



Substance Abuse Prevention Charitable Choice Policy

Effective October 30, 2003 | Amended May 16, 2022

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the federal agency providing the Block Grant prevention funding, requires that faith-based organization delivering federally funded substance abuse prevention services notify participants at the beginning of services of their right to be referred to comparable services if they object to the religious character of the organization.

The **Federal Regulation, Title 42 CFR Part 54 and 54a, and 45 CFR 96, 260 and 1050** outline additional requirements that are partially summarized below. However, for complete details on complying with the laws as a faith-based organization, please review the full [Federal Regulation](#).

For those that do not designate themselves as faith-based, being aware of the issue and having the federal regulation available to educate others should be sufficient. For those that do designate themselves as faith-based, they should read the [Federal Regulation](#). A summary of some of the guidelines are outlined below.

A faith-based provider should:

- Serve all participants without regard to religion, religious belief, or refusal to hold a religious belief;
- Ensure that participation in religious activities is only on a voluntary basis;
- Notify participants of the religious nature of the organization, their right to be served without religious discrimination, their right not to take part in inherently religious activities, their right to request an alternative provider and the process for doing so.
- Segregate federal funds in a separate account to assure that these funds are used only for the funded purpose;
- Ensure that federal funds are not expended on inherently religious activities.