



## **Joint Interagency Statement of Shared Commitment to Ensure Compliance with Civil Rights Laws and Advance Environmental Justice**

Today, the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division and officials from the Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) Office for Civil Rights; Department of Transportation’s (DOT) Departmental Office of Civil Rights; Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Office of External Civil Rights Compliance; Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties; and Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity reaffirm our agencies’ shared commitment to uphold civil rights and advance environmental justice in communities across the United States. Our agencies will continue to work together to support our enforcement efforts under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI) and to further environmental justice initiatives. Title VI prohibits discrimination based on race, color, and national origin (including limited English proficiency) in programs receiving Federal financial assistance, including Federal funding.

Advancing environmental justice is a core civil rights issue. Underserved communities, including those that have been historically marginalized and overburdened by pollution and underinvestment in transportation; those that are impeded from accessing clean water, clean air, and clean land; and those that lack effective and safe wastewater management and infrastructure, deserve the full resources and attention of the Federal government.

In recent years, our agencies have collectively distributed billions of dollars in Federal financial assistance<sup>1</sup> to rebuild America’s roads, bridges, airports and railroads, pipelines and ports; reconnect communities; expand access to clean drinking water; and tackle the climate crisis. Through Federally funded programs, our agencies have made historic investments in modernizing the nation’s infrastructure to improve public safety and climate resilience, create well-paying jobs across the country, provide access to goods and services, and deliver a more equitable future that advances environmental justice.<sup>2</sup>

Long-standing civil rights laws, including Title VI, prohibit discrimination in programs receiving Federal financial assistance, including in the programs referenced above. Civil rights obligations

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<sup>1</sup> For example, DOT, EPA, and HUD have distributed Federal funds through the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (2021) (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (2022), among other programs.

<sup>2</sup> For additional information regarding the DOT’s and the EPA’s accomplishments under the IIJA, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, please see <https://www.transportation.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law> and <https://www.epa.gov/infrastructure>, respectively.

are separate and distinct from recipients' other obligations, including obligations to comply with Federal, state, territorial, and local environmental laws.<sup>3</sup> Our agencies commit to vigorously using all applicable civil rights laws, including Title VI, to advance environmental justice, and to actively work with state, territorial, and local governments and all other entities that receive Federal funding to ensure compliance with these important laws. These efforts include providing technical assistance to recipients, conducting pre- and post-award reviews, investigating complaints of discrimination, and taking any necessary enforcement actions.

Recipients are invited to contact the civil rights office of their Federal funding agency or agencies or DOJ's Federal Coordination and Compliance Section in the Civil Rights Division for technical assistance on compliance with Title VI and other Federal civil rights laws.

- DOJ's Federal Coordination and Compliance Section: 888-848-5306
- HHS's Office for Civil Rights: 800-368-1019
- DOT's Departmental Office of Civil Rights: [DOCR.info@dot.gov](mailto:DOCR.info@dot.gov), 202-366-4648
- EPA's Office of External Civil Rights Compliance: 202-564-3316
- DHS's Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties: [crcl@dhs.gov](mailto:crcl@dhs.gov) (ATTN: Antidiscrimination Group)
- HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity:  
[https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/fair\\_housing\\_equal\\_opp/contact\\_fheo](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/contact_fheo)

Members of the public may report possible civil rights violations by contacting the civil rights office of the Federal funding agency or agencies or DOJ's Federal Coordination and Compliance Section in the Civil Rights Division.

- DOJ's Federal Coordination and Compliance Section:  
<https://civilrights.justice.gov/report/>
- HHS's Office for Civil Rights: <https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/complaints>
- DOT's Departmental Office of Civil Rights: [EquityandAccess@dot.gov](mailto:EquityandAccess@dot.gov)
- EPA's [Office of External Civil Rights Compliance](#): 202-564-3316
- DHS's Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties: <https://www.dhs.gov/file-civil-rights-complaint>
- HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity:  
[https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/fair\\_housing\\_equal\\_opp/contact\\_fheo](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/contact_fheo)

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<sup>3</sup> As an example, Title VI obligations are separate and distinct from the environmental justice analysis as part of the National Environmental Policy Act.