Title VI Plan and Procedures
Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia

Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia
THE CENTER FOR AGING

Adopted date
October 2018
**Table of Contents**

I. INTRODUCTION ...........................................................................................................2

II. OVERVIEW OF SERVICES .....................................................................................3

III. POLICY STATEMENT AND AUTHORITIES ..........................................................4

IV. NONDISCRIMINATION ASSURANCE TO DRPT ....................................................5

V. PLAN APPROVAL DOCUMENT .............................................................................6

VI. ORGANIZATION AND TITLE VI PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES ....................10

VII. PROCEDURES FOR NOTIFYING THE PUBLIC OF TITLE VI RIGHTS AND HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT ..................................................................................14

VIII. TITLE VI COMPLAINT PROCEDURES ............................................................15

IX. PUBLIC OUTREACH AND INVOLVEMENT..........................................................19

X. LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE PLAN FOR PERSONS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) ...............................................................................................21

XI. MINORITY REPRESENTATION ON PLANNING AND ADVISORY BODIES .......28

XII. MONITORING TITLE VI COMPLAINTS ............................................................28

Appendix A - Title VI Notice to the Public ...............................................................30

Appendix B - Title VI Notice to the Public List of Locations ..................................31

Appendix C - Title VI Complaint Form ...................................................................32

Appendix D - Investigations, Lawsuits and Complaints Document ........................35

Appendix E - Summary of Outreach Efforts .............................................................37

Appendix F - Table Minority Representation on Committees by Race ..................38
I. INTRODUCTION

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance. Specifically, Title VI provides that "no person in the United States shall, on the ground 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. Section 2000d).

The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 clarified the intent of Title VI to include all programs and activities of Federal-aid recipients, sub-recipients, and contractors whether those programs and activities are federally funded or not.

Recently, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has placed renewed emphasis on Title VI issues, including providing meaningful access to persons with Limited English Proficiency.

Recipients of public transportation funding from FTA and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) are required to develop policies, programs, and practices that ensure that federal and state transit dollars are used in a manner that is nondiscriminatory as required under Title VI.

This document details how Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia incorporates nondiscrimination policies and practices in providing services to the public. Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia’s Title VI policies and procedures are documented in this plan and its appendices and attachments. This plan will be updated periodically (at least every three years) to incorporate changes and additional responsibilities that arise.
II. OVERVIEW OF SERVICES

Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia is the regional not-for-profit organization that helps seniors and adults with disabilities live with choice and dignity in their communities. Its headquarters and satellite offices assist citizens in the cities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach, and in Isle of Wight and Southampton counties. Programs and services include case management, in-home care, home-delivered meals, transitions care, wellness classes, I-Ride transportation, Medicare benefits counseling and more. In 2018, more than 10,000 people throughout Southeastern Virginia region were served. To learn more about Senior Services, please call 757-461-9481, connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, or visit www.ssseva.org.
III. POLICY STATEMENT AND AUTHORITIES

Title VI Policy Statement

Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia is committed to ensuring that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (PL 100.259), be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity, whether those programs and activities are federally funded or not.

The Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia Title VI Manager is responsible for initiating and monitoring Title VI activities, preparing required reports, and other responsibilities as required by Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, and Title 49 CFR Part 21.

[Signature of Authorizing Official]

[Date]

Authorities

Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act provides 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 otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance (refer to 49 CFR Part 21). The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 broadened the scope of Title VI coverage by expanding the definition of the terms “programs or activities” to include all programs or activities of Federal Aid recipients, sub recipients, and contractors, whether such programs and activities are federally assisted or not.

IV. NONDISCRIMINATION ASSURANCE TO DRPT

In accordance with 49 CFR Section 21.7(a), every application for financial assistance from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) must be accompanied by an assurance that the applicant will carry out the program in compliance with DOT’s Title VI regulations. This requirement is fulfilled when the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) submits its annual certifications and assurances to FTA. DRPT shall collect Title VI assurances from sub-recipients prior to passing through FTA funds.

As part of the Certifications and Assurances submitted to DRPT with the Annual Grant Application and all Federal Transit Administration grants submitted to the DRPT Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia submits a Nondiscrimination Assurance which addresses compliance with Title VI as well as nondiscrimination in hiring (EEO) and contracting (DBE), and nondiscrimination on the basis of disability (ADA).

In signing and submitting this assurance, Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia confirms to DRPT the agency’s commitment to nondiscrimination and compliance with federal and state requirements.
V. PLAN APPROVAL DOCUMENT

Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia

THE CENTER FOR AGING

Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia

Board of Directors Meeting

5 Interstate Corporate Center, Suite 115, Norfolk VA

Thursday, October 25, 2018

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Members Present</th>
<th>Robert Lougen - P</th>
<th>Brigid Miller</th>
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<td>Cathy Dalton (President) - P</td>
<td>Sheila Mason - P</td>
<td>Debbie Schwartz</td>
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<td>Hope Lomax-Jones - P</td>
<td>Evelyn McCullough (PROXY</td>
<td>Jasmin A. Miller</td>
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<td>Hope Lomax-Jones)</td>
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<td>Lynn Briley - P</td>
<td>Kathy McVey - P</td>
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<td>Angelia Allen - T</td>
<td>Dr. Robert Palmer - T</td>
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<td>Beatriz Amberman - A</td>
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<td>Herb DeGroff - P</td>
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<td>Lori Hasty - P</td>
<td><strong>Staff Present</strong></td>
<td>Steve Zollos</td>
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<td>Maureen Hook - P</td>
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Call to Order and Welcome: Cathy Dalton, President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and welcomed those in attendance.

