



Grants Policy Bulletin

FY 2026 Legislative Mandates

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Related Bulletins: [2024-02E Legislative Mandates in Grants Management for FY24](#)

Issued by: Office of Federal Assistance and Acquisition Management (OFAAM)

Purpose

This grants policy bulletin outlines the FY26 legislative mandates that limit the use of HRSA funds.

Background

The [FY 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act](#) was signed into law on February 3, 2026. The law provides funding to HRSA for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026. As in previous years, the FY26 appropriation contains provisions that limit the use of HRSA funds to recipients. HRSA refers to these provisions as “legislative mandates.” This bulletin explains the statutory provisions that limit the use of HRSA funds.

HRSA recipients need to have policies and procedures in place to follow all applicable laws. When an organization applies for federal funding, the Authorizing Official confirms that the organization will follow all federal requirements tied to that funding.

Implementation

The FY 2026 Legislative Mandates in effect are as follows:

Division B, Title II – Department of Health and Human Services

- (1) Salary Rate Limitation (Section 202)
- (2) Gun Control (Section 210)

Division B, Title V – General Provisions

- (3) Anti-Lobbying (Section 503)
- (4) Acknowledgment of Federal Funding (Section 505)
- (5) Restriction on Abortions (Section 506)
- (6) Exceptions to Restriction on Abortions (Section 507)
- (7) Ban on Funding Human Embryo Research (Section 508)
- (8) Limitation on Use of Funds for Promotion of Legalization of Controlled Substances (Section 509)
- (9) Restriction on Disseminating False or Misleading Information (515(b))
- (10) Restriction of Pornography on Computer Networks (Section 520)

(11) Restriction on Purchase of Sterile Needles (Section 525)

Division E, Title VII – General Provisions – Government-wide

(12) Confidentiality Agreements (Section 742)

Division D, Title II

(1) Salary Rate Limitation (Section 202)

“None of the funds appropriated in this title shall be used to pay the salary of an individual, through a grant or other extramural mechanism, at a rate in excess of Executive Level II: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated in this title shall be used to prevent the NIH from paying up to 100 percent of the salary of an individual at this rate.”

Note: The [Executive Level II](#) salary is \$228,000 as of January 2026. The salary cap applies to any individual under a grant, including named contractors or consultants.

(2) Gun Control (Section 210)

“None of the funds made available in this title may be used, in whole or in part, to advocate or promote gun control.”

Division D, Title V

(3) Anti-Lobbying (Section 503)

“(a) No part of any appropriation contained in this Act or transferred pursuant to section 4002 of [Public Law 111–148](#) shall be used, other than for normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships, for publicity or propaganda purposes, for the preparation, distribution, or use of any kit, pamphlet, booklet, publication, electronic communication, radio, television, or video presentation designed to support or defeat the enactment of legislation before the Congress or any State or local legislature or legislative body, except in presentation to the Congress or any State or local legislature itself, or designed to support or defeat any proposed or pending regulation, administrative action, or order issued by the executive branch of any State or local government, except in presentation to the executive branch of any State or local government itself.

(b) No part of any appropriation contained in this Act or transferred pursuant to section 4002 of [Public Law 111–148](#) shall be used to pay the salary or expenses of any grant or contract recipient, or agent acting for such recipient, related to any activity designed to influence the enactment of legislation, appropriations, regulation, administrative action, or Executive order proposed or pending before the Congress or any State government, State legislature or local legislature or legislative body, other than for normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships or participation by an agency or officer of a State, local or tribal government in policymaking and administrative processes within the executive branch of that government.

(c) The prohibitions in subsections (a) and (b) shall include any activity to advocate or promote any proposed, pending or future Federal, State or local tax increase, or any proposed, pending, or future

requirement or restriction on any legal consumer product, including its sale or marketing, including but not limited to the advocacy or promotion of gun control.”

(4) Acknowledgment of Federal Funding (Section 505)

“When issuing statements, press releases, requests for proposals, bid solicitations and other documents describing projects or programs funded in whole or in part with Federal money, all grantees receiving Federal funds included in this Act, including but not limited to State and local governments and recipients of Federal research grants, shall clearly state—

- (1) the percentage of the total costs of the program or project which will be financed with Federal money;
- (2) the dollar amount of Federal funds for the project or program; and
- (3) percentage and dollar amount of the total costs of the project or program that will be financed by non-governmental sources.”

