



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

Office of the Assistant Secretary | 330 C Street, S.W., Suite 4034  
Washington, D.C. 20201 | [www.acf.hhs.gov](http://www.acf.hhs.gov)

July 3, 2025

Dear Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) and Consolidated Block Grant (CBG) States and Territories:

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is obligated to ensure that taxpayer dollars are used to advance the best interests of the government. The Secretary of HHS has determined that awards supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) do not meet a public purpose to the extent they are inconsistent with the Department's policy of improving the health and well-being of all Americans and may violate Federal civil rights law.

Consistent with these goals, the Office of Community Services (OCS) strongly encourages all recipients of entitlement awards funded by Title XX of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (Public Law 97-35), and Title V, Section 501 of the Omnibus Territories Act (Public Law 95-134), to review all Intended Use Plans (IUPs), pre-expenditure reports, expenditures and services under these programs, including those made by subrecipients or contractors, to ensure that they do not support DEI initiatives or any other initiatives that discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or another protected characteristic.

OCS recommends recipients take prompt action to conduct reviews for compliance with all applicable laws. Recipients are strongly encouraged to review budgets, budget justification narratives, program goals, and other materials to ensure that federal funds are not used for unlawful DEI initiatives. Expenditures found to be out of compliance with federal law may be subject to enforcement action in accordance with an applicable law and the terms and conditions of the award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andrew K. Gradison".

Andrew Gradison  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
Administration for Children and Families  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services