

HEW AND CIVIL RIGHTS

TODAY there is a law in the United States that says no person shall be subjected to discrimination because of race, color, or national origin in any program or activity that receives Federal financial assistance.

In the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, this anti-discrimination provision of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is administered by the Office for Civil Rights, which is located in the Office of the Secretary. The Office for Civil Rights has the goal of eliminating discrimination in every facility in this country that receives Federal assistance—schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, nursing homes, and other social service facilities and State agencies.

An Executive Order issued in September 1965 bans discrimination in employment by government contractors and subcontractors. This order requires a contractor to take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed without discrimination and that employees are treated without regard to race, creed, color, or national origin once they are hired.

In a number of areas such as nursing homes, hospital and college campus construction involving Federal funds, the Office for Civil Rights coordinates the activities of all other Federal agencies in enforcing this Executive Order.

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