

XI. CIVIL RIGHTS

Civil Rights involves the training of State and local staff on issues, rules and regulations related to Civil Rights, public notification of nondiscrimination requirements, the monitoring of local agencies and clinics for compliance with Civil Rights regulations and rules, the collection of relevant racial/ethnic information and procedures for handling Civil Rights complaints.

A. Administration - 246.4(a)(16): describe the procedures the State will use to comply with the civil rights requirements described in 246.8.

B. Public Notification Requirements and Nondiscrimination Notification - 246.8(a)(1): describe the policies and procedures used to ensure that public notification regarding nondiscrimination in the WIC Program reaches all participants and potential participants through the materials used and in an appropriate language.

C. Compliance Review and Monitoring Activity - 246.8(a)(2): describe the procedures and policies used to monitor and review local agencies to verify that they are in compliance with Civil Rights laws and regulations.

D. Data Collection and Reporting - 246.8(a)(3): describe the methods used to collect and monitor racial/ethnic data.

E. Complaint Handling - 246.4(a)(16): describe the policies and practices used to ensure Civil Rights complaints are handled properly at the State and local level.

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A. Administration

1. The State agency designates an individual to coordinate, implement, conduct training and enforce civil rights efforts.

Yes No

a. The following methods are used to inform and update State and local agency staff of their obligations under civil rights rules, regulations and instructions:

	State Agency	Local Agency
Briefing for new employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Handouts for new employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Memos and updates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Presentations by civil rights coordinator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Presentations by staff other than WIC Program	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If other, specify: **Interactive Distance Learning courses: Breaking the Language Barrier; Civil Rights Complaints; Know Your Civil Rights Rules; WIC Disability Issues and Civil Rights; Race-Ethnicity Reporting and WIC Civil Rights; self-paced module.**

b. Civil rights training is provided annually.

State agency staff Yes No
 Local agency staff Yes No

c. Civil rights training includes the following:

	State Agency	Local Agency
Collection and use of racial/ethnic data	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective public notification systems	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Complaint procedures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Compliance review techniques	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Resolution of noncompliance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Requirements for reasonable accommodation of persons with disabilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Requirements for language assistance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conflict resolution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Customer Service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If other, specify:		

ADDITIONAL DETAIL: Civil Rights Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (citation):

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A. Administration

2. The State agency has copies of the following materials on file:

- FNS Instruction,113-1
- Title VI (1964), 7 CFR 15
- Title IX, Education Amendments, 7 CFR 15a (sex discrimination)
- Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 7 CFR 15b
- Racial/Ethnic data collection policy and reporting requirements
- Age Discrimination Act of 1975, 45 CFR Part 91 (draft)
- Americans with Disabilities Act, 28 CFR Part 35
- Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987

**ADDITIONAL DETAIL: Civil Rights Appendix
and/or Procedure Manual (citation):**

3. The State agency's policy for reasonable accommodation for the disabled includes the most up-to-date special provisions for the disabled.

- Yes No

(Refer to FNS Instruction 113-1, Civil Rights Compliance and Enforcement – Nutrition Programs and Activities)

**ADDITIONAL DETAIL: Civil Rights Appendix
and/or Procedure Manual (citation):**

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B. Public Notification Requirements and Nondiscrimination

1. Public Notification

a. The State agency requires its local agencies to include the nondiscrimination policy statement and civil rights complaint procedure on the following (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> outreach letters to the general public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> radio announcements |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> program information letters | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> publications |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> program information brochures | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> posters |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> program information bulletins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> newsletters |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> newspaper announcements | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> referral material |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> internet | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> television announcements |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> letters of invitation in the public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> application forms (including computer-based forms) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> hearing process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):any literature/forms available to the general public |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> certification forms to be signed by participants | |

b. The State agency requires that the USDA nondiscrimination poster, "And Justice For All," or an FNS-approved substitute be displayed in the following places frequented by applicants and participants:

- clinic waiting rooms
- food instrument issuance offices
- group/individual nutrition education areas
- test kitchens
- warehouse distribution centers
- other (specify): **prominently displayed on the premises**

c. Check the group categories that the State agency and its local agencies (LA) publicly inform of the following information (check all that apply; see key below):

- | 1 | 2 | 3 | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | availability of program benefits |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | eligibility criteria for participation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | location of LA/clinics operating WIC Program and (800) telephone numbers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | hours of service of LA/clinics operating WIC Program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | rights and responsibilities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | nondiscrimination policy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | civil rights complaint procedure |

1 = general public

2 = grassroots/community organizations that deal with potentially eligible minorities

3 = potential eligibles/applicants/participants

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B. Public Notification Requirements and Nondiscrimination

Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, however, interpreters for the deaf and hearing impaired may be professional or volunteer.

