

§ 17.9

§ 17.9 How does the Secretary receive and respond to comments?

(a) The Secretary follows the procedures in § 17.10 if:

(1) A state office or official is designated to act as a single point of contact between a state process and all federal agencies, and

(2) That office or official transmits a state process recommendation for a program selected under § 17.6.

(b)(1) The single point of contact is not obligated to transmit comments from state, areawide, regional or local officials and entities where there is no state process recommendation.

(2) If a state process recommendation is transmitted by a single point of contact, all comments from state, areawide, regional, and local officials and entities that differ from it must also be transmitted.

(c) If a state has not established a process, or is unable to submit a state process recommendation, state, areawide, regional and local officials and entities may submit comments either to the applicant or to the Department.

(d) If a program or activity is not selected for a state process, state, areawide, regional and local officials and entities may submit comments either to the applicant or to the Department. In addition, if a state process recommendation for a nonselected program or activity is transmitted to the Department by the single point of contact, the Secretary follows the procedures of § 17.10 of this part.

(e) The Secretary considers comments which do not constitute a state process recommendation submitted under these regulations and for which the Secretary is not required to apply the procedures of § 17.10 of this part, when such comments are provided by a single point of contact, by the applicant, or directly to the Department by a commenting party.

§ 17.10 How does the Secretary make efforts to accommodate intergovernmental concerns?

(a) If a state process provides a state process recommendation to the Department through its single point of contact, the Secretary either:

(1) Accepts the recommendation;

49 CFR Subtitle A (10–1–02 Edition)

(2) Reaches a mutually agreeable solution with the state process; or

(3) Provides the single point of contact with a written explanation of the decision, in such form as the Secretary in his or her discretion deems appropriate. The Secretary may also supplement the written explanation by providing the explanation to the single point of contact by telephone, other telecommunication, or other means.

(b) In any explanation under paragraph (a)(3) of this section, the Secretary informs the single point of contact that:

(1) The Department will not implement its decision for at least ten days after the single point of contact receives the explanation; or

(2) The Secretary has reviewed the decision and determined that, because of unusual circumstances, the waiting period of at least ten days is not feasible.

(c) For purposes of computing the waiting period under paragraph (b)(1) of this section, a single point of contact is presumed to have received written notification 5 days after the date of mailing of such notification.

§ 17.11 What are the Secretary's obligations in interstate situations?

(a) The Secretary is responsible for:

(1) Identifying proposed federal financial assistance and direct federal development that have an impact on interstate areas;

(2) Notifying appropriate officials and entities in states which have adopted a process and which select the Department's program or activity.

(3) Making efforts to identify and notify the affected state, areawide, regional, and local officials and entities in those states that have not adopted a process under the Order or do not select the Department's program or activity;

(4) Responding pursuant to § 17.10 of this part if the Secretary receives a recommendation from a designated areawide agency transmitted by a single point of contact, in cases in which the review, coordination, and communication with the Department have been delegated.

(b) The Secretary uses the procedures in § 17.10 if a state process provides a

Office of the Secretary of Transportation

§ 18.2

state process recommendation to the Department through a single point of contact.

§ 17.12 How may a state simplify, consolidate, or substitute federally required state plans?

(a) As used in this section:

(1) *Simplify* means that a state may develop its own format, choose its own submission date, and select the planning period for a state plan.

(2) *Consolidate* means that a state may meet statutory and regulatory requirements by combining two or more plans into one document and that the state can select the format, submission date, and planning period for the consolidated plan.

(3) *Substitute* means that a state may use a plan or other document that it has developed for its own purposes to meet Federal requirements.

(b) If not inconsistent with law, a state may decide to try to simplify, consolidate, or substitute federally required state plans without prior approval by the Secretary.

(c) The Secretary reviews each state plan that a state has simplified, consolidated, or substituted and accepts the plan only if its contents meet federal requirements.

§ 17.13 May the Secretary waive any provision of these regulations?

In an emergency, the Secretary may waive any provision of these regulations.

PART 18—UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Subpart A—General

Sec.

- 18.1 Purpose and scope of this part.
- 18.2 Scope of subpart.
- 18.3 Definitions.
- 18.4 Applicability.
- 18.5 Effect on other issuances.
- 18.6 Additions and exceptions.

Subpart B—Pre-Award Requirements

- 18.10 Forms for applying for grants.
- 18.11 State plans.

- 18.12 Special grant or subgrant conditions for “high risk” grantees.

Subpart C—Post-Award Requirements

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

- 18.20 Standards for financial management systems.
- 18.21 Payment.
- 18.22 Allowable costs.
- 18.23 Period of availability of funds.
- 18.24 Matching or cost sharing.
- 18.25 Program income.
- 18.26 Non-Federal audits.

CHANGES, PROPERTY, AND SUBAWARDS

- 18.30 Changes.
- 18.31 Real property.
- 18.32 Equipment.
- 18.33 Supplies.
- 18.34 Copyrights.
- 18.35 Subawards to debarred and suspended parties.
- 18.36 Procurement.
- 18.37 Subgrants.

REPORTS, RECORDS, RETENTION, AND ENFORCEMENT

- 18.40 Monitoring and reporting program performance.
- 18.41 Financial reporting.
- 18.42 Retention and access requirements for records.
- 18.43 Enforcement.
- 18.44 Termination for convenience.

Subpart D—After-The-Grant Requirements

- 18.50 Closeout.
- 18.51 Later disallowances and adjustments.
- 18.52 Collection of amounts due.

Subpart E—Entitlements [Reserved]

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Subpart A—General

§ 18.1 Purpose and scope of this part.

This part establishes uniform administrative rules for Federal grants and cooperative agreements and subawards to State, local and Indian tribal governments.

§ 18.2 Scope of subpart.

This subpart contains general rules pertaining to this part and procedures for control of exceptions from this part.