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# Darrell L. Hines Academy Wellness Policy

## Background

Darrell Lynn Hines Academy (DLH Academy) is committed to the health and wellness of every student. DLH believes that for students to have the opportunity to achieve personal, academic, developmental and social success, we need to create positive, safe and health-promoting learning environments at every level, in every setting, throughout the school year.

Research shows that two components, good nutrition and physical activity before, during, and after the school day are strongly correlated with positive student outcomes. For example, student participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) School Breakfast Program is associated with higher grades and standardized test scores, lower absenteeism, and better performance on cognitive tasks.<sup>1,2,3,4,5,6,7</sup> Conversely, less-than-adequate consumption of specific foods including fruits, vegetables and dairy products, is associated with lower grades among students.<sup>8,9,10</sup> In addition, students who are physically active through active transport to and from school, recess, physical activity breaks, high-quality physical education and extracurricular activities – do better academically.<sup>11,12,13,14</sup> Finally, there is evidence that adequate hydration is associated with better cognitive performance.<sup>15,16,17</sup>

This policy outlines DLH Academy's approach to creating an environment filled with opportunities for all students to practice healthy eating and engage in physical activities throughout the school day while minimizing commercial distractions. Specifically, this policy establishes goals and procedures to ensure:

- Students in the school have access to healthy foods throughout the school day – both through reimbursable school meals and other foods available throughout the school campus– in accordance with Federal and state nutrition standards;
- Students receive quality nutrition education that helps them develop lifelong healthy eating behaviors;
- Students have opportunities to be physically active during and after school;
- DLH Academy engages in nutrition and physical activity promotion and other activities that promote student wellness;
- School staff are encouraged and supported to practice healthy nutrition and physical activity behaviors in and out of school;
- The community is engaged in supporting the work of the school in creating continuity between school and other settings for students and staff to practice lifelong healthy habits; and
- The school establishes and maintains an infrastructure for management, oversight, implementation, communication about and monitoring of the policy and its established goals and objectives.

This policy applies to all students, and staff. Specific measureable goals and outcomes are identified within each section below.

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## School Wellness Committee

### Committee Role and Membership

DLH Academy will convene a representative school wellness committee (SWC) that meets three times per year to establish goals for and oversee school health and safety policies and programs, including development, implementation, and periodic review and update of this school wellness policy (SWP).

The SWC membership will represent (to the extent possible), but not be limited to: parents and caregivers; students; representatives of the school nutrition program (e.g., school nutrition director); physical education teachers; health education teachers; school health professionals (e.g., health education teachers, school health services staff [e.g., nurses, physicians, dentists, health educators, and other allied health personnel who provide school health services], and mental health and social services staff [e.g., school counselors, psychologists, social workers, or psychiatrists]; school administrators (e.g., superintendent, principal, vice principal), school board members; health professionals (e.g., dietitians, doctors, nurses, dentists); and the general public.

### Leadership

The Superintendent or designee(s) will convene the SWC and facilitate development of and updates to the wellness policy and will ensure each school's compliance with the policy.

The designated official for oversight is: *Precious Washington, Superintendent, 7151 N. 86<sup>th</sup> St., Milwaukee, WI 53224, (414) 358-3542*. Other committee members are listed below.

Name	Title	Email address	Role on Committee
Cathy Stampley	Nutrition Director	cstampley@dlha.org	Assists in the evaluation of the wellness policy implementation
Alysa Golden	Food Service Coordinator	agolden@dlha.org	Assists in the implementation of the wellness policy
Liza Hines	Nutrition Support Staff	lhines@dlha.org	Assist in the implementation of the wellness policy
Lois Fletcher	Principal	lfletcher@dlha.org	Assists in the implementation of the wellness policy
Precious Washington	Superintendent	pashington@dlha.org	Assists in the evaluation of the wellness policy implementation
Valonda Golden	Educational Assistant	vgolden@dlha.org	Assists in the implementation of the wellness policy
Wrye Oliver	Library/Media Specialist	woliver@dlha.org	Assist in the implementation of the wellness policy
Andrea Smith-Lewis	Parent Coordinator	alewis@dlha.org	Provide parent feedback/suggestions on the wellness policy

