

Subpart A—General Provisions**§ 1226.1 Purpose.**

This part implements provisions of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act, 1973, 87 Stat. 394, Pub. L. 93-113, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the Act, pertaining to the prohibited use of Federal funds or the involvement of agency programs and volunteers in electoral and lobbying activities. These regulations are designed to define and clarify the nature and scope of prohibited activities to ensure that programs under the Act and volunteer activities are conducted within the statutory bounds established by the Act. The penalties for violation of the regulations are also prescribed. The statutory source of the prohibitions upon electoral and lobbying activities is section 403 (a) and (b) of the Act. Rules applying to the Hatch Act (Title III of chapter 73, title 5, United States Code) to full time and certain part time volunteers, as required by section 415(b) of the Act, are also set forth herein.

§ 1226.2 Scope.

This part applies, except where otherwise noted, to all full time and part time volunteers serving in a program authorized by the Act, including VISTA, Service Learning and the Older American Volunteer Programs. It also applies to employees of sponsoring organizations, whose salaries, or other compensation, are paid, in whole or in part, with agency funds.

§ 1226.3 Definitions.

(a) The *Act* means the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, as amended, Pub. L. 93-113 (42 U.S.C. 4951 *et seq.*).

(b) *Assistance* means funds, volunteers or volunteer training, which is paid for from funds appropriated for the purpose of supporting activities under the Act, and includes locally provided funds required by law, regulation or policy as a local contribution to activities authorized by the Act.

(c) *Full time* when used in the context of volunteer service, means service of not less than 35 hours per week.

(d) *Part time* when used in the context of volunteer service, means service that is less than full time.

(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