(5) Restriction on Abortions (Section 506)

“(a) None of the funds appropriated in this Act, and none of the funds in any trust fund to which funds are appropriated in this Act, shall be expended for any abortion.

(b) None of the funds appropriated in this Act, and none of the funds in any trust fund to which funds are appropriated in this Act, shall be expended for health benefits coverage that includes coverage of abortion.

(c) The term “health benefits coverage” means the package of services covered by a managed care provider or organization pursuant to a contract or other arrangement.”

(6) Exceptions to Restriction on Abortions (Section 507)

“(a) The limitations established in the preceding section shall not apply to an abortion—

- (1) if the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest; or
- (2) in the case where a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, that would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed.

(b) Nothing in the preceding section shall be construed as prohibiting the expenditure by a State, locality, entity, or private person of State, local, or private funds (other than a State's or locality's contribution of Medicaid matching funds).

(c) Nothing in the preceding section shall be construed as restricting the ability of any managed care provider from offering abortion coverage or the ability of a State or locality to contract separately

with such a provider for such coverage with State funds (other than a State's or locality's contribution of Medicaid matching funds).

(d)(1) None of the funds made available in this Act may be made available to a Federal agency or program, or to a State or local government, if such agency, program, or government subjects any institutional or individual health care entity to discrimination on the basis that the health care entity does not provide, pay for, provide coverage of, or refer for abortions.

(2) In this subsection, the term “health care entity” includes an individual physician or other health care professional, a hospital, a provider-sponsored organization, a health maintenance organization, a health insurance plan, or any other kind of health care facility, organization, or plan.”

(7) Ban on Funding of Human Embryo Research (Section 508)

“(a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for—

(1) the creation of a human embryo or embryos for research purposes; or

(2) research in which a human embryo or embryos are destroyed, discarded, or knowingly subjected to risk of injury or death greater than that allowed for research on fetuses in utero under 45 CFR 46.204(b) and section 498(b) of the Public Health Service Act ([42 U.S.C. 289g\(b\)](#)).

(b) For purposes of this section, the term “human embryo or embryos” includes any organism, not protected as a human subject under 45 CFR 46 as of the date of the enactment of this Act, that is derived by fertilization, parthenogenesis, cloning, or any other means from one or more human gametes or human diploid cell.”

(8) Limitation on Use of Funds for Promotion of Legalization of Controlled Substances (Section 509)

“(a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for any activity that promotes the legalization of any drug or other substance included in schedule I of the schedules of controlled substances established under section 202 of the Controlled Substances Act except for normal and recognized executive-congressional communications.

(b) The limitation in subsection (a) shall not apply when there is significant medical evidence of a therapeutic advantage to the use of such drug or other substance or that federally sponsored clinical trials are being conducted to determine therapeutic advantage.”

(9) Restriction on Disseminating False or Misleading Information (Section 515(b))

“(b) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to disseminate information that is deliberately false or misleading.”

(10) Restriction of Pornography on Computer Networks (Section 520)

“(a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.”

(11) Restriction on the Purchase of Sterile Needles (Section 525)

“Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, no funds appropriated in this Act shall be used to purchase sterile needles or syringes for the hypodermic injection of any illegal drug: *Provided*, That such limitation does not apply to the use of funds for elements of a program other than making such purchases if the relevant State or local health department, in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, determines that the State or local jurisdiction, as applicable, is experiencing, or is at risk for, a significant increase in hepatitis infections or an HIV outbreak due to injection drug use, and such program is operating in accordance with State and local law.”

Division E, Title VII

(12) Confidentiality Agreements (Section 742)

(a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act may be available for a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement with an entity that requires employees or contractors of such entity seeking to report fraud, waste, or abuse to sign internal confidentiality agreements or statements prohibiting or otherwise restricting such employees or contractors from lawfully reporting such waste, fraud, or abuse to a designated investigative or law enforcement representative of a Federal department or agency authorized to receive such information.

(b) The limitation in subsection (a) shall not contravene requirements applicable to Standard Form 312, Form 4414, or any other form issued by a Federal department or agency governing the nondisclosure of classified information.

Resources

- [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026](#)

Inquiries

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