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## Wellness Policy Implementation, Monitoring, Accountability and Community Engagement

### Plan Implementation

DLH Academy will develop and maintain a plan for implementation to manage and coordinate the execution of this wellness policy. The plan delineates roles, responsibilities, actions and timelines specific to each school; and includes information about who will be responsible to make what change, by how much, where and when; as well as specific goals and objectives for nutrition standards for all foods and beverages available on the school campus, food and beverage marketing, nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, physical education and other school-based activities that promote student wellness. The school will use the [Healthy Schools Program online tools](#) to complete a school-level assessment based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's School Health Index, create an action plan that fosters implementation, and generate an annual progress report.

This wellness policy and the progress reports can be found at: [www.dlhacademy.org](http://www.dlhacademy.org)

### Recordkeeping

The School will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy in the school office and/or on the school shared file. Documentation maintained in this location will include but will not be limited to:

- The written wellness policy;
- Documentation demonstrating that the policy has been made available to the public;
- Documentation of efforts to review and update the School Wellness Policy; including an indication of who is involved in the update and methods the school uses to make stakeholders aware of their ability to participate on the SWC;
- Documentation to demonstrate compliance with the annual public notification requirements;
- The most recent assessment on the implementation of the local school wellness policy;
- Documentation demonstrating the most recent assessment on the implementation of the Local School Wellness Policy has been made available to the public.

### Annual Notification of Policy

The school will actively inform families and the public each year of basic information about this policy, including its content, any updates to the policy and implementation status. The school will make this information available via the school website and/or school-wide communications. The school will provide as much information as possible about the school nutrition environment. This will include a summary of the school's events or activities related to wellness policy implementation. Annually, the school will also publicize the name and contact information of the school's leader leading and coordinating the committee, as well as information on how the public can get involved with the school wellness committee.

### Triennial Progress Assessments

Once every three years, the school will evaluate compliance with the wellness policy to assess the implementation of the policy and include:

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- The extent to which the school is in compliance with the wellness policy;
- The extent to which the school's wellness policy compares to the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's model wellness policy; and
- A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the school's wellness policy.

The position responsible for managing the triennial assessment and contact information is the Superintendent. The SWC will monitor the schools' compliance with this wellness policy. The school will actively notify households/families of the availability of the triennial progress report.

## **Revisions and Updating the Policy**

The SWC will update or modify the wellness policy based on the results of the annual School Health Index and triennial assessments and/or as School priorities change; community needs change; wellness goals are met; new health science, information, and technology emerges; and new Federal or state guidance or standards are issued. *The wellness policy will be assessed and updated as indicated every three years, following the triennial assessment.*

## **Community Involvement, Outreach and Communications**

DLH Academy is committed to being responsive to community input, which begins with awareness of the wellness policy. The school will actively communicate ways in which representatives of SWC and others can participate in the development, implementation and periodic review and update of the wellness policy through a variety of means appropriate for the school. The school will also inform parents of the improvements that have been made to school meals and compliance with school meal standards, availability of child nutrition programs and how to apply, and a description of and compliance with Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

The school will use electronic mechanisms, such as email or displaying notices on the school's website, as well as non-electronic mechanisms, such as newsletters, presentations to parents, or sending information home to parents, to ensure that all families are actively notified of the content of, implementation of, and updates to the wellness policy, as well as how to get involved and support the policy. The school will ensure that communications are culturally and linguistically appropriate to the community, and accomplished through means similar to other ways that the school and individual schools are communicating important school information with parents. The school's meals vendor also provides monthly newsletters and education sessions for parents and students as requested.