Consent Agenda: The President called for review and approval of the Consent Agenda including the July 26, 2018 Board minutes and Executive Committee minutes from September 27, 2018. Also, approved from the consent agenda were memo of filing tax return, Model Title VI plan, and FY18 John Skirven annual evaluation. There being no additions, corrections, or deletions, Robert Lougen Motioned the Consent Agenda approval, was seconded by another board member and declared approved as recorded and to be filed for audit.

Agency Dashboard: Steve Zollos, CEO presented the Quarterly agency dashboard noting the following:
- Reviewed the gross income fundraising chart and advised to consider adding a net income chart to the dashboard.
- Reviewed the Units of Service, Fund Balance, Additional Income, Profit Center, & Staff Retention Charts.
- Recommendation: Cathy Dalton, President, requested going forward a separate dashboard chart reflecting the net amount raised through our fundraising efforts.

President’s Report: Cathy Dalton, President, would like a better outcome with fundraising. The board is looking for 100% participation in the employee United Way fundraising. Ms. Debbie Schwartz, Ms. Jasmin Miller and Ms. Christina Holland-McManes are working on a strategy with a goal of 100% employee participation. Art of Healthy aging is expected to break-even based on accounts receivable. The event is sold out per Ms. Debbie Schwartz and there are a few vendor slots available. Ms. Debbie Schwartz will be looking at pricing a different venue for next year. Consideration is being given to changing the event to Spring in 2020.

Strategic Goal 3: Sustainability

Financial Statements: Brigid Miller, CFO presented the September 30, 2018 financial statements.

FY2019 Operating Budget: Brigid Miller presented the FY2019 operating budget noting that its agency budget had decreased. She advised of the financial change was due to incorrect projected monies from DARS. Brigid Miller and Steve Zollos are meeting with each director to individually see how to cut cost and spread funding. The issue is being addressed as an agency issue.

Board Development Committee and Elections Report: Hope Lomax-Jones mentioned that Cathy will continue as President 2019-2021 as unanimously voted in prior July 26, 2018 Board of Director’s meeting minutes. SSSEVA board vacancies are as follows: Franklin has 2, Isle Wight 1, Portsmouth 1, South Hampton 3, and Suffolk 1. The Board vacancy chart will be
reviewed and updated as to status prior to spring retreat. Other items to be looked at would be the scheduling of new board members training and recruitment strategies.

The by-laws will be reviewed as to review the number of Board Members and areas represented. The board development committee will review the bylaws and determine which of the members are designated or at large. Sheila Mason reminded the group of the importance of jurisdictional representation and tying the strategic plan of SSSEVA to each city’s goals and objectives. It was determined that Shermita Bethea’s term had expired. **Hope Lomax-Jones motioned that Ms. Bethea’s term be renewed. The motion was seconded and was noted as approved by Cathy Dalton.**

**Strategic Goal 1: Improve Access and Awareness of Services**

**Hayden update:** Mr. Steve Zollos gave status update for projected opening for Hayden is scheduled for January 2019. John Skirven has been the consultant on the Hayden project, but going forward Steve Zollos will be the point of contact for all communication on the Hayden project. A team has been assembled with each division head to create a 90-day plan for the steps leading to the opening as well as a 90-day plan for when the facility opens. Steve noted that there has been a cost overrun due to city changes to the site plan. The Hayden team is working to value engineer the plan to minimize the cost. Steve will keep the board abreast of changes going forward.

**Strategic Goal 2: Improve Staff and Board Effectiveness**

**Board Strategic Plan Action Steps:** Steve Zollos spoke on:

- **Board of Directors Retreat:** The Board of Directors retreat will be held in 2019 Jasmin Miller will send an email poll with possible dates to determine the best date for the majority of the members.

- **HR Employee Handbook:** Cathy Dalton, Hope Lomax-Jones, Shermita Bethea, and Herb DeGroff will review the HR Employee Handbook for final corrections and provide the suggested changes to Diane Taylor, Director, Human Resources.

- **Holiday Bowling Party:** Will be at the AMF Western Branch bowling alley for a change of pace. Board members +1 are invited along with agency staff. Available activities will be raffle give away, bowling, laser tag, billiards, and the arcade. The meal will be buffet style.

- **Staffing update:** Jasmin Miller is now the Executive Assistant, Shonya Anderson has been promoted to Wellness Director, Christa Edwards has been promoted to Long-Term Care Supervisor, and Shalonda Smith has been hired as the part time wellness coordinator for Hayden Village Center under Anne Williams.

- **January Meeting Announcement:** Debbie Schwartz reminded the board that the Annual Meeting will be the evening of January 24, 2018 (5:30 pm to 7:00pm), she is currently looking at two venues and will send an invite out soon.

- **Steve Zollos and Dr. Robert Palmer reported on the ongoing progress of the Veterans Directed Care Program.**
Adjourn: There being no further discussion the Board of Directors Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 p.m. by Ms. Cathy Dalton, President.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jasmin A. Miller

October 25, 2018

I hereby acknowledge the receipt of the Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia Title VI Implementation Plan 2018-2021. I have reviewed and approve the Plan. I am committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of transit services on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI according to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Circular 4702.1B Title VI requirements and guidelines for FTA sub-recipients.

