

§ 1226.4

(e) *Recipient or sponsor organization* means any organization that receives assistance under the Act.

(f) *Volunteer* means an individual enrolled for service in a program or project that is authorized by or which receives assistance under the Act.

(g) *Legislative body* includes the United States Congress, State and Territorial Legislatures and locally elected or appointed bodies with the authority to enact laws.

(h) *Public office* includes any Federal, State, local elective, or party office.

(i) *Party office* means an elective position in a national, state or local organization or committees or convention of such organization, which has, as a principal purpose, support or opposition to candidates for public office.

(j) *Legislation* means bills, resolutions, amendments, nominations and other matters pending or proposed in a legislative body and includes any other matter which may be the subject of action by the legislative body.

Subpart B—Sponsoring Organization

§ 1226.4 General.

Under section 403 of the Act, volunteer programs may not be conducted in a manner which supports or results in the identification of such programs with prohibited activities. This section prescribes the nature and extent of involvement in such activity by an organization which would preclude the assignment of volunteers to the organization.

§ 1226.5 Electoral, voter registration, and other activities.

Volunteers or other assistance, in any program under the Act shall not be assigned or provided to an organization if a principal purpose or activity of the organization includes any of the following activities:

(a) *Electoral Activities*. Any activity designed to influence the outcome of elections to any public office, such as:

(1) Actively campaigning for or against or supporting candidates for public office;

(2) Raising, soliciting or collecting funds for candidates for public office;

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(3) Preparing, distributing or providing funds for campaign literature for candidates, including leaflets pamphlets, and material designed for the print or electronic media;

(b) *Voter Registration Activities*. Any voter registration activity, such as

(1) Providing transportation of individuals to voter registration sites;

(2) Providing assistance to individuals in the process of registering to vote, including determinations of eligibility;

(3) Disseminating official voter registration material.

(c) *Transportation to the Polls*. Providing voters or prospective voters with transportation to the polls or raising, soliciting or collecting funds for such activity.

(d) Any program sponsor which, subsequent to the receipt of any federal assistance under the Act, makes as one of its principal purposes or activities any of the activities described in §1226.5 hereof shall be subject to the suspension or termination of such assistance, as provided in 45 CFR part 1206.

Subpart C—Volunteer Activities

§ 1226.6 General.

(a) All volunteers, full and part time, are subject to the prohibitions on expenditure of federal funds for partisan and nonpartisan electoral activities, voter registration activities and transportation of voters to the polls, and efforts to influence the passage or defeat of legislation, as contained in section 403 of the Act.

(b) Full time volunteers, and certain part time volunteers as specified herein, are also subject to the restrictions in subchapter III, chapter 73 of title 5, United States Code, commonly referred to as the Hatch Act, as provided in section 415(b) of the Act.

§ 1226.7 Scope.

The provisions in this subpart are applicable to full time volunteers as defined in §1226.3(c), and to such part time volunteers as may be otherwise specified herein. Full time volunteers are deemed to be acting in their capacity as volunteers:

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(a) When they are actually engaged in their volunteer assignments. VISTA volunteers and other full time volunteers who are required to serve without regard to regular working hours are presumed to be actually engaged in their volunteer assignments at all times, except during periods of authorized leave; or

(b) Whenever they represent themselves, or may reasonably be perceived by others, to be performing as a volunteer.

§ 1226.8 Prohibited activities.

(a) *Electoral Activity.* Volunteers shall not engage in any activity which may, directly or indirectly, affect or influence the outcome of any election to public office. Volunteers are prohibited from engaging in activities such as:

(1) Any activity in support of, or in opposition to a candidate for election to public office in a partisan or non-partisan election;

(2) Participating in the circulation of petitions, or the gathering of signatures on nominating petitions or similar documents for candidates for public office.

(3) Raising, soliciting, or collecting funds for a candidate for public office;

(4) Preparing, distributing or providing funds for campaign material for candidates, including leaflets, pamphlets, brochures and material designed for the print or electronic media;

(5) Organizing political meetings or forums;

(6) Canvassing voters on behalf of a candidate for public office;

(7) Raising, soliciting or collecting funds for groups that engage in any of the activities described in paragraphs (a) (1) through (6) of this section.

(b) *Voter Registration.* Volunteers shall not engage in any voter registration activity, including:

(1) Providing transportation of individuals to voter registration sites;

(2) Providing assistance to individuals in the process of registering to vote, including determinations of eligibility;

(3) The dissemination of official voter registration materials; or

(4) Raising, soliciting or collecting funds to support activities described in

paragraphs (b) (1) through (3) of this section.

(c) *Transportation to the Polls.* Volunteers shall not engage in any activity to provide voters or prospective voters with transportation to the polls, nor shall they collect, raise, or solicit funds to support such activity, including securing vehicles for such activity.

(d) *Efforts to Influence Legislation.* Except as provided in §1226.9, volunteers shall not engage in any activity for the purpose of influencing the passage or defeat of legislation or any measures on the ballot at a general or special election. For example, volunteers shall not:

(1) Testify or appear before legislative bodies in regard to proposed or pending legislation;

(2) Make telephone calls, write letters, or otherwise contact legislators or legislative staff, concerning proposed or pending legislation for the purpose of influencing the passage or defeat of such legislation;

(3) Draft legislation;

(4) Prepare legislative testimony;

(5) Prepare letters to be mailed by third parties to members of legislative bodies concerning proposed or pending legislation;

(6) Prepare or distribute any form of material, including pamphlets, newspaper columns, and material designed for either the print or electronic media, which urges recipients to contact their legislator or otherwise seek passage or defeat of legislation;

(7) Raise, collect or solicit funds to support efforts to affect the passage or defeat of legislation;

(8) Engage in any of the activities set forth in paragraphs (d) (1) through (7) of this section for the purpose of influencing executive action in approving or vetoing legislation.

(9) Circulate petitions, gather signatures on petitions, or urge or organize others to do so, which seek to have measures placed on the ballot at a general or special election.

(10) Engage in any of the activities enumerated in paragraphs (d) (1) through (9) of this section in regard to the passage or defeat of any measure on the ballot in a general or special election.