

Your Rights Under Title VI and Related Statutes



What is Title VI?

Title VI is a statute provision of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VI requires that “No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” [42 U.S.C. §2000d]

What does Title VI mean?

The City of San Diego strives to ensure that access to and use of all programs, services, or benefits derived from any City activity will be administered without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or other protected status.

The City will not tolerate discrimination by a City employee or recipients of federal funds from the City, such as other agencies, contractors, consultants, suppliers, vendors, etc. The City prohibits all discriminatory practices that may result in:

- Denial to any individual of any service, financial aid, or benefit provided under the program to which they may be otherwise entitled;
- Different standards or requirements for participation;
- Segregation or separate treatment in any part of the program;
- Distinction in quality, quantity, or manner in which the benefit is provided;
- Discrimination in any activities conducted in a facility built in whole or part with federal funds.

Who is responsible for Title VI?

All City employees and programs are responsible for complying with Title VI. The City’s Compliance Department provides continuous leadership, guidance, and technical assistance to ensure ongoing compliance with Title VI.

How does the City enforce Title VI?

To ensure compliance with Title VI, related statutes, and the Presidential Executive Order on Environmental Justice, the City will:

- Avoid or reduce harmful human health and environmental effects on minority and low-income populations.
- Ensure the full and fair participation by all communities, including low-income and minority populations, in the transportation decision making process on federally funded projects.
- Prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority and low-income populations on federally funded projects.

In addition, any recipient—including but not limited to Metropolitan Planning Organizations and local cities and counties—who receives federal financial aid bears a responsibility to administer its program and activities without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability or other protected status.

Are your rights being violated?

If you believe you have been discriminated against because of your race, color, or national origin, you may file a written Title VI complaint with the City of San Diego’s Title VI Coordinator within 180 days of the alleged discrimination. A complaint form is available online at <https://www.sandiego.gov/titlevi>. You may submit a complaint via email to titlevi@sandiego.gov or via U.S. mail to:

Title VI Coordinator
202 C Street, MS 8A
San Diego, CA 92101

Title VI complaints are investigated and responded to as quickly as possible.

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