

Department of Veterans Affairs

§ 40.5

relying on State processes and on State, areawide, regional, and local coordination for review of proposed Federal financial assistance and direct Federal development.

(c) These regulations are intended to improve the internal management of the VA, and are not intended to create any right or benefit enforceable at law by a party against the VA or its officers.

(Authority: 42 U.S.C. 4231(b))

§ 40.2 Definitions.

For the purposes of §§ 40.1 through 40.13, the following definitions apply:

(a) *VA* means the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) *Order* means Executive Order 12372, issued July 14, 1982, and amended April 8, 1983, and titled "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

(c) *Secretary* means the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of the Department of Veterans Affairs or an official or employee of VA acting for the Secretary under delegation of authority.

(d) *State* means any of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

(e) *Emergency* means a sudden, urgent, unforeseen situation in which immediate action is needed to prevent or respond to significant harm to life or property. Harm to property would include damage to the environment.

(f) *Unusual circumstances* means the end of a fiscal year, a statutory deadline or any other circumstance making it impracticable for the agency to provide 60 days for comment.

(g) *Affected* means for purposes of interstate situations those States physically affected by the specific plans and projects.

(Authority: 42 U.S.C. 4231(b))

§ 40.3 Programs and activities.

The Secretary publishes in the FEDERAL REGISTER a list of VA's programs and activities that are subject to these regulations and identifies which of these are subject to the requirements of section 204 of the Demonstration

Cities and Metropolitan Development Act.

(Authority: 42 U.S.C. 4231(b))

§ 40.4 General.

(a) The Secretary provides opportunities for consultation by elected officials of those State and local governments that would provide the non-Federal funds for, or that would be directly affected by, proposed Federal financial assistance from, or direct Federal development by, VA.

(b) If a State adopts a process under the order to review and coordinate proposed Federal financial assistance and direct Federal development, the Secretary, to the extent permitted by law:

(1) Uses the State process to determine official views of State and local elected officials;

(2) Communicates with State and local elected officials as early in a program planning cycle as is reasonably feasible to explain specific plans and actions;

(3) Makes efforts to accommodate State and local elected officials' concerns with proposed Federal financial assistance and direct Federal development that are communicated through the State process;

(4) Seeks the coordination of views of affected State and local elected officials in one State with those of another State when proposed Federal financial assistance or direct Federal development has an impact on interstate metropolitan urban centers or other interstate areas; and

(5) Supports State and local governments by discouraging the reauthorization or creation of any planning organization which is federally-funded, which has a limited purpose, and which is not adequately representative of, or accountable to, State or local elected officials.

(Authority: 42 U.S.C. 4231(b))

§ 40.5 Federal interagency coordination.

The Secretary, to the extent practicable, consults with and seeks advice from all other substantially affected Federal departments and agencies in an effort to assure full coordination between such agencies and VA regarding