[Signature]

Signature of Authorizing Official

11-5-18

DATE

Stephen Zollos, Chief Executive Officer

Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia
VI. ORGANIZATION AND TITLE VI PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES

The Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia’s Director of Human Resources is responsible for ensuring implementation of the agency’s Title VI program. Title VI program elements are interrelated and responsibilities may overlap. The specific areas of responsibility have been delineated below for purposes of clarity.

Overall Organization for Title VI

The Title VI Manager and staff are responsible for coordinating the overall administration of the Title VI program, plan, and assurances, including complaint handling, data collection and reporting, annual review and updates, and internal education.

Detailed Responsibilities of the Title VI Manager

The Title VI Manager is charged with the responsibility for implementing, monitoring, and ensuring compliance with Title VI regulations. Title VI responsibilities are as follows:

1. Process the disposition of Title VI complaints received.

2. Collect statistical data (race, color or national origin) of participants in and beneficiaries of agency programs, (e.g., affected citizens, and impacted communities).

3. Conduct annual Title VI reviews of agency to determine the effectiveness of program activities at all levels.

4. Conduct Title VI reviews of construction contractors, consultant contractors, suppliers, and other recipients of federal-aid fund contracts administered through the agency.

5. Conduct training programs on Title VI and other related statutes for agency employees.

6. Prepare a yearly report of Title VI accomplishments and goals, as required.

7. Develop Title VI information for dissemination to the general public and, where appropriate, in languages other than English.

8. Identify and eliminate discrimination.

9. Establish procedures for promptly resolving deficiency status and writing the remedial action necessary, all within a period not to exceed 90 days.
General Title VI responsibilities of the agency

The Title VI Manager is responsible for substantiating that these elements of the plan are appropriately implemented and maintained, and for coordinating with those responsible for public outreach and involvement and service planning and delivery.

1. Data collection

To ensure that Title VI reporting requirements are met, Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia will maintain:

- A database or log of Title VI complaints received. The investigation of and response to each complaint is tracked within the database or log.

- A log of the public outreach and involvement activities undertaken to ensure that minority and low-income people had a meaningful access to these activities.

2. Annual Report and Updates

As a sub-recipient of FTA funds, Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia is required to submit a Quarterly Report Form to DRPT that documents any Title VI complaints received during the preceding quarter and for each year. Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia will also maintain and provide to DRPT an annual basis, the log of public outreach and involvement activities undertaken to ensure that minority and low-income people had a meaningful access to these activities.

Further, we will submit to DRPT updates to any of the following items since the previous submission, or a statement to the effect that these items have not been changed since the previous submission, indicating date:

- A copy of any compliance review report for reviews conducted in the last three years, along with the purpose or reason for the review, the name of the organization that performed the review, a summary of findings and recommendations, and a report on the status or disposition of the findings and recommendations
- Limited English Proficiency (LEP) plan
- procedures for tracking and investigating Title VI complaints
- A list of Title VI investigations, complaints or lawsuits filed with the agency since the last submission
- A copy of the agency notice to the public that it complies with Title VI and instructions on how to file a discrimination complaint

3. Annual review of Title VI program

Each year, in preparing for the Annual Report and Updates, the Title VI Manager will review the agency’s Title VI program to assure implementation of the Title VI plan. In addition, they will
review agency operational guidelines and publications, including those for contractors, to verify that Title VI language and provisions are incorporated, as appropriate.

4. Dissemination of information related to the Title VI program

Information on our Title VI program will be disseminated to agency employees, contractors, and beneficiaries, as well as to the public, as described in the “public outreach and involvement section of this document, and in other languages when needed according to the LEP plan as well as federal and State laws/regulations.

5. Resolution of complaints

Any individual may exercise his or her right to file a complaint if that person believes that he, she or any other program beneficiaries have been subjected to unequal treatment or discrimination in the receipt of benefits/services or prohibited by non-discrimination requirements. Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia will report the complaint to DRPT within three business days (per DRPT requirements), and make a concerted effort to resolve complaints locally, using the agency’s Title VI Complaint Procedures. All Title VI complaints and their resolution will be logged as described under Section 1. Data collection and reported annually (in addition to immediately) to DRPT.

6. Written policies and procedures

Our Title VI policies and procedures are documented in this plan and its appendices and attachments. This plan will be updated periodically to incorporate changes and additional responsibilities that arise. During the course of the Annual Title VI Program Review (item 3 above), the Title VI Manager will determine whether or not an update is needed.

7. Internal education

Our employees will receive training on Title VI policies and procedures upon hiring and upon promotion. This training will include requirements of Title VI, our obligations under Title VI (LEP requirements included), and required data that must be gathered and maintained. In addition, training will be provided when any Title VI-related policies or procedures change (agency-wide training), or when appropriate in resolving a complaint.

Title VI training is the responsibility of the Mobility Manager.