The school will actively notify the public about the content of or any updates to the wellness policy annually, at a minimum. The school will also use these mechanisms to inform the community about the availability of the annual and triennial reports.

## Nutrition

### **School Meals**

Our school is committed to serving healthy meals to children, with plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free and low-fat milk; that are moderate in sodium, low in saturated fat, and have zero grams *trans*-fat per serving (nutrition label or manufacturer's specification); and to meeting the nutrition needs of school children within their calorie requirements. The school meal programs aim to improve the diet and health of school children, help mitigate childhood obesity, model healthy eating to support the

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development of lifelong healthy eating patterns and support healthy choices while accommodating cultural food preferences and special dietary needs.

DLH Academy participates in USDA child nutrition program, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the School Breakfast Program (SBP) and summer meals provided by the school meals vendor (when summer school is hosted). The school is committed to offering school meals through the NSLP and SBP programs, and other applicable Federal child nutrition programs, that:

- Are accessible to all students;
- Are appealing and attractive to children;
- Are served in clean and pleasant settings;
- Meet or exceed current nutrition requirements established by local, state, and Federal statutes and regulations. (The school offers reimbursable school meals that meet program requirements [Nutrition Standards](#))
- Promote healthy food and beverage choices using at least seven of the following [Smarter Lunchroom techniques](#):
  - Fresh fruit is available daily.
  - All available vegetable options have been given creative or descriptive names.
  - All staff members, especially those serving, have been trained to politely prompt students to select and consume the daily vegetable options with their meal.
  - White milk is placed in front of other beverages in all coolers.
  - Student surveys and taste testing opportunities are used to inform menu development, dining space decor and promotional ideas.
  - Student artwork is displayed in the service and/or dining areas.

In order to further promote the nutrition program,

- Menus will be posted on the school website. Menus will be created/reviewed certified nutrition professional.
- School meals are administered by a team of child nutrition professionals.
- The nutrition program will accommodate students with special dietary needs.
- Students will be allowed at least 10 minutes to eat breakfast and at least 20 minutes to eat lunch, counting from the time they have received their meal and are seated (meets Healthy Schools Program Gold-level criteria).
- Students are served lunch at a reasonable and appropriate time of day.
- Participation in Federal child nutrition programs will be promoted among students and families to help ensure that families know what programs are available in their children's school.

## **Staff Qualifications and Professional Development**

All school nutrition program directors, managers and staff will meet or exceed hiring and annual continuing education/training requirements in the [USDA Professional Standards](#). Nutrition staff will also refer to the Wisconsin School Nutrition website to find training that meets their learning needs.

## **Water**

To promote hydration, free, safe, unflavored drinking water will be available to all students throughout the school day\*. The school will make drinking water available in the cafeteria during mealtimes.

- Water bottles/jugs with cups will be available in the cafeteria if a drinking fountain is not present.

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- All water sources and containers will be maintained on a regular basis to ensure good hygiene and health safety standards. Such sources and containers may include drinking fountains, water jugs/bottles, hydration stations, water jets and other methods for delivering drinking water.
- Students will be allowed to bring and carry (approved) water bottles filled with only water with them throughout the day.

## Competitive Foods and Beverages

Our school is committed to guaranteeing that all food and beverage served to each student on the school campus\* during the school day\* support the healthy eating initiative. All foods and beverages sold and served outside of the school meal programs (e.g., “competitive” foods and beverages) will meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, at a minimum. Smart Snacks aim to improve student health and well-being, increase consumption of healthful foods during the school day and create an environment that reinforces the development of healthy eating habits. A summary of the standards and information, as well as a Guide to Smart Snacks in Schools are available at the [Smart Snacks Website](#). Tools and resources are also available at this site to assist with implementation of Smart Snacks.

