cost as to others. At the end of the transition period provided for in subpart C, such housing shall be available in sufficient quantity and variety

so that the scope of handicapped students' choice of living accommodations is, as a whole, comparable to that of nonhandicapped students.

(b) *Other housing.* A recipient that assists any agency, organization, or person in making housing available to any of its students shall take such action as may be necessary to assure itself that such housing is, as a whole, made available in a manner that does not result in discrimination on the basis of handicap.

§ 15b.34 Financial and employment assistance to students.

(a) *Provision of financial assistance.* (1) In providing financial assistance to qualified handicapped persons, a recipient to which this subpart applies may not, (i) on the basis of handicap, provide less assistance than is provided to nonhandicapped persons, limit eligibility for assistance, or otherwise discriminate or (ii) assist any entity or person that provides assistance to any of the recipient's students in a manner that discriminates against qualified handicapped persons on the basis of handicap.

(2) A recipient may administer or assist in the administration of scholarships, fellowships, or other forms of financial assistance established under wills, trusts, bequests, or similar legal instruments that require awards to be made on the basis of factors that discriminate or have the effect of discriminating on the basis of handicap only if the overall effect of the award of scholarships, fellowships, and other forms of financial assistance is not discriminatory on the basis of handicap.

(b) *Assistance in making available outside employment.* A recipient that assists any agency, organization, or person in providing employment opportunities to any of its students shall assure itself that such employment opportunities, as a whole, are made available in a manner that would not violate subpart B if they were provided by the recipient.

(c) *Employment of students by recipients.* A recipient that employs any of its students may not do so in a manner that violates subpart B.

§ 15b.35 Nonacademic services.

(a) *Physical education and athletics.* (1) In providing physical education courses and athletics and similar aid, benefits, or services to any of its students, a recipient to which this subpart applies may not discriminate on the basis of handicap. A recipient that offers physical education courses or that operates or sponsors intercollegiate, club, or intramural athletics shall provide to qualified handicapped students an equal opportunity for participation in these activities.

(2) A recipient may offer to handicapped students physical education and athletic activities that are separate or different only if separation or differentiation is consistent with the requirements of §15b.31(d) and only of no qualified handicapped student is denied the opportunity to compete for teams or to participate in courses that are not separate or different.

(b) *Counseling and placement services.* A recipient to which this subpart applies that provides personal, academic, or vocational counseling, guidance, or placement services to its students shall provide these services without discrimination on the basis of handicap. The recipient shall ensure that qualified handicapped students are not counseled toward more restrictive career objectives than are nonhandcapped students with similar interests and abilities. This requirement does not preclude a recipient from providing factual information about licensing and certification requirements that may present obstacles to handicapped persons in their pursuit of particular careers.

(c) *Social organizations.* A recipient that provides significant assistance to fraternities, sororities, or similar organizations shall assure itself that the membership practices of such organizations do not permit discrimination otherwise prohibited by this subpart.

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 68 FR 51343, Aug. 26, 2003]

Subpart F—Other Aid, Benefits, or Services

§ 15b.36 Applicability.

Subpart F applies to aid, benefits, or services, other than those covered by subparts D and E, that receive Federal financial assistance provided by the Department of Agriculture after the effective date of this part.

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 55 FR 52139, Dec. 19, 1990; 68 FR 51343, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 15b.37 Auxiliary aids.

(a) A recipient to which this subpart applies that employs fifteen or more persons shall provide appropriate auxiliary aids to persons with impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills, where necessary to afford such persons an equal opportunity to benefit from the service in question.

(b) The Secretary may require recipients with fewer than fifteen employees to provide auxiliary aids where the provision of aids would not significantly impair the ability of the recipient to provide its benefits or services.

(c) For the purpose of this section, auxiliary aids may include Brailled and taped material, interpreters, and other aids for persons with impaired hearing or vision.

§ 15b.38 Health care facilities.

(a) *Communications.* A recipient that provides notice concerning benefits or services or written material concerning waivers of rights or consent to treatment shall take such steps as are necessary to ensure that qualified handicapped persons, including those with impaired sensory or speaking skills, are not denied effective notice because of their handicap.

(b) *Emergency treatment for the hearing impaired.* A recipient hospital that provides health services or benefits shall establish a procedure for effective communication with persons with impaired hearing for the purpose of providing emergency health care.

