

Office of Adolescent Health (OAH)
Grantee Conference

**Religious Issues:
“Equal Treatment” Rules**

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Legal Regulations

- **45 CFR Part 87 applies to most HHS grant programs.**
- **Funding decisions may not be influenced by organizations' religious character or affiliation, or lack of religious character or affiliation.**

Legal Regulations

- **Organizations receiving direct financial assistance from HHS may not engage in “inherently religious activities” as part of the Federally-funded programs or services.**

Legal Regulations

- **Faith-based and Community organizations (FBCOs) may conduct religious activities with private funds outside the Federally-funded programs as long as they are:**
 - **Separate in time or location**
 - **Voluntary for program participants**
 - **Privately funded**

Legal Regulations

- **Allocate costs of items that are intended to benefit both the Federally funded program and other work.**

Legal Regulations

- **FBOs are free to maintain their religious character and symbols.**

Legal Regulations

- **FBOs retain religious hiring exemption.**
- **FBCOs that receive direct HHS funds may not discriminate against program beneficiaries based on religion or religious belief.**

Grantees should use HHS funds in Compliance with 45 CFR Part 87. Please consult your project officers should you have any questions.*

*This PowerPoint should not be used in place of 45 CFR Part 87 or any OAH instructions.