## Celebrations and Rewards

All foods offered on the school campus will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards including through:

1. Celebrations and parties. The school will provide a list of healthy party ideas to parents and teachers, including non-food celebration ideas. Healthy party ideas are available from the [Alliance for a Healthier Generation](#).
2. Classroom snacks brought by parents. The school will provide parents a list of acceptable foods in the family handbook each year.
3. Rewards and incentives. The school will provide teachers and other relevant school staff a [list of alternative ways to reward children](#). Foods and beverages will not be used as a reward, or withheld as punishment for any reason, such as for performance or behavior.

## Fundraising

Foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards may be sold through fundraisers on the school campus\* during the school day\*. The school will make available to parents and teachers a list of healthy fundraising ideas using *examples from the [Action for Healthy Kids Organization](#)*.

- Fundraisers will promote physical activity (walk-a-thons, Jump Rope for Heart, fun runs, etc.).
- Fundraising during and outside school hours will sell foods and beverages that meet or exceed the Smart Snacks nutrition standards. These fundraisers may include but are not limited to, donation nights at restaurants, cookie dough, candy and pizza sales, market days, etc. (Meets Healthy schools Program Gold-level criteria)]

## Nutrition Promotion

Nutrition promotion and education positively influence lifelong eating behaviors by using evidence-based techniques and nutrition messages, and by creating food environments that encourage healthy nutrition choices and encourage participation in school meal programs. Students and staff will receive consistent nutrition messages throughout schools, classrooms, gymnasiums, and cafeterias. Nutrition promotion



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also includes marketing and advertising nutritious foods and beverages to students and is most effective when implemented consistently through a comprehensive and multi-channel approach by school staff, teachers, parents, students and the community.

The school will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students throughout the school campus, as well as encourage participation in school meal programs by:

- Implementing at least ten or more evidence-based healthy food promotion techniques through the school meal programs using [Smart Snacks \(All Foods Sold in Schools\) | Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction](#)
- Ensuring 100% of foods and beverages promoted to students meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. Additional promotion techniques that the school and individual schools may use are available at the Smart Snacks website.

## **Nutrition Education**

The school will teach, model, encourage and support healthy eating by all students. Schools will provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that:

- Is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;
- Is part of not only health education classes, but also integrated into other classroom instruction through subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences and elective subjects;
- Includes enjoyable, developmentally-appropriate, culturally-relevant and participatory activities, such as cooking demonstrations or lessons, promotions, taste-testing, farm visits and school gardens;
- Promotes fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products and healthy food preparation methods;
- Emphasizes caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (promotes physical activity/exercise);
- Links with school meal programs, cafeteria nutrition promotion activities, school gardens, Farm to School programs, other school foods and nutrition-related community services;
- Teaches media literacy with an emphasis on food and beverage marketing; and
- Includes nutrition education training for teachers and other staff.

## **Essential Healthy Eating Topics in Health Education**

The school will include in the health education curriculum a minimum of 12 of the following essential topics on healthy eating:

- Relationship between healthy eating and personal health and disease prevention
- Food guidance from [MyPlate](#)
- Reading and using FDA's nutrition fact labels
- Eating a variety of foods every day
- Balancing food intake and physical activity
- Eating more fruits, vegetables and whole grain products
- Choosing foods that are low in fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol and do not contain *trans* fat
- Choosing foods and beverages with little added sugars
- Eating more calcium-rich foods
- Preparing healthy meals and snacks
- Risks of unhealthy weight control practices
- Accepting body size differences

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- Food safety
- Importance of water consumption
- Importance of eating breakfast
- Making healthy choices when eating at restaurants
- Eating disorders
- [Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#)
- Reducing sodium intake
- Social media influences on healthy eating, including media, family, peers and culture
- How to find valid information or services related to nutrition and dietary behavior
- How to develop a plan and track progress toward achieving a personal goal to eat healthfully
- Resisting peer pressure related to unhealthy dietary behavior
- Influencing, supporting, or advocating for others' healthy dietary behavior

## Physical Activity

The school goal is to have students participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day. A substantial percentage of students' physical activity can be provided through a comprehensive school physical activity program (CSPAP). A CSPAP reflects strong coordination and synergy across all of the components: quality physical education as the foundation; physical activity before, during and after school; staff involvement and family and community engagement and the school is committed to providing these opportunities. The school will ensure that these varied physical activity opportunities are in addition to, and not as a substitute for, physical education (addressed in "Physical Education" subsection).