8. Title VI clauses in contracts

In all federal procurements requiring a written contract or Purchase Order (PO), Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia’s contract/PO will include appropriate non-discrimination clauses. The Title VI Manager will work with the Chief Financial Officer who is/are responsible for procurement contracts and PO’s to ensure appropriate non-discrimination clauses are included.
VII. PROCEDURES FOR NOTIFYING THE PUBLIC OF TITLE VI RIGHTS AND HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT

Requirement to Provide a Title VI Public Notice

Title 49 CFR Section 21.9(d) requires recipients to provide information to the public regarding the recipient’s obligations under DOT’s Title VI regulations and apprise members of the public of the protections against discrimination afforded to them by Title VI. At a minimum, Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia shall disseminate this information to the public by posting a Title VI notice on the agency’s website and in public areas of the agency’s office(s), including the reception desk, meeting rooms, in federally-funded vehicles, etc. The following Sample Public Notice is to be included as APPENDIX A- Title VI Notice to the Public; List of Locations and displayed in your vehicles and facilities. Place Notice on agency letterhead:

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance. Specifically, Title VI provides that “no person in the United States shall, on the ground 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. Section 2000d).

Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of its transportation services on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Circular 4702.1B. If you feel you are being denied participation in or being denied benefits of the transit services provided by Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia, or otherwise being discriminated against because of your race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability, our contact information is:

Name: Diane R. Taylor
Title: Director of Human Resources
Agency Name: Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia
Address: 6350 Center Drive Suite 101
City, State Zip code: Norfolk, Virginia 23502
Telephone Number: 757-461*9481
Email address: dtaylor@ssseva.org

NOTE: As part of Title VI requirements, sub-recipients are also required to maintain a list of locations where their Title VI Notices have been posted or displayed.

SEE APPENDIX A-Title VI Notice to the Public
SEE APPENDIX B-Title VI Notice to the Public List of Locations
VIII. TITLE VI COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Requirement to Develop Title VI Complaint Procedures and Complaint Form.

In order to comply with the reporting requirements established in 49 CFR Section 21.9(b), all recipients shall develop procedures for investigating and tracking Title VI complaints filed against them and make their procedures for filing a complaint available to members of the public. Recipients must also develop a Title VI complaint form. The form and procedure for filing a complaint shall be available on the recipient’s website and at their facilities.

Sample of Narrative

Any individual may exercise his or her right to file a complaint with Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia if that person believes that he or she has been subjected to unequal treatment or discrimination in the receipt of benefits or services. We will report the complaint to DRPT within three business days (per DRPT requirements), and make a concerted effort to resolve complaints locally, using the agency’s Nondiscrimination Complaint Procedures. All Title VI complaints and their resolution will be logged and reported annually (in addition to immediately) to DRPT.

Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia includes the following language on all printed information materials, on the agency’s website, in press releases, in public notices, in published documents, and on posters on the interior of each vehicle operated in passenger service:

_The Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of its transit services on the basis of race, color or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964._

_For additional information on Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia’s nondiscrimination policies and procedures, or to file a complaint, please visit the website at www.ssseva.org or contact (Diane Taylor, Director of Human Resources, 6350 Center Drive Suite 101 Norfolk, Virginia 23502. and mailing address of the Title VI Manager)._  

Instructions for filing Title VI complaints are posted on the agency’s website and in posters on the interior of each vehicle operated in passenger service and agency’s facilities and are also included within Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia’s transportation brochure.

**SEE APPENDIX C-Title VI Complaint Form**
Procedures for Handling and Reporting Investigations/Complaints and Lawsuits

Should any Title VI investigations be initiated by FTA or DRPT, or any Title VI lawsuits are filed against Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia the agency will follow these procedures:

Procedures

1. Any individual, group of individuals, or entity that believes they have been subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin may file a written complaint with the Title VI Manager. The complaint is to be filed in the following manner:

a. A formal complaint must be filed within 180 calendar days of the alleged occurrence.

b. The complaint shall be in writing and signed by the complainant(s).

c. The complaint should include:
   - the complainant’s name, address, and contact information
   - (i.e., telephone number, email address, etc.)
   - the date(s) of the alleged act of discrimination (if multiple days, include the date when the complainant(s) became aware of the alleged discrimination and the date on which the alleged discrimination was discontinued or the latest instance).
   - a description of the alleged act of discrimination
   - the location(s) of the alleged act of discrimination (include vehicle number if appropriate)
   - an explanation of why the complainant believes the act to have been discriminatory on the basis of race, color, and national origin
   - if known, the names and/or job titles of those individuals perceived as parties in the incident
   - contact information for any witnesses
   - indication of any related complaint activity (i.e., was the complaint also submitted to DRPT or FTA?)

d. The complaint shall be submitted to Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia
   Name: Diane R. Taylor
   Title: Director of Human Resources
   Agency Name: Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia
   Address: 6350 Center Drive Suite 101
   City, State Zip code: Norfolk, Virginia 23502
   Telephone Number: 757-461-9481
   Email address: dtaylor@ssseva.org

e. Complaints received by any other employee of Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia will be immediately forwarded to the Title VI Manager.

