

USDA – FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE CIVIL RIGHTS POLICY FOR THE BASIC FOOD* PROGRAM

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to:

USDA
Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
1-866-632-9992 (voice)
1-800-877-8339 (TTY)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

*At the federal level, the Basic Food Program is known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Basic Food Discrimination Complaints

If you believe the Department of Social and Health Services has discriminated against you, or if you know of discrimination in the Basic Food Program, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, age, sex, disability, use of dog guide or service animal, political beliefs, religion, creed, sexual orientation, or recently separated veteran status or other protected veteran status, please report that discrimination to the Human Resources Division, Investigations Unit (IU), Department of Social and Health Services within 180 days of the discriminatory act. This report can be made by completing the form on the reverse side or by calling our office.

IU Contact Numbers

(360) 725-5807

1-800-521-8060

TTY (360) 586-4289

TTY 1-800-521-8061

We need specific information to show that, despite meeting eligibility requirements, you were denied benefits or treated poorly based on the reasons listed above. Information will be kept as confidential as possible.

The Human Resources Division, Investigations Unit (IU) staff will review your complaint to determine if we are authorized to investigate your allegations. If so, an IU staff will be assigned to begin an investigation. If the allegations are substantiated, we will recommend appropriate action be taken.

Retaliation Prohibited

The Department of Social and Health Services will not tolerate retaliation against an individual because they filed a complaint or assisted in the investigation of a complaint.

You may also file your complaint directly with:

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for Civil Rights
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