



DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION POLICY STATEMENT

Executive Order 13583 establishes a coordinated government-wide initiative to promote diversity and inclusion in the Federal workforce. The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is fully committed to this initiative, recognizing that its most valuable asset is its employees. In order to fully utilize the talents and strengths of all employees, we must work aggressively to promote inclusion in the workplace. This initiative involves providing all employees with the opportunities, tools, training, and support systems they need to develop to their fullest potential. USDA's commitment to employee engagement supports these efforts and demonstrates how diversity and inclusion leads to high performance and productivity.

As the mission of FSIS evolves, employees must continue to demonstrate commitment to attaining and maintaining a diverse workforce. Workforce diversity enhances the Agency's ability to successfully develop effective solutions to today's challenges. Therefore, it is FSIS' policy that diversity be considered in Agency practices, including but not limited to: recruitment activities; professional development and training opportunities; social and recreational programs; and the establishment of workgroups and committees. Considering diversity as part of these various efforts assists the Agency in becoming stronger and more inclusive of all genders, nationalities, races, cultures, and so on.

In order to ensure inclusion within the FSIS workplace, all employees play an integral role in maintaining a discrimination and harassment-free work environment and must treat colleagues and customers with dignity, respect, and professionalism. Executives, managers, and supervisors bear a unique responsibility in leading the way to ensure that the Agency's diversity and inclusion efforts are widely integrated into the culture of the workforce. However, it is essential for every employee to get involved and participate by understanding and valuing differences, cultures, and backgrounds. The ability to deliver high-quality services to customers is undeniably linked to sustaining an organizational culture that protects and empowers the voices of all employees and leverages the diverse talent of all of our human resources.

If you have a question or need assistance, please contact the Civil Rights Staff at 1 (800) 269-6912 or by email at: AskCRD@fsis.usda.gov. You can find additional information about the FSIS EEO and Civil Rights Program at: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/informational/aboutfsis/civil-rights>.

Alfred V. Almanza
Administrator