

Civil Rights

Civil rights serve to ensure that participants receive equal treatment and equal access to all facets of child nutrition programs, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. The goal of civil rights regulations is to help sponsors ensure that all participants are treated in the same manner.

In addition to other requirements, program operators must be sure that when administering any child nutrition program there is equal treatment for all applicants and beneficiaries. Program operators must have a working knowledge of rights and responsibilities and front-line staff must be trained yearly on civil rights.

Program operators must include the most current version of the federal nondiscrimination statement in a prominent location in all public information materials, releases, resources, including web sites, and publications concerning nutrition program activities. The following short version of the statement can be used on flyers, brochures, or pamphlets in print no smaller than the text:

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

There are many resources available to help you comply with federal civil rights requirements for your operation. Many of these can be found in the [Quick Reference Guide to Civil Rights](#).

After you have reviewed the information in the Quick Reference Guide, try the [Apply Your Knowledge](#) self-check.

Food service directors and administrators can utilize the School Nutrition Program Primer as a Professional Standards training resource. Reviewing the **Quick Reference Guide** with staff and administering the **Apply Your Knowledge** self-check quiz may count as a 15-minute training.

The training topic Civil Rights provides the following professional standards:

Key Area: Administration (3000)

Training Topic: Human Resources and Staff Training (3400)

Learning Objective: Implement current personnel policies and procedures (3420)

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