f. In the case where a complainant is unable or incapable of providing a written statement, a verbal complaint of discrimination may be made to the Title VI Manager. Under these circumstances, the complainant will be interviewed, and the Title VI Coordinator will assist the complainant in converting the verbal allegations to writing.
2. Upon receipt of the complaint, the Title VI Manager will immediately:
   a. notify DRPT (no later than 3 business days from receipt)
   b. notify the Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia Authorizing Official
   c. ensure that the complaint is entered in the complaint database
3. Within 3 business days of receipt of the complaint, the Title VI Manager will contact the complainant by telephone to set up an interview.
4. The complainant will be informed that they have a right to have a witness or representative present during the interview and can submit any documentation he/she perceives as relevant to proving his/her complaint.
5. If DRPT has assigned staff to assist with the investigation, the Title VI Manager will offer an opportunity to participate in the interview.
6. The alleged discriminatory service or program official will be given the opportunity to respond to all aspects of the complainant’s allegations.
7. The Title VI Manager will determine, based on relevancy or duplication of evidence, which witnesses will be contacted and questioned.
8. The investigation may also include:
   a. investigating contractor operating records, policies or procedures
   b. reviewing routes, schedules, and fare policies
   c. reviewing operating policies and procedures
   d. reviewing scheduling and dispatch records
   e. observing behavior of the individual whose actions were cited in the complaint
9. All steps taken and findings in the investigation will be documented in writing and included in the complaint file.
10. The Title VI Manager will contact the complainant at the conclusion of the investigation, but prior to writing the final report, and give the complainant an opportunity to give a rebuttal statement at the end of the investigation process.
11. At the conclusion of the investigation and within 60 days of the interview with the complainant, the Title VI Manager will prepare a report that includes a narrative description of the incident, identification of persons interviewed, findings, and recommendations for disposition. This report will be provided to the Authorizing Official, DRPT, and, if appropriate, Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia’s legal counsel.
12. The Title VI Manager will send a letter to the complainant notifying them of the outcome of the investigation. If the complaint was substantiated, the letter will indicate the course of action that will be followed to correct the situation. If the complaint is determined to be unfounded, the letter will explain the reasoning, and refer the complainant to DRPT in the event the complainant wishes to appeal the determination. This letter will be copied to DRPT.
13. A complaint may be dismissed for the following reasons:
   a. The complainant requests the withdrawal of the complaint.
   b. An interview cannot be scheduled with the complainant after reasonable attempts.
   c. The complainant fails to respond to repeated requests for additional information needed to process the complaint.
14. DRPT will serve as the appealing forum to a complainant that is not satisfied with the outcome of an investigation conducted by Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia. DRPT will analyze the facts of the case and will issue its conclusion to the appellant according to their procedures.
A person may also file a complaint directly with the Federal Transit Administration, Office of Civil Rights, Attention: Title VI Program Coordinator, East Building, 5th Floor – TCR, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

Transportation-Related Title VI Investigations, Complaints, and Lawsuits

Background
All recipients shall prepare and maintain a list of any of the following that allege discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin:

- Active investigations conducted by FTA and entities other than FTA;
- Lawsuits; and
- Complaints naming the recipient.

This list shall include the date that the transportation-related Title VI investigation, lawsuit, or complaint was filed; a summary of the allegation(s); the status of the investigation, lawsuit, or complaint; and actions taken by the recipient in response, or final findings related to the investigation, lawsuit, or complaint. This list shall be included in the Title VI Program submitted to DRPT every three years and information shall be provided to DRPT quarterly and annually.

SEE APPENDIX D- Investigations, Lawsuits and Complaints Document
IX. PUBLIC OUTREACH AND INVOLVEMENT

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

Introduction

The Public Participation Plan (PPP) is a guide for ongoing public participation endeavors. Its purpose is to ensure that Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia utilizes effective means of providing information and receiving public input on transportation decisions from low income, minority and limited English proficient (LEP) populations, as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its implementing regulations.

Under federal regulations, transit operators must take reasonable steps to ensure that Limited English Proficient (LEP) persons have meaningful access to their programs and activities. This means that public participation opportunities, normally provided in English, should be accessible to persons who have a limited ability to speak, read, write, or understand English.

In addition to language access measures, other major components of the PPP include: public participation design factors; a range of public participation methods to provide information, to invite participation and/or to seek input; examples to demonstrate how population-appropriate outreach methods can be and were identified and utilized; and performance measures and objectives to ensure accountability and a means for improving over time.

Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia established a public participation plan or process that will determine how, when, and how often specific public participation activities should take place, and which specific measures are most appropriate.

Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia will make these determinations based on a demographic analysis of the population(s) affected, the type of plan, program, and/or service under consideration, and the resources available. Efforts to involve minority and LEP populations in public participation activities may include both comprehensive measures, such as placing public notices at all transit stations, stops, and vehicles, as well as targeted measures to address linguistic, institutional, cultural, economic, historical, or other barriers that may prevent minority and LEP persons from effectively participating in our decision-making process.
SOME OF THOSE EFFECTIVE PUBLIC OUTREACH PRACTICES INCLUDES:

a. Scheduling meetings at times and locations that are convenient and accessible for minority and LEP communities.

b. Employing different meeting sizes and formats.

c. Coordinating with community and faith-based organizations, educational institutions, and other organizations to implement public engagement strategies that reach out specifically to members of affected minority and/or LEP communities.

d. Considering radio, television, or newspaper ads on stations and in publications that serve LEP populations. Outreach to LEP populations could also include audio programming available on podcasts.

e. Providing opportunities for public participation through means other than written communication, such as personal interviews or use of audio or video recording devices to capture oral comments.

