

(4) Advise the Secretary on efforts to improve employee engagement, morale, and communications within specific components and across the Department.

(5) Conduct regular meetings and report, not less than once per quarter, to the Under Secretary for Management, the head of each component, and the Secretary on Departmentwide efforts to improve employee engagement, morale, and communications.

(b) Action plan; reporting

The Secretary, acting through the Chief Human Capital Officer, shall—

(1) not later than 120 days after the date of the establishment of the employee engagement steering committee under subsection (a), issue a Departmentwide employee engagement action plan, reflecting input from the steering committee and employee feedback provided through annual employee surveys, questionnaires, and other communications in accordance with paragraph (1) of such subsection, to execute strategies to improve employee engagement, morale, and communications within the Department; and

(2) require the head of each component to—

(A) develop and implement a component-specific employee engagement plan to advance the action plan required under paragraph (1) that includes performance measures and objectives, is informed by employee feedback provided through annual employee surveys, questionnaires, and other communications, as appropriate, and sets forth how employees and, where applicable, their labor representatives are to be integrated in developing programs and initiatives;

(B) monitor progress on implementation of such action plan; and

(C) provide to the Chief Human Capital Officer and the steering committee quarterly reports on actions planned and progress made under this paragraph.

(c) Termination

This section shall terminate on the date that is five years after December 27, 2021.

(Pub. L. 107–296, title VII, § 711, as added Pub. L. 117–81, div. F, title LXIV, § 6401(a), Dec. 27, 2021, 135 Stat. 2397.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

SUBMISSIONS TO CONGRESS

Pub. L. 117–81, div. F, title LXIV, § 6401(c), Dec. 27, 2021, 135 Stat. 2398, provided that:

“(1) DEPARTMENT-WIDE EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT ACTION PLAN.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Chief Human Capital Officer of the Department of Homeland Security, shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate the Department-wide employee engagement action plan required under subsection (b)(1) of section 711 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 [this section] (as added by subsection (a) of this section) not later than 30 days after the issuance of such plan under such subsection (b)(1).

“(2) COMPONENT-SPECIFIC EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT PLANS.—Each head of a component of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives

and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate the component-specific employee engagement plan of each such component required under subsection (b)(2) of section 711 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 [this section] not later than 30 days after the issuance of each such plan under such subsection (b)(2).”

§ 352. Annual employee award program

(a) In general

The Secretary may establish an annual employee award program to recognize Department employees or groups of employees for significant contributions to the achievement of the Department's goals and missions. If such a program is established, the Secretary shall—

(1) establish within such program categories of awards, each with specific criteria, that emphasize honoring employees who are at the nonsupervisory level;

(2) publicize within the Department how any employee or group of employees may be nominated for an award;

(3) establish an internal review board comprised of representatives from Department components, headquarters, and field personnel to submit to the Secretary award recommendations regarding specific employees or groups of employees;

(4) select recipients from the pool of nominees submitted by the internal review board under paragraph (3) and convene a ceremony at which employees or groups of employees receive such awards from the Secretary; and

(5) publicize such program within the Department.

(b) Internal review board

The internal review board described in subsection (a)(3) shall, when carrying out its function under such subsection, consult with representatives from operational components and headquarters, including supervisory and non-supervisory personnel, and employee labor organizations that represent Department employees.

(c) Rule of construction

Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize additional funds to carry out the requirements of this section or to require the Secretary to provide monetary bonuses to recipients of an award under this section.

(Pub. L. 107–296, title VII, § 712, as added Pub. L. 117–81, div. F, title LXIV, § 6402(a), Dec. 27, 2021, 135 Stat. 2398.)

§ 353. Acquisition professional career program

(a) Establishment

There is established in the Department an acquisition professional career program to develop a cadre of acquisition professionals within the Department.

(b) Administration

The Under Secretary for Management shall administer the acquisition professional career program established pursuant to subsection (a).

(c) Program requirements

The Under Secretary for Management shall carry out the following with respect to the acquisition professional career program.¹

¹ So in original. Probably should be a colon.

(1) Designate the occupational series, grades, and number of acquisition positions throughout the Department to be included in the program and manage centrally such positions.

(2) Establish and publish on the Department's website eligibility criteria for candidates to participate in the program.

(3) Carry out recruitment efforts to attract candidates—

(A) from institutions of higher education, including such institutions with established acquisition specialties and courses of study, historically Black colleges and universities, and Hispanic-serving institutions;

(B) with diverse work experience outside of the Federal Government; or

(C) with military service.

(4) Hire eligible candidates for designated positions under the program.

(5) Develop a structured program comprised of acquisition training, on-the-job experience, Department-wide rotations, mentorship, shadowing, and other career development opportunities for program participants.

(6) Provide, beyond required training established for program participants, additional specialized acquisition training, including small business contracting and innovative acquisition techniques training.

(d) Reports

Not later than one year after December 27, 2021, and annually thereafter through 2027, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the acquisition professional career program. Each such report shall include the following information:

(1) The number of candidates approved for the program.

(2) The number of candidates who commenced participation in the program, including generalized information on such candidates' backgrounds with respect to education and prior work experience, but not including personally identifiable information.

(3) A breakdown of the number of participants hired under the program by type of acquisition position.

(4) A list of Department components and offices that participated in the program and information regarding length of time of each program participant in each rotation at such components or offices.

(5) Program attrition rates and post-program graduation retention data, including information on how such data compare to the prior year's data, as available.

(6) The Department's recruiting efforts for the program.

(7) The Department's efforts to promote retention of program participants.

(e) Definitions

In this section:

(1) Hispanic-serving institution

The term "Hispanic-serving institution" has the meaning given such term in section 1101a of title 20.

(2) Historically Black colleges and universities

The term "historically Black colleges and universities" has the meaning given the term "part B institution" in section 1061(2) of title 20.

(3) Institution of higher education

The term "institution of higher education" has the meaning given such term in section 1001 of title 20.

(Pub. L. 107-296, title VII, § 713, as added Pub. L. 117-81, div. F, title LXIV, § 6405(a), Dec. 27, 2021, 135 Stat. 2401.)

SUBCHAPTER VIII—COORDINATION WITH NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES; INSPECTOR GENERAL; UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE; COAST GUARD; GENERAL PROVISIONS

PART A—COORDINATION WITH NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES

§ 361. Office for State and Local Government Coordination

(a) Establishment

There is established within the Office of the Secretary the Office for State and Local Government Coordination, to oversee and coordinate departmental programs for and relationships with State and local governments.

(b) Responsibilities

The Office established under subsection (a) shall—

(1) coordinate the activities of the Department relating to State and local government;

(2) assess, and advocate for, the resources needed by State and local government to implement the national strategy for combating terrorism;

(3) provide State and local government with regular information, research, and technical support to assist local efforts at securing the homeland; and

(4) develop a process for receiving meaningful input from State and local government to assist the development of the national strategy for combating terrorism and other homeland security activities.

(Pub. L. 107-296, title VIII, § 801, Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2220.)

Executive Documents

EX. ORD. NO. 13629. ESTABLISHING THE WHITE HOUSE HOMELAND SECURITY PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

Ex. Ord. No. 13629, Oct. 26, 2012, 77 F.R. 66353, provided:

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to advance the Federal Government's use of local partnerships to address homeland security challenges, it is hereby ordered as follows:

SECTION 1. *Policy.* The purpose of this order is to maximize the Federal Government's ability to develop local partnerships in the United States to support homeland security priorities. Partnerships are collaborative working relationships in which the goals, structure, and roles and responsibilities of the relationships are mutually determined. Collaboration enables the Federal Government and its partners to use resources