



Date: July 9, 2024

Name of Organization: Kentucky Department of Agriculture

Name of Program: The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

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Subject: *Notice To Existing and Prospective Beneficiaries of TEFAP Regarding
USDA Final Rule on Partnerships with Faith-Based and Neighborhood
Organizations*

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide clarification on the written notice requirements that apply to The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), per the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) regulations on equal opportunity for religious organizations to participate in USDA assistance programs at [7 CFR Part 16](#). The final rule entitled *Partnerships with Faith-Based and Neighborhood Organizations* (89 FR 15671) amended 7 CFR Part 16.

Because this program is supported in whole or in part by financial assistance from the Federal Government, we are required to let you know that:

- (1) We may not discriminate against you on the basis of religion, a religious belief, a refusal to hold a religious belief, or a refusal to attend or participate in a religious practice;
- (2) We may not require you to attend or participate in any explicitly religious activities (including activities that involve overt religious content such as worship, religious instruction, or proselytization) that are offered by our organization, and any participation by you in such activities must be purely voluntary;
- (3) We must separate in time or location any privately funded explicitly religious activities (including activities that involve overt religious content such as worship, religious instruction, or proselytization) from activities supported with direct Federal financial assistance; and
- (4) You may report violations of these protections, including any denials of services or benefits by an organization, by contacting or filing a written complaint with the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Center for Civil Rights Enforcement, Program Complaint Division by mail, fax, or e-mail at:

Mail:

United States Department of Agriculture
Director, Center for Civil Rights Enforcement
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-9410

Fax: (202) 690-7442

Email: program.intake@usda.gov

This written notice must be provided to you before you enroll in the program or receive services from the program, unless the nature of the service provided, or exigent circumstances make it impracticable to provide such notice before we provide the actual service. In such an instance, this notice must be provided to you at the earliest available opportunity.