

Department of Veterans Affairs

§ 18.503

Subpart E—Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Age

AUTHORITY: Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6101, *et seq.*; 45 CFR part 90 (1979).

SOURCE: 50 FR 34133, Aug. 23, 1985, unless otherwise noted.

GENERAL

§ 18.501 Purpose.

The purpose of these regulations is to set out Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) policies and procedures under the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and the governmentwide age discrimination regulations at 45 CFR part 90. The Act and the governmentwide regulations prohibit discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance. The Act and the governmentwide regulations permit federally assisted programs and activities, and recipients of Federal funds, to continue to use age distinctions and factors other than age which meet the requirements of the Act and its implementing regulations.

(Authority: 42 U.S.C. 6101-6107)

[50 FR 34133, Aug. 23, 1985, as amended at 54 FR 34984, Aug. 23, 1989]

§ 18.502 Application.

(a) These regulations apply to any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance provided by VA directly or through another recipient.

(b) These regulations do not apply to:

(1) An age distinction contained in that part of a Federal, State, or local statute or ordinance adopted by an elected, general purpose legislative body which:

(i) Provides any benefits or assistance to persons based on age; or

(ii) Establishes criteria for participation in age-related terms; or

(iii) Describes intended beneficiaries or target groups in age-related terms.

(2) Any employment practice of any employer, employment agency, labor organization, or any labor-management joint apprenticeship training program, except any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance for public service employment under

the Job Training Partnership Act, 29 U.S.C. 1501, *et seq.*

(Authority: 42 U.S.C. 6101-6107)

§ 18.503 Definitions.

As used in these regulations:

(a) *Act* means the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (Title III of Pub. L. 94-135, 42 U.S.C. 6101-6107).

(b) *Action* means any act, activity, policy, rule, standard, or method of administration; or the use of any policy, rule, standard, or method of administration.

(c) *Secretary* means the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or designees.

(d) *Age* means how old a person is, or the number of elapsed years from the date of a person's birth.

(e) *Age discrimination* means unlawful treatment based on age.

(f) *Age distinction* means any action using age or an age-related term.

(g) *Age-related term* means a word or words which necessarily imply a particular age or range of ages (for example, *children*, *adult*, *older persons*, but not *student*).

(h) *Day* means calendar day.

(i) *Federal financial assistance* means any grant, entitlement, loan, cooperative agreement, contract (other than a procurement contract or a contract of insurance or guaranty), or any other arrangement by which a Federal agency or department provides or otherwise makes available assistance in the form of:

(1) Funds; or

(2) Services of Federal personnel; or

(3) Real and personal property or any interest in or use of property, including:

(i) Transfers or leases of property for less than fair market value or for reduced consideration; and

(ii) Proceeds from a subsequent transfer or lease of property if the Federal share of its market value is not returned to the Federal Government.

(j) *Recipient* means any State or its political subdivision, any instrumentality of a State or its political subdivision, any public or private agency, institution, organization, or other entity, or any person to which Federal financial assistance is extended, directly or through another recipient. Recipient includes any successor, assignee, or

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transferee, but excludes the ultimate beneficiary of the assistance.

(k) *Subrecipient* means any of the entities in the definition of *recipient* to which a recipient extends or passes on Federal financial assistance. A subrecipient is generally regarded as a recipient of Federal financial assistance and has all the duties of a recipient in these regulations.

(l) *United States* means the fifty States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Canal Zone, the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, the Northern Marianas, and the territories and possessions of the United States.

(Authority: 42 U.S.C. 6101-6107)

STANDARDS FOR DETERMINING AGE  
DISCRIMINATION

**§ 18.511 Rules against age discrimination.**

The rules in this section are limited by the exceptions contained in §§ 18.513 and 18.514 of these regulations.

(a) *General rule.* No person in the United States shall, on the basis of age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under, any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

(b) *Specific rules.* A recipient may not, in any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance, directly or through contractual licensing, or other arrangements, use age distinctions or take any other actions which have the effect, on the basis of age, of:

(1) Excluding individuals from, denying them the benefits of, or subjecting them to discrimination under, a program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance; or

(2) Denying or limiting individuals in their opportunity to participate in any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

(c) The specific forms of age discrimination listed in paragraph (b) of this section do not necessarily constitute a complete list.

(Authority: 42 U.S.C. 6101-6107)

**§ 18.512 Definitions of “normal operation” and “statutory objective.”**

For the purpose of these regulations, the terms *normal operation* and *statutory objective* shall have the following meaning:

(a) *Normal operation* means the operation of a program or activity without significant changes that would impair its ability to meet its objectives.

(b) *Statutory objective* means any purpose of a program or activity expressly stated in any Federal statute, State statute, or local statute or ordinance adopted by an elected, general purpose legislative body.

(Authority: 42 U.S.C. 6101-6107)

**§ 18.513 Exceptions to the rules against age discrimination; normal operation or statutory objective of any program or activity.**

A recipient is permitted to take an action, otherwise prohibited by § 18.511, if the action reasonably takes into account age as a factor necessary to the normal operation or the achievement of any statutory objective of a program or activity. An action reasonably takes into account age as a factor necessary to the normal operation or the achievement of any statutory objective of a program or activity, if:

(a) Age is used as a measure or approximation of one or more other characteristics; and

(b) The other characteristic(s) must be measured or approximated in order for the normal operation of the program or activity to continue, or to achieve any statutory objective of the program or activity; and

(c) The other characteristic(s) can be reasonably measured or approximated by the use of age; and

(d) The other characteristic(s) are impractical to measure directly on an individual basis.

(Authority: 42 U.S.C. 6101-6107)

**§ 18.514 Exceptions to the rules against age discrimination; reasonable factors other than age.**

A recipient is permitted to take an action otherwise prohibited by § 18.511 which is based on a factor other than age, even though that action may have a disproportionate effect on persons of