

Background

The FCC has established Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) rules and policies for broadcasters and revised its EEO rules for multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs). An MVPD may be a cable operator or satellite TV operator that sells multiple channels of video programming. The rules prohibit discrimination in hiring on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or gender by broadcasters and MVPDs. They also require broadcasters and MVPDs to provide notice of job vacancies and to undertake additional outreach measures to all qualified job candidates, such as holding job fairs and establishing scholarship programs.

FCC Rule Requirements

The FCC rules require broadcasters and MVPDs to:

- widely distribute information concerning each full-time (30 hours or more) job vacancy, except for vacancies that need to be filled in demanding or special circumstances;
- provide notice of each full-time job vacancy to recruitment organizations that request notice; and
- complete two (for broadcast employment units with five to 10 full-time employees or that are located in smaller markets) or four (for employment units with more than 10 full-time employees located in larger markets) longer-term recruitment initiatives within a two-year period. These initiatives can include job fairs, scholarship and internship programs, and other community events designed to inform the public about employment opportunities in broadcasting.

The EEO rules include record keeping and reporting requirements for broadcasters and MVPDs. The requirements are more limited for entities in smaller markets.

FCC Rule Requirements (cont'd.)

The FCC reviews compliance with EEO rules at the time of a broadcaster's license renewal, at mid-term during the license period for larger broadcasters, and through random audits.

You may file comments with the FCC about the EEO outreach programs of broadcasters and MVPDs at any time.

For More Information

For more information about the FCC's EEO rules, visit the FCC's Media Bureau Web site at www.fcc.gov/mb. For information about other communications issues, visit the FCC's Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau Web site at www.fcc.gov/cgb, or contact the FCC's Consumer Center by e-mailing fccinfo@fcc.gov; calling 1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322) voice or 1-888-TELL-FCC (1-888-835-5322) TTY; faxing 1-866-418-0232; or writing to:

Federal Communications Commission
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
Consumer Inquiries and Complaints
Division
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554.



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