



**U.S. Department of Justice**

Office of Justice Programs

*Office for Civil Rights*

*Washington, D.C. 20531*

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: COPS Office Award Recipients

FROM: Michael L. Alston  
Director, Office for Civil Rights, Office of Justice Programs

DATE: June 1, 2020

RE: Federal Civil Rights Statutes and Regulations

Congratulations on your recent award! The Office for Civil Rights (OCR), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has been delegated the responsibility for ensuring that recipients of federal financial assistance from the OJP, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), and the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) are not engaged in discrimination prohibited by law. Several federal civil rights laws, such as Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, require recipients of federal financial assistance to give assurances that they will comply with those laws. In addition to those civil rights laws, many grant program statutes contain nondiscrimination provisions that require compliance with them as a condition of receiving federal financial assistance. For a complete review of these civil rights laws and nondiscrimination requirements, in connection with OJP and other DOJ awards, see <https://ojp.gov/funding/Explore/LegalOverview/CivilRightsRequirements.htm>

Under the delegation of authority, the OCR investigates allegations of discrimination against recipients from individuals, entities, or groups. In addition, the OCR conducts limited compliance reviews and audits based on regulatory criteria. These reviews and audits permit the OCR to evaluate whether recipients of financial assistance from the Department are providing services in a non-discriminatory manner to their service population or have employment practices that meet equal-opportunity standards.

If you are a recipient of grant awards under the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act or the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act and your agency is part of a criminal justice system, there are two additional obligations that may apply in connection with the awards: (1) complying with the regulation relating to Equal Employment Opportunity Programs (EEOPs); and (2) submitting findings of discrimination to OCR. For additional information regarding the EEOP requirement, see 28 CFR Part 42, subpart E, and for additional information regarding requirements when there is an adverse finding, see 28 C.F.R. §§ 42.204(c), .205(c)(5). Please submit information about any adverse finding to the OCR at the above address.

We at the OCR are available to help you and your organization meet the civil rights requirements that are associated with OJP and other DOJ grant funding. If you would like the OCR to assist

you in fulfilling your organization's civil rights or nondiscrimination responsibilities as a recipient of federal financial assistance, please do not hesitate to let us know.