(c) *Drug and alcohol addicts.* A recipient to which this subpart applies that operates a general hospital or outpatient facility may not discriminate in admission or treatment against a drug or alcohol abuser or alcoholic who is suffering from a medical condition, because of the person's drug or alcohol abuse or alcoholism.

§ 15b.39 Education of institutionalized persons.

A recipient to which this subpart applies that operates or supervises a program or activity that provides aid, benefits, or services for persons who are institutionalized because of handicap shall ensure that each qualified handicapped person, as defined in §15b.3(n)(2), in its program or activity is provided an appropriate education, as defined in §15b.22(b). Nothing in this section shall be interpreted as altering in any way the obligations of recipients under subpart D.

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 68 FR 51343, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 15b.40 Food services.

(a) Recipients which provide food services shall serve special meals, at no extra charge, to persons whose handicap restricts their diet. Recipients may require handicapped persons to provide medical certification that special meals are needed because of their handicap.

(b) Where existing food service facilities are not completely accessible and usable, recipients may provide aides or use other equally effective methods to serve food to handicapped persons. Recipients shall provide all food services in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of handicapped persons.

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 68 FR 51343, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 15b.41 Multi-family rental housing.

(a) *General.* No qualified handicapped person shall, on the basis of handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in multi-family rental housing.

(b) *New construction.* (1) Recipients receiving assistance from the Department for multi-family rental housing projects constructed after the effective date of this part shall construct at least five percent of the units in the

project or one unit, whichever is greater, to be accessible to or adaptable for physically handicapped persons. The requirement that five percent of the units in the project or at least one unit, whichever is greater, be accessible or adaptable may be modified if a recipient shows, through a market survey approved by the Department, that a different percentage of accessible or adaptable units is appropriate for a particular project and its service area.

(i) The variety of units accessible to or adaptable for physically handicapped persons shall be comparable to the variety of units available in the project as a whole.

(ii) No extra charge may be made for use of accessible or adaptable units.

(iii) A recipient that operates multifamily rental housing projects on more than one site may not locate all accessible or adaptable units at one site unless only one accessible or adaptable unit is required.

(2) Standards for accessibility are contained in subpart C and in appropriate regulations.

(c) *Existing facilities.* Recipients receiving assistance from the Department for multi-family rental housing projects constructed prior to the effective date of this part shall assure that their facilities comply with the accessibility requirements established in §15b.18 if a qualified handicapped person applies for admission. Necessary physical alterations made pursuant to such requirements shall be completed within a reasonable amount of time after the unit becomes available for occupancy by the qualified handicapped person. Subject to the availability of funds and fulfillment by the recipient of all program eligibility requirements, the Department may assist recipients to comply with accessibility requirements through methods such as (1) consideration of subsequent loan applications for purposes of making existing facilities accessible or for the construction of additional units which are accessible and (2) consideration of approval to commit project reserve account funds for minor modifications in order to make existing facilities accessible.

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 68 FR 51343, Aug. 26, 2003]

Subpart G—Procedures

§15b.42 Procedures.

The procedural provisions applicable to title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 apply to this part. These procedures are found in 7 CFR 15.5–15.11 and 15.60–15.143.

APPENDIX A TO PART 15b—LIST OF FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM USDA

The types of Federal financial assistance administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture include but are not limited to the following:

Type of Federal Financial Assistance	Authority
Administered by the Agricultural Cooperative Service	
1. Technical assistance for agricultural cooperatives.	Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926, 7 U.S.C., Secs. 451–457.
Administered by the Agricultural Marketing Service	
2. Federal-State marketing improvement program.	Sec. 204(b) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, 7 U.S.C. 1623(b).
3. Market news service	Sec. 203(g) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, 7 U.S.C. 1622(g); the Cotton Statistics and Estimates Act, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 471–476; the Tobacco Statistics Act, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 501–508; the Tobacco Inspection Act, 7 U.S.C. 511–511(q); the Naval Stores Act, 7 U.S.C. 91–99; the Turpentine and Rosin Statistics Act, 7 U.S.C. 2248; the United States Cotton Futures Act, 7 U.S.C. 15b; and the Peanut Statistics Act as amended, 7 U.S.C. 951–957.

