



## CSFP and TEFAP: Partnerships With Faith-Based and Neighborhood Organizations Final Rule Implementation

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## Final Rule:

# Partnerships With Faith-Based and Neighborhood Organizations

The rule amends USDA regulations at 7 CFR Part 16 to clarify:

- Faith-based organizations' equal opportunity to participate in USDA programs
- Beneficiaries' freedom from religious discrimination



# FD-155: Partnerships with Faith-Based and Neighborhood Organizations Final Rule

## Written Notice and Referral Requirements for CSFP and TEFAP State Agencies

- Provides guidance on written notice and referral requirements in CSFP and TEFAP
- Includes a template notice
- Available on the FNS website:  
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/usda-foods/csfp-tefap-beneficiary-notice-referral-requirements>



# Written Notice of Beneficiary Protections: 7 CFR 16.4(c)(1)

- Applies to all CSFP and TEFAP organizations receiving USDA Foods or administrative funds
- All applicants and participants must be provided with a written notice informing them of their protections from religion-based discrimination



# Written Notice Required Elements – Part 1



(1) The organization may not discriminate against beneficiaries or prospective beneficiaries 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) The organization may not require beneficiaries or prospective beneficiaries to attend or participate in any explicitly religious activities that are offered by the organization, and any participation by beneficiaries or prospective beneficiaries in such activities must be purely voluntary.

# Written Notice Required Elements – Part 2



(3) The organization must separate in time or location any privately funded explicitly religious activities from activities supported by direct Federal financial assistance; and

(4) Beneficiaries or prospective beneficiaries may report violations of these protections (including denials of services or benefits) by an organization by contacting or filing a written complaint with USDA's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

# Beneficiary Protections: Written Notice (CSFP)

- Applicants provided with a written notice as a handout or incorporated into existing CSFP application.
- Current participants provided with a written notice at food distribution alongside a delivery.



# Beneficiary Protections: Written Notice (TEFAP)

Organizations can provide notice to participants by:

1. Posting a written notice at service locations,
2. Providing flyers or handouts at each distribution, and/or
3. Adding the written notification to their TEFAP intake form.





# Attachment A: Sample Written Notice of Beneficiary Rights for CSFP and TEFAP

Link:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/usda-foods/csfp-tefap-beneficiary-notice-referral-requirements>

## Attachment A: Sample Written Notice of Beneficiary Rights for CSFP and TEFAP

### Written Notice of Beneficiary Rights

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Because [name of 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 U.S. Department of Agriculture

# Beneficiary Protections: Referral Requirements

- CSFP and TEFAP written notices must include how to obtain information on other federally funded service providers.
- State agencies/ITOs must determine the method of referral within their State.




# Beneficiary Protections: Referral Requirements

5. If you would like to seek information about whether there are any other federally funded organizations that provide these kinds of services in your area, please contact:

Insert State agency contact information  
AND/OR

The USDA Hunger Hotline:

By Phone: 1-866-3-HUNGRY or 1-877-8-HAMBRE to speak with a representative from 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM E<sup>State Agency and/or USDA Hunger Hotline</sup>

By Text: 914-342-7744 with a question that may contain a keyword such as “food,” “summer,” “meals,” etc. to receive an automated response to resources located near an address and/or zip code. 

# Implementation and Monitoring

- FNS will monitor compliance with these new provisions during regular program review and oversight
- Monitoring will begin in Fiscal Year 2025



Questions?