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C. Compliance Review and Monitoring Activity

1. Compliance Review

a. Civil rights reviews of local agencies are conducted:

- separately
- in conjunction with another department, organization or service
- as part of an overall review
- other (specify):

b. The State agency reviews all of its local agencies for civil rights compliance with the nondiscrimination laws and regulations when it does its reviews.

- Yes No

ADDITIONAL DETAIL: Civil Rights Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (citation):

2. Monitoring Activity

a. In addition to the local agency reviews, the State agency uses the following means to ensure that local agencies operate in a nondiscriminatory manner:

- Review of the racial/ethnic enrollment and/or participation data
- Review of denied applications
- Review of waiting lists
- Review of complaints
- Review of participant survey
- Participant interviews
- Other (specify): **follow up when a monitoring review has citations regarding civil rights.**

b. The State agency checks for the following in local agency applications:

- the local agency has corrected all past substantiated civil rights problems or noncompliance situations
- the Civil Rights Assurance is included in the State-Local Agency Agreement
- a description of the racial/ethnic makeup of the service area is included in the application
- appropriate staff, volunteers, or other translation resources are available in areas where a significant proportion of non-English or limited English-speaking persons reside

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C. Compliance Review and Monitoring Activity

c. The State agency checks for the following in its civil rights reviews of its local agencies:

- case records include racial/ethnic data
- where applicable, an explanation of why the racial/ethnic WIC participant level is not proportionate to the income eligible racial/ethnic population
- the local agency has conducted civil rights training for its staff
- the project area displays the USDA nondiscrimination poster, "And Justice For All," or an FNS-approved substitute
- program information has been provided to applicants, participants, and grassroots organizations or similar minority groups
- the nondiscrimination policy statement and civil rights complaint procedure are included on all printed materials such as applications, pamphlets, forms, or any other materials distributed to the public
- racial/ethnic data are collected by actual count and maintained on file for 3 years
- the local agency has corrected all past substantiated civil rights problems or noncompliance situations
- civil rights complaints are handled in accordance with the procedures outlined in FNS Instruction 113-1:XV

**ADDITIONAL DETAIL: Civil Rights Appendix
and/or Procedure Manual (citation):**

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D. Data Collection and Reporting

1. Data Collection

a. The State agency ensures the following when collecting civil rights data:

- all racial/ethnic categories are collected and reported as part of the program participant characteristics report
- racial/ethnic data definitions are in accordance with current OMB guidance and WIC policy, and clinic procedures are in place to ensure the data is collected accurately
- data reported on participant characteristics include the number of persons on WIC master lists or persons listed in WIC operating files who are certified to receive WIC benefits
- collected racial/ethnic data and records are accessible only to authorized personnel

b. The State agency maintains a civil rights file which retains collected racial/ethnic data for three years.

- Yes No

**ADDITIONAL DETAIL: Civil Rights Appendix
and/or Procedure Manual (citation):**

2. The State agency instructs its local agencies to obtain a participant's racial/ethnic category by (check all that apply):

- allowing self-identification by participant (must be used at participant's request)
- visual identification/sight assessment by local agency staff
- local agency staff personally know participant's racial/ethnic category
- other (specify):

**ADDITIONAL DETAIL: Civil Rights Appendix
and/or Procedure Manual (citation):**

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E. Complaint Handling

1. The State agency ensures the following:

- WIC Program applicants and participants are informed where and how they may file a complaint of discrimination.
- all local agency staff are trained in discrimination complaint procedures
- all written and verbal complaints alleging discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability are accepted from applicants and participants by State agency and local agency staff.
- complaints alleging discrimination based on race, color, national origin or age are forwarded to the Secretary of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. through an FNS-established complaint procedure. (Regional Office receives copy of all complaints.)
- complaints alleging discrimination based on sex or disability are forwarded to the FNS regional civil rights office (for those State and local agencies without an FNS-approved grievance procedure in place).
- complaints alleging discrimination based on sex or disability are processed by State and/or local agencies under a grievance procedure approved by FNS.

ADDITIONAL DETAIL: Civil Rights Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (citation):

2. The State agency uses a discrimination complaint form it has developed for acceptance of a complaint.

- Yes No

ADDITIONAL DETAIL: Civil Rights Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (citation):

3. The State agency establishes and ensures that local agencies implement specific timeframes concerning discrimination complaints:

- An individual has the right to file a complaint within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory action.
- All complaints are processed and closed within 90 days of receipt.

ADDITIONAL DETAIL: Civil Rights Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (citation): Local agencies do not process or close discrimination complaints; however, they are required to phone the SA immediately upon receipt of a discrimination complaint. The complaint is sent by the SA to the FNS civil rights staff for processing, investigation, and close out.

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E. Complaint Handling