SEE APPENDIX E-Summary of Outreach Efforts
X. LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE PLAN FOR PERSONS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP)

SAMPLE PLAN FOR SERVING PERSONS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP)

LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE PLAN FOR PERSONS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP)

Introduction and Legal Basis

LEP is a term that defines any individual not proficient in the use of the English language. The establishment and operation of an LEP program meets objectives set forth in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP). This Executive Order requires federal agencies receiving financial assistance to address the needs of non-English speaking persons. The Executive Order also establishes compliance standards to ensure that the programs and activities that are provided by a transportation provider in English are accessible to LEP communities. This includes providing meaningful access to individuals who are limited in their use of English. The following LEP language implementation plan, developed by Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia is based on FTA guidelines.

As required, Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia developed a written LEP Plan (below). Using 2011 - 2015 and American Community Survey (ACS) Census data, Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia has evaluated data to determine the extent of need for translation services of its vital documents and materials.

LEP persons can be a significant market for public transit and reaching out to these individuals can help increase their utilization of transit. Therefore, it also makes good business sense to translate vital information into languages that the larger LEP populations in the community can understand.

Assessment of Needs and Resources

The need and resources for LEP language assistance were determined through a four-factor analysis as recommended by FTA guidance.

Factor 1: Assessment of the Number and Proportion of LEP Persons Likely to be Served or Encountered in the Eligible Service Population

The agency has reviewed census data on the number of individuals in its service area that have limited English Proficiency, as well as the languages they speak.
U.S. Census Data – American Community Survey (2012-2016)

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) were obtained through www.census.gov by Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia’s service area. The agency’s service area includes a total of 1,704 and .25% of persons with Limited English Proficiency (those persons who indicated that they spoke English “less than very well,” in the 2011-2015 ACS Census).

Information from the 2011-2015 ACS also provides more detail on the specific languages that are spoken by those who report that they speak English less than very well. Languages spoken at home by those with LEP are presented below. These data indicate the extent to which translations into other language are needed to meet the needs of LEP persons.

- Spanish 10,408 41%
- Indo-European 75 .29%
- Asian and Pacific Island Languages 614 2.41%
- Other Languages 14 0.02%

It is noted that there are relatively low number of LEP persons in the service area - no language is spoken by over 5% or a total of 1,000 persons in the LEP population.

Factor 2: Assessment of Frequency with Which LEP Individuals Come into Contact with the Transit Services or System

Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia reviewed the relevant benefits, services, and information provided by the agency and determined the extent to which LEP persons have come into contact with these functions through one the following channels:

- Contact with transit vehicle operators;
- Contact with transit station managers;
- Calls to Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia’s customer service telephone line;
- Visits to the agency’s headquarters;
- Access to the agency’s website;
- Attendance at community meetings or public hearings hosted by Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia
- Contact with the agency’s ADA complementary paratransit system (including applying for eligibility, making reservations, and communicating with drivers).

There has been no request for LEP services at this time.

We will continue to identify emerging populations as updated Census and American Community Survey data become available for our service area. In addition, when LEP persons contact our agency, we attempt to identify their language and keep records on contacts to accurately assess the frequency of contact. To assist in language
identification, we use a language identification flashcard based on that which was developed by the U.S. Census. (http://www.lep.gov/lSpeakCards2004.pdf)

**Information from Community Organizations that Serve LEP Persons**

To supplement the Census, education, and labor department data, Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia conducted community outreach to the following organizations that work with LEP populations. *Organizations contacted include the following:*

- Hampton Roads Senior Center (Korean)
- Chinese Community Association
- Philippine Cultural Center
- St. Luke Catholic Church (Spanish)

Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia will monitor requests for LEP services from our Transportation Department, Wellness Department, Benefits Counseling Program staff and the Program Developer to understand and respond to demand for certain services.

**Factor 3: Assessment of the Nature and Importance of the Transit Services to the LEP Population**

Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia provides the following programs, activities and services:

For caregivers, seniors, and veterans, Senior Services provides information, as well as provisions of homemaker, personal care or adult day care services for families that need the services. The availability of Legal Services and Benefits Counseling regarding, Medicare, Medicaid, or Medicare Part D applications are also available. Coordinated transportation for medical and therapy appointments, wellness centers, and adult day care centers is also provided. Public transportation is also provided by I-Ride bus routes.

Based on past experience serving and communicating with LEP persons and interviews with community agencies, we learned that the following services/routes/programs are currently of particular importance LEP persons in the community. The following are the most critical services provided by Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia for all customers, including LEP persons.

- Safety and security awareness instructions
- Emergency evacuation procedures
- Public transit services, including reduced fare application process
- ADA paratransit services, including eligibility certification process
- Other paratransit services
- Services targeted at low income persons
- 60+ individuals and their caregivers

23
Factor 4: Assessment of the Resources Available to the Agency and Costs

Costs

The following language assistance measures currently being provided by Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia

Brochures and website information that include LEP phone numbers. We have not had any request for printed materials in any alternative format. We will monitor request and provide information on an as need basis, as funds are available. We will evaluate any request for interpreters if requested for public meetings based on need and costs to provide such service. We routinely identify staff members that have language expertise who offer language assistance.

