

PART J—SERVICES PROVIDED THROUGH
RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

CODIFICATION

This part was, in the original, part G of title V of act July 1, 1944, and has been redesignated as part J for purposes of codification. Another part G of title V of act July 1, 1944, is classified to part G (§ 290hh et seq.) of this subchapter.

§ 290kk. Applicability to designated programs

(a) Designated programs

Subject to subsection (b) of this section, this part applies to discretionary and formula grant programs administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration that make awards of financial assistance to public or private entities for the purpose of carrying out activities to prevent or treat substance abuse (in this part referred to as a “designated program”). Designated programs include the program under subpart II of part B of subchapter XVII of this chapter (relating to formula grants to the States).

(b) Limitation

This part does not apply to any award of financial assistance under a designated program for a purpose other than the purpose specified in subsection (a) of this section.

(c) Definitions

For purposes of this part (and subject to subsection (b) of this section):

(1) The term “designated program” has the meaning given such term in subsection (a) of this section.

(2) The term “financial assistance” means a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract.

(3) The term “program beneficiary” means an individual who receives program services.

(4) The term “program participant” means a public or private entity that has received financial assistance under a designated program.

(5) The term “program services” means treatment for substance abuse, or preventive services regarding such abuse, provided pursuant to an award of financial assistance under a designated program.

(6) The term “religious organization” means a nonprofit religious organization.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title V, § 581, as added Pub. L. 106-554, § 1(a)(7) [title I, § 144], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-619.)

CODIFICATION

Another section 581 of act July 1, 1944, is classified to section 290hh of this title.

§ 290kk-1. Religious organizations as program participants

(a) In general

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a religious organization, on the same basis as any other nonprofit private provider—

(1) may receive financial assistance under a designated program; and

(2) may be a provider of services under a designated program.

(b) Religious organizations

The purpose of this section is to allow religious organizations to be program participants

on the same basis as any other nonprofit private provider without impairing the religious character of such organizations, and without diminishing the religious freedom of program beneficiaries.

(c) Nondiscrimination against religious organizations

(1) Eligibility as program participants

Religious organizations are eligible to be program participants on the same basis as any other nonprofit private organization as long as the programs are implemented consistent with the Establishment Clause and Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to restrict the ability of the Federal Government, or a State or local government receiving funds under such programs, to apply to religious organizations the same eligibility conditions in designated programs as are applied to any other nonprofit private organization.

(2) Nondiscrimination

Neither the Federal Government nor a State or local government receiving funds under designated programs shall discriminate against an organization that is or applies to be a program participant on the basis that the organization has a religious character.

(d) Religious character and freedom

(1) Religious organizations

Except as provided in this section, any religious organization that is a program participant shall retain its independence from Federal, State, and local government, including such organization’s control over the definition, development, practice, and expression of its religious beliefs.

(2) Additional safeguards

Neither the Federal Government nor a State shall require a religious organization to—

(A) alter its form of internal governance;

or

(B) remove religious art, icons, scripture, or other symbols,

in order to be a program participant.

(e) Employment practices

Nothing in this section shall be construed to modify or affect the provisions of any other Federal or State law or regulation that relates to discrimination in employment. A religious organization’s exemption provided under section 2000e-1 of this title regarding employment practices shall not be affected by its participation in, or receipt of funds from, a designated program.

(f) Rights of program beneficiaries

(1) In general

If an individual who is a program beneficiary or a prospective program beneficiary objects to the religious character of a program participant, within a reasonable period of time after the date of such objection such program participant shall refer such individual to, and the appropriate Federal, State, or local government that administers a designated pro-