Type of Federal Financial Assistance	Authority
Administered by the Agricultural Research Service	
4. Agriculture research grants	Secs. 1 and 10 of the Act of June 29, 1935, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 427 and 427i; and 202–208 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 1621–1627.
Administered by the Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service	
5. Price support programs operating through producer associations, cooperatives, and other recipients in which the recipient is required to furnish specified benefits to producers (e.g., tobacco, peanuts, sugar, cotton, rice, honey and soybeans price support programs).	Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 1421–1447.
6. Disaster feed donation programs	Section 407 of the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 1427.
Administered by the Cooperative State Research Service	
7. Payments under the Hatch Act	Hatch Act of 1887, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 361a–361i.
8. McIntire-Stennis cooperative forestry research.	Act of October 10, 1962, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 582a–582a–7.
9. Payments to 1890 colleges and Tuskegee Institute for research.	Sec. 1445 of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 3222.
10. Native latex research	Native Latex Commercialization and Economic Development Act of 1978, 7 U.S.C. 178 *et seq.*
11. Alcohol Fuels research	Sec. 1419 of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 3154.
12. Animal Health Research	Sec. 1433 of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 3195.
13. Competitive research grants	Sec. 2(b) of the Act of August 4, 1965, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 450i(b).
14. Experiment station research facilities	Act of July 22, 1963, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 390–390j.
15. Special research grants	Sec. 2(c) of the Act of August 4, 1965, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 450i(c).
16. Rural development research	Title V of the Rural Development Act of 1972, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 2661 *et. seq.*
Administered by Extension Service	
17. Cooperative extension work	Smith-Lever Act, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 341–349; District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act, D.C. Code Secs. 31–1719; Rural Development Act of 1972, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 2661 *et. seq.;* Sec. 1444 of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977, 7 U.S.C. 3221.
Administered by Farmers Home Administration	
18. Farm ownership loans to install or improve recreational facilities or other nonfarm enterprises.	Sec. 303 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 1923.
19. Operating loans to install or improve recreational facilities or other nonfarm enterprises.	Sec. 312 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 1942.
20. Soil and water conservation, (including pollution abatement facilities), and recreational facilities.	Sec. 304 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 1924.
21. Financial and other assistance to landowners, operators, or occupiers to carry out land uses and conservation.	Sec. 203 of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, as amended, 40 U.S.C. App. 203.
22. Rural renewal, resource, conservation development, land conservation and utilization.	Secs. 31–35 of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 1010–1035.
23. Watershed protection and flood prevention program.	Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1001–1008.
24. Resource conservation and development loans.	Sec. 32(e) of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 1011(e).
25. Farm labor housing loans	Sec. 514 of the Housing Act of 1949, 42 U.S.C. 1484.
26. Farm labor housing grants	Sec. 516 of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1486.
27. Rural rental housing for the elderly and families of low and moderate income persons.	Sec. 515 of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1485.
28. Rural cooperative housing	Sec. 515 of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1485.
29. Rural housing site loans	Sec. 524 of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1490d.
30. Technical and supervisory assistance grants.	Sec. 525 of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1490e.
31. Technical assistance grants	Sec. 523 of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1490c.
32. Rural housing self-help site loans	Sec. 523 of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1490c.
33. Mutual self-help housing	Sec. 523 of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1490c.