Based on the analysis of demographic data and contact with community organizations and LEP persons, Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia has determined that the following additional services are to be considered for future activities, as funds are available:

- Translating documents
- Contracting with language interpreters
- Producing pictographs
- Installing multilingual technology

Resources

Each year as part of the annual budget process, Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia will establish $200.00 that will be devoted during that fiscal year to language assistance activities. This amount is likely to be stable over time. We will consider looking for grants to assist in the development of language assistance.

In addition, in-kind assistance may be available through Hampton Roads Red Cross, 2-11 Virginia other nonprofit organizations, and Hampton Roads Transit.

Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia has the ability to translate written information through our computer system.

LEP Implementation Plan

Through the four-factor analysis Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia has determined that the following types of language assistance are most needed and feasible:

1. Types of Assistance

   - Translation of vital documents into Spanish. These documents include:
• System Map and Ride Guide
• Application for Senior Services fare, meals etc.
• All printed materials on ADA Paratransit, including brochure, eligibility application package, and passenger policies and procedures
• Emergency preparedness brochure
• Attempt to hire bilingual staff with competency in spoken and written
• Language Line Translation Services for telephone contacts.
• In-person translation for ADA eligibility assessments.

2. Staff Access to Language Assistance Services

Agency staff who come into contact with LEP persons can access language services by calling the Tele Interpreters line. We do have some readily accessible information in Spanish format. All staff will be provided with a list of available language assistance services and additional information and referral resources (such as community organizations which can assist LEP persons). This list will be updated at least annually.

Responding to LEP Callers

Staff who answer calls from the public respond to LEP customers as follows Call the Language Interpreter number and once connected help them answer their questions.

Responding to Written Communications from LEP Persons

The following procedures are followed when responding to written communications from LEP persons: Find translation service to read information and respond in like manner.

Responding to LEP Individuals in Person

The following procedures are followed when an LEP person visits our customer service and administrative office: Presently we have not had a limited English proficiency person at our headquarters, on our vehicles or in our staff offices. We would avail a translation service along with limited Spanish translation services, flashcards and fellow employees with limited Spanish skills.

The following procedures are followed by operators when an LEP person has a question on board a Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia vehicle: The driver will have the ability to use flashcards, also some of our passengers are bilingual. We have the ability of translated information on board vehicles, referral to telephone assistance, volunteer translation assistance from fellow passengers.

Staff Training
As noted previously, all Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia staff are provided with a list of available language assistance services and additional information and referral resources, updated annually.

All new hires receive training on assisting LEP persons as part of their sensitivity and customer service training. This includes:

- A summary of the transit agency’s responsibilities under the DOT LEP Guidance;
- A summary of the agency’s language assistance plan;
- A summary of the number and proportion of LEP persons in the agency’s service area, the frequency of contact between the LEP population and the agency’s programs and activities, and the importance of the programs and activities to the population;
- A description of the type of language assistance that the agency is currently providing and instructions on how agency staff can access these products and services; and
- A description of the agency’s cultural sensitivity policies and practices.

Also, all staff who routinely come into contact with customers, as well as their supervisors and all management staff, receive annual refresher training on policies and procedures related to assisting LEP persons.

**Providing Notice to LEP Persons**

LEP persons are notified of the availability of language assistance through the following approaches:

- Following our Title VI policy statement included on our vital documents.
- On our website, with links to translations of vital documents in other languages.
- Through signs posted on our vehicles and in our customer service and administrative offices.
- Use of an automated telephone menu system in the most common languages encountered.
- Sending translated news releases and public service announcements about the availability of translated information to newspapers and broadcast media that target local LEP communities.

LEP persons will also be included in all community outreach efforts related to service and fare changes.

**Monitoring/updating the plan**

This plan will be updated on a periodic basis (at least every three years), based on feedback, updated demographic data, and resource availability.
As part of ongoing outreach to community organizations, Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia will solicit feedback on the effectiveness of language assistance provided and unmet needs. In addition, we will conduct periodic surveys, focus groups, community meetings, internal meetings with staff who assist LEP persons, review of updated Census data, formal studies] of the adequacy and quality of the language assistance provided, and determine changes to LEP needs.

In preparing the triennial update of this plan, Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia will conduct an internal assessment using the Language Assistance Monitoring Checklist provided in the FTA’s “Implementing the Department of Transportation’s Policy Guidance Concerning Recipients’ Responsibilities to Limited English Proficient (LEP) Persons: A Handbook for Public Transportation Providers.”

Based on the feedback received from community members and agency employees, Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia will make incremental changes to the type of written and oral language assistance provided as well as to their staff training and community outreach programs. The cost of proposed changes and the available resources will affect the enhancements that can be made, and therefore Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia will attempt to identify the most cost-effective approaches.

As the community grows and new LEP groups emerge Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia will strive to address the needs for additional language assistance.
XI. MINORITY REPRESENTATION ON PLANNING AND ADVISORY BODIES

Title 49 CFR Section 21.5(b)(1)(vii) states that a recipient may not, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, “deny a person the opportunity to participate as a member of a planning, advisory, or similar body which is an integral part of the program.”

Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia has transit-related, non-elected planning boards, advisory councils or committees, or similar committees, the membership of which we select.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Black or African American</th>
<th>White/Caucasian</th>
<th>Latino/Hispanic</th>
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<td>Board of Directors</td>
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<td>% of Board Members</td>
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*Note – Other races reported: Lithuania, Ukrainian, and Polish

SEE APPENDIX F- TABLE MINORITY REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES BY RACE

Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia’s governing body is a board of directors whose membership is composed of appointees of 8 local jurisdictions and 3 at-large directors appointed without regard to jurisdiction and based on organizational need. Two Directors are appointed by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission to represent their commission. Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia maintains a list of the membership of our Board of Directors and will provide a table, which depicts the racial breakdown of the membership of the Board of Directors upon request. We make reasonable efforts made to encourage the participation of minorities on such our Board of Directors.

XII. MONITORING TITLE VI COMPLAINTS

As part of the complaint handling procedure, the Title VI Coordinator investigates possible inequities in service delivery for the route(s) or service(s) about which the complaint was filed. Depending on the nature of the complaint, the review examines span of service (days and hours), frequency, routing directness, interconnectivity with other routes and/or fare policy. If inequities are discovered during this review, options for reducing the disparity are explored, and service or fare changes are planned if needed.
In addition to the investigation following an individual complaint, the Title VI Manager periodically reviews all complaints received to determine if there may be a pattern. At a minimum, this review is conducted as part of preparing the Annual Report and Update for submission to DRPT.
Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance. Specifically, Title VI provides that "no person in the United States shall, on the ground 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. Section 2000d).

Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of its transportation services on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Circular 4702.1B. If you feel you are being denied participation in or being denied benefits of the transit services provided by Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia, or otherwise being discriminated against because of your race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability, our contact information is:

Name: Diane R. Taylor  
Title: Director of Human Resources  
Agency Name: Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia  
Address: 6350 Center Drive Suite 101  
City, State Zip code: Norfolk, Virginia 23502  
Telephone Number: 757-461-9481  
Email address: dtaylor@ssseva.org
APPENDIX B - TITLE VI NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC LIST OF LOCATIONS

a. Offices
   i. Norfolk -
      Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia
      6350 Center Drive
      Building 5, Suite 101
      Norfolk, Virginia 23502
   ii. Franklin -
       Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia
       100 West 4th Avenue
       Franklin, Virginia 23851

b. Vehicles

c. Brochures

d. Website: www.ssseva.org
APPENDIX C - TITLE VI COMPLAINT FORM

Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia Title VI Complaint Form

Section 1

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Address: ________________________________________________________

City: __________________________ State: _______ Zip Code: _________

E-Mail Address: ________________________________________________

Home Telephone No.: (_______) _________ - _________________________

Work Telephone No.: (_______) _________ - _________________________

Accessible Format Requirements? [ ] Large Print [ ] TDD

[ ] Audio Tape [ ] Other ________________________________

Section 2

Are you filing this complaint on your own behalf? ______ Yes ______ No

If you answer, “yes” to this question, go to Section 3.

If not, please supply the name and relationship of the person for whom you are complaining:

Name: _________________________________________________________

Relationship: _________________________________________________

32
Please explain why you are filing for this person:

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

Please confirm that you have obtained the permission of the aggrieved person if you are filing on their behalf.

_____ Yes    _____ No

Section 3

I believe the discrimination I experienced was based on (check all that apply):

[ ] Race      [ ] National Origin      [ ] Color

[ ] Other

Date of Alleged Incident: ____________________________

Explain as clearly as possible what happened and why you believe you were discriminated against. Describe all persons who were involved. Include the name and contact information of the person(s) who discriminated against you (if known) as well as names and contact information of any witnesses. If more space is needed, please attach an additional sheet of paper.

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________

33
Section 4

Have you previously filed a Title VI complaint with Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia?

_____ Yes  _____ No

Section 5

Have you filed a complaint with any other Federal, State, or local agency or with any Federal or State court?

_____ Yes  _____ No

If yes, check all that apply:

_____ Federal agency  _____ Federal court

_____ State agency  _____ State court

_____ Local agency

Please provide information about a contact person at the agency/court where the complaint was filed.

Name: ________________________________

Title: ________________________________

Agency: ______________________________

Address: ______________________________

City: __________________ State: ______ Zip Code: ______
Please

E-Mail Address: ______________________________________________________________________

Work Telephone No.: (________) __________ - ________________

Section 6

You may attach any written materials or other information that you think is relevant to your complaint.

Signature and date required below.

______________________________________________________________________________

Signature                                    Date

Please mail this form to:

Title VI Manager – Director of Human Resources

Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia

6350 Center Drive Building 5, Suite 101

Norfolk, Virginia 23502-4107

757-461-9481

35
## List of Investigations, Lawsuits and Complaints

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<th></th>
<th>Date (Month, Day, Year)</th>
<th>Summary (include basis of complaint: race, color or national origin)</th>
<th>Status</th>
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APPENDIX E - SUMMARY OF OUTREACH EFFORTS

a. Scheduling meetings at times and locations that are convenient and accessible for minority and LEP communities.
b. Employing different meeting sizes and formats.
c. Coordinating with community and faith-based organizations, educational institutions, and other organizations to implement public engagement strategies that reach out specifically to members of affected minority and/or LEP communities.
d. Considering radio, television, or newspaper ads on stations and in publications that serve LEP populations.
e. Outreach to LEP populations could also include audio programming available on podcasts.
f. Providing opportunities for public participation through means other than written communications, such as personal interviews or use of audio or video recording devices to capture oral comments.
# Appendix F - Table Minority Representation on Committees by Race

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*Note: Totals include all categories.