Physical activity during the school day (including but not limited to recess, classroom physical activity breaks or physical education) **will not be withheld** as punishment for any reason. The school will provide teachers and other school staff with a [constructive classroom rewards system](#) as alternative forms of discipline for students.

To the extent practicable, the school will ensure that its grounds and facilities are safe and that equipment is available to students to be active. The school will conduct necessary inspections and repairs.

## Physical Education

The school will provide students with physical education, using an age-appropriate, sequential physical education curriculum consistent with national and state standards for physical education. The physical education curriculum will promote the benefits of a physically active lifestyle and will help students develop skills to engage in lifelong healthy habits, as well as incorporate essential health education concepts (discussed in the "*Essential Physical Activity Topics in Health Education*" subsection). The curriculum will support the essential components of physical education.

All students will be provided equal opportunity to participate in physical education classes. The school will make appropriate accommodations to allow for equitable participation for all students and will adapt physical education classes and equipment as necessary.

All **elementary students** in each grade will receive physical education for 30 minutes per week throughout the school year. All middle school students will receive physical education for approximately 180 minutes each week throughout the school year.

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The school physical education program will promote student physical fitness through individualized fitness and activity assessments (via the [Presidential Youth Fitness Program](#) or other appropriate assessment tool) and will use criterion-based reporting for each student.

## Essential Physical Activity Topics in Health Education

Health education will be required in all grades (elementary) and the school will require middle school students to take and pass at least one health education course. The school will include in the health education curriculum a minimum of 12 the following essential topics on physical activity:

- The physical, psychological, or social benefits of physical activity
- How physical activity can contribute to a healthy weight
- How physical activity can contribute to the academic learning process
- How an inactive lifestyle contributes to chronic disease
- Health-related fitness, that is, cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility, and body composition
- Differences between physical activity, exercise and fitness
- Phases of an exercise session, that is, warm up, workout and cool down
- Overcoming barriers to physical activity
- Decreasing sedentary activities, such as TV watching
- Opportunities for physical activity in the community
- Preventing injury during physical activity
- Weather-related safety, for example, avoiding heat stroke, hypothermia and sunburn while being physically active
- How much physical activity is enough, that is, determining frequency, intensity, time and type of physical activity
- Developing an individualized physical activity and fitness plan
- Monitoring progress toward reaching goals in an individualized physical activity plan
- Dangers of using performance-enhancing drugs, such as steroids
- Social influences on physical activity, including media, family, peers and culture
- How to find valid information or services related to physical activity and fitness
- How to influence, support, or advocate for others to engage in physical activity
- How to resist peer pressure that discourages physical activity.

## Recess (Elementary)

All elementary schools will offer at least **20 minutes of recess** on all days during the school year. If recess is offered before lunch, schools will have appropriate hand-washing facilities and/or hand-sanitizing mechanisms located just inside/outside the cafeteria to ensure proper hygiene prior to eating and students are required to use these mechanisms before eating. Hand-washing time, as well as time to put away coats/hats/gloves, will be built in to the recess transition period/timeframe before students enter the cafeteria.

**Outdoor recess** will be offered when weather is feasible for outdoor play

In the event that the school must conduct **indoor recess**, teachers and staff will follow the indoor recess guidelines that promote physical activity for students, to the extent practicable.

Recess will complement, not substitute, physical education class. Recess monitors or teachers will encourage students to be active, and will serve as role models by being physically active alongside the students whenever feasible.