Type of Federal Financial Assistance	Authority
34. Water and waste facility loans and grants and community facility loans and grants.	Sec. 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 1926.
35. Rural and industrial loan program	Sec. 310(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 1932(a).
36. Private business enterprise grants	Sec. 310(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 1932(c).
37. Area development assistance planning grant program.	Sec. 306(a)(11) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(11).
38. Energy impacted area development assistance program.	Sec. 601 of the Power Plant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978, 42 U.S.C. 8401.
Administered by the Federal Grain Inspection Service	
39. Inspection administration and supervision	U.S. Grain Standards Act, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 71–87; and, Sec. 203(h) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, 7 U.S.C. 1621–1630.
Administered by the Food and Nutrition Service	
40. Food stamp program	Food Stamp Act of 1964, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 2011–2027.
41. Special supplemental food program for women, infants, and children (WIC).	Sec. 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1786.
42. Commodity supplemental food program	Sec. 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 612c; Sec. 416 of the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 1431.
43. Food distribution program	Sec. 416 of the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 1431; Sec. 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 612c; Secs. 6, 13 and 17 of the National School Lunch Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1755, 1761, 1766; Sec. 8 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. 1777; Sec. 709 of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1965, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 1446a–1.
44. National school lunch program	National School Lunch Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1751–1769a.
45. School breakfast program	Sec. 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1773.
46. Special milk program	Sec. 3 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1772.
47. Food service equipment assistance	Sec. 5 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1774; Sec. 5 of the National School Lunch Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1754.
48. Summer food service program	Sec. 13 of the National School Lunch Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1761.
49. Child care food program	Sec. 17 of the National School Lunch Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1766.
50. Nutrition education and training program	Secs. 18 and 19 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. 1787, 1788.
Administered by the Food Safety and Inspection Service	
51. Payments to States for the inspection of egg handlers to insure that they are properly disposing of restricted eggs.	Egg Products Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. 1031–1056.
52. Financial and technical assistance to States for meat inspection activities.	Federal Meat Inspection Act, as amended, 21 U.S.C. 601–695.
53. Financial and technical assistance to States for poultry inspection activities.	Poultry Products Inspection Act, as amended, 21 U.S.C. 451–470.
54. Financial and technical assistance to States for meat and poultry inspection activities.	Talmadge-Aiken Act, 7 U.S.C. 450.
Administered by the Forest Service	
55. Permits for use of National Forests and National Grasslands by other than individuals at a nominal or no charge.	Act of June 4, 1897, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 551; Sec. 501 of the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1761; Term Permit Act of March 4, 1915; as amended, 16 U.S.C. 497; Secs. 3 and 4 of the American Antiquities Act of June 8, 1906, 16 U.S.C. 432; Sec. 32 of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 1011.
56. Permit for land use of Government-owned improvements by other than individuals at a nominal charge.	Sec. 7 of the Granger-Thye Act of April 24, 1950, 16 U.S.C. 580d.
57. Permits for disposal of common varieties of mineral materials from lands under the Forest Service jurisdiction for use by other than individuals at a nominal or no charge.	Secs. 1–4 of the Act of July 31, 1947, as amended, 30 U.S.C. 601–603, 611.
58. Easements for use of National Forests and Grasslands by other than individuals at a nominal or no charge.	Sec. 32 of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 1011; Sec. 501 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1761.
59. Easements for road rights-of-way over lands administered by the Forest Service.	Sec. 2 of the Act of October 13, 1964, 16 U.S.C. 533.
60. Road rights-of-way	Federal Highway Act of 1958, 23 U.S.C. 107, 317.
61. Rights-of-ways for wagon roads or railroads	Sec. 501 of the Act of March 3, 1899, 16 U.S.C. 525.
62. Timber granted free or at nominal cost to any group.	Sec. 1 of the Act of June 4, 1897, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 551; Sec. 32 of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 1011.