## Classroom Physical Activity Breaks

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The school recognizes that students are more attentive and ready to learn if provided with periodic breaks when they can be physically active or stretch. Thus, students will be offered **periodic opportunities** to be active or to stretch throughout the day on all or most days during a typical school week. The school recommends teachers provide short (3-5-minute) physical activity breaks to students during and between classroom time at least three days per week. These physical activity breaks will complement, not substitute, for physical education class, recess, and class transition periods.

The school will provide resources and links to resources, tools, and technology with ideas for classroom physical activity breaks. Resources and ideas are available at the [Nemours KidsHealth Program](#).

## **Active Academics**

Teachers will incorporate movement and kinesthetic learning approaches into “core” subject instruction when possible (e.g., science, math, language arts, social studies and others) and do their part to limit sedentary behavior during the school day.

The school will support classroom teachers incorporating physical activity and employing kinesthetic learning approaches into core subjects by providing annual professional development opportunities and resources, including information on leading activities, activity options, as well as making available background material on the connections between learning and movement.

Teachers will serve as role models by being physically active alongside the students whenever feasible.

## **Before and After School Activities**

The school offers opportunities for students to participate in physical activity either after the school day through a variety of methods. The school will encourage students to be physically active after school by promoting girls/boys basketball, flag football, cheerleading, and track.

## **Other Activities that Promote Student Wellness**

The school will integrate wellness activities across the entire school setting, not just in the cafeteria. The school will coordinate and integrate other initiatives related to physical activity, physical education, nutrition and other wellness components so all efforts are complementary, not duplicative, and work towards the same set of goals and objectives promoting student well-being, optimal development and strong educational outcomes.

DLH Academy will coordinate content across curricular areas that promote student health, such as teaching nutrition concepts in mathematics.

All efforts related to obtaining federal, state or association recognition for efforts, or grants/funding opportunities for healthy school environments will be coordinated with and complementary of the wellness policy, including but not limited to ensuring the involvement of the SWC.

All school-sponsored events will adhere to the wellness policy guidelines. All school-sponsored wellness events will include physical activity and healthy eating opportunities when appropriate.

## **Community Partnerships**

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The school will *develop* relationships with community partners (e.g., hospitals, universities/colleges, local businesses, SNAP-Ed providers and coordinators, etc.) in support of this wellness policy's implementation. Existing and new community partnerships and sponsorships will be evaluated to ensure that they are consistent with the wellness policy and its goals.

## **Community Health Promotion and Family Engagement**

The school will promote to parents/caregivers, families, and the general community the benefits of and approaches for healthy eating and physical activity throughout the school year. Families will be informed and invited to participate in school-sponsored activities and will receive information about health promotion efforts.

As described in the "Community Involvement, Outreach, and Communications" subsection, the school will use electronic mechanisms (e.g., email or displaying notices on the school's website), as well as non-electronic mechanisms, (e.g., newsletters, presentations to parents or sending information home to parents), to ensure that all families are actively notified of opportunities to participate in school-sponsored activities and receive information about health promotion efforts.

## **Staff Wellness and Health Promotion**

DLH Academy will implement strategies to support staff in actively promoting and modeling healthy eating and physical activity behaviors. The school promotes staff member participation in health promotion programs and will support programs for staff members on healthy eating/weight management that are accessible and free or low-cost. The school wellness advocate will also provide monthly activities and ideas that promote balance and wellness.

## **Professional Learning**

When feasible, the school will offer annual professional learning opportunities and resources for staff to increase knowledge and skills about promoting healthy behaviors in the classroom and school (e.g., increasing the use of kinesthetic teaching approaches or incorporating nutrition lessons into math class). Professional learning will help school staff understand the connections between academics and health and the ways in which health and wellness are integrated into ongoing school reform or academic improvement plans/efforts.

## **USDA Non-Discrimination Statement**

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

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To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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