Type of Federal Financial Assistance	Authority
63. Transfer for fire-lookout towers, improvements and land to States political subdivisions.	Sec. 5 of the Act of June 20, 1958, 16 U.S.C. 565b.
64. Payment of 25 percent of National Forest receipts to States for schools and roads.	Act of May 23, 1908, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 500.
65. Payment to Minnesota from National Forest receipts of a sum based on a formula.	Sec. 5 of the Act of June 22, 1948, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 577g, 577g–1.
66. Payment of 25 percent of net revenues from Title III, Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act lands to counties for schools and road purposes.	Sec. 33 of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 1012.
67. Cooperative action to protect, develop, manage, and utilize forest resources on State and private lands.	Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, 16 U.S.C. 2101–2111.
68. Advance of funds for cooperative research	Sec. 20 of the Granger-Thye Act of April 24, 1950, 16 U.S.C. 581i–1.
69. Grants for support of scientific research	Act of September 6, 1958, 42 U.S.C. 1891–1893.
70. Research cooperation	Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Planning Act of 1974, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1600–1614.
71. Youth conservation corps State grant program.	Act of August 13, 1970, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1701–1706.
72. Young adult conservation corps State grant program.	Secs. 801–809 of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, as amended, 29 U.S.C. 991–999.
73. Grants to Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire for the purpose of assisting economically disadvantaged citizens over 55 years of age.	Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 3001–3057g.
74. Senior community service employment program (SCSEP).	Sec. 902(b)(2) of Title IX of the Older Americans Amendments of 1975, 42 U.S.C.
Administered by the Rural Electrification Administration	
75. Rural electrification and rural telephone programs.	Rural Electrification Act of 1963, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 901–950b.
76. CATV, community facilities program	Secs. 306 and 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act of 1979, 7 U.S.C. 1926, 1932.
Administered by Science and Education Program Staff	
77. Higher education	Sec. 22 of the Act of June 29, 1935, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 329; Sec. 1417 of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977, 7 U.S.C. 3152.
Administered by the Soil Conservation Service	
78. Soil and water conservation	Secs. 1–6 and 17 of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 590a–590f, 590q.
79. Plant materials for conservation	Secs. 1–6 and 17 of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 590a–590f, 590q.
80. Resource, conservation and development ..	Secs. 31 and 32 of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 1010, 1111; Secs. 1–6 and 17 of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 590a–590f, 590q.
81. Watershed protection and flood prevention	Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1001–1008.
82. Great plains conservation	Secs. 1–6 and 17 of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 590a–590f, 590q.
83. Soil survey	Secs. 1–6 and 17 of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 590a–590f, 590q.
84. River basin surveys and investigations	Sec. 6 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, 16 U.S.C. 1006.
85. Snow survey and water supply forecasting	Secs. 1–6 and 17 of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 590a–590f, 590q.
86. Land inventory and monitoring	Secs. 1–6 and 17 of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 590a–590f, 590q; Sec. 302 of the Rural Development Act of 1972, 7 U.S.C. 1010a.
87. Resource appraisal and program development.	Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977, 16 U.S.C. 2001–2009.
88. Rural clean water program	Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1251–1376.
89. Rural abandoned mine program	Secs. 406–413 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, 30 U.S.C. 1236–1243.
90. Emergency watershed protection	Sec. 7 of the Act of June 28, 1938, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 701b–1; Sec. 403, Agriculture Credit Act of 1978, 16 U.S.C. 2203.
91. Eleven authorized watershed projects	Sec. 13 of the Act of December 22, 1944, 58 Stat. 905.

Type of Federal Financial Assistance	Authority
Administered by the Office of Transportation	
92. Transportation services	Sec. 201 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, 7 U.S.C. 1291; Sec. 203(j) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 1622(l); Sec. 104 of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 1704.

[47 FR 25470, June 11, 1982, as amended at 68 FR 51342, Aug. 26, 2003]

PART 15c—NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF AGE IN PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES RECEIVING FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Sec.

15c.1 Purpose.
15c.2 Definitions.
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15c.4 Assurance and notice requirements.
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APPENDIX A TO 7 CFR PART 15C—AGE DISTINCTIONS IN FEDERAL STATUTES OR REGULATIONS AFFECTING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTERED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301; 42 U.S.C. 6101 *et seq.*

SOURCE: 79 FR 73192, Dec. 10, 2014, unless otherwise noted.

§ 15c.1 Purpose.

The purpose of this part is to establish the nondiscrimination policy of the USDA on the basis of age in programs and activities funded in whole or in part by USDA, in compliance with the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (Age Act), and the requirements set by the HHS in its Government-wide regulation at 45 CFR part 90.

§ 15c.2 Definitions.

Action means any act, activity, policy, rule, standard, or method of administration or use of any policy, rule, standard or method of administration.

Age Act means The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6101 *et seq.*

Age means the number of elapsed years from the date of a person's birth.

Age distinction means any action using age or an age-related term.

Age-related term means a word or words that necessarily imply a particular age or range of ages (*e.g.* ''children,'' ''adult,'' or ''older person'').

Agency means a major organizational unit of USDA with delegated authorities to deliver programs, activities, benefits, and services.

Agency Head means the head of any agency within USDA which may hold the title Administrator, Chief, or Director depending on the agency.

Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) means the civil rights officer for USDA responsible for the performance and oversight of all civil rights functions within USDA, and who retains the authority to delegate civil rights functions to heads of USDA agencies and offices. The ASCR is also responsible for evaluating agency heads on their performance of civil rights functions.

Beneficiary means a person or group of persons with an entitlement to receive or enjoy the benefits, services, resources, and information from, or to participate in, the activities and programs funded in whole or in part by USDA.

Complainant means any person or group of persons who files with any USDA agency a complaint that alleges discrimination in a program or activity funded in whole or in part by USDA.

Complaint means a written statement that contains the complainant's name and address and describes the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (OASCR) of the nature and date of the alleged