

■ Office of Civil Rights Enforcement

The Office of Civil Rights Enforcement (OCRE) coordinates USDA civil rights programs to prevent and resolve civil rights problems. Under the counseling and mediation program, an employee or applicant who believes he or she has been discriminated against or retaliated against on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disabling condition may file a complaint. In 1995, there are six regional service centers in Washington, DC, Atlanta, GA, New Orleans, LA, Denver, CO, Davis, CA, and Kansas City, MO.

Any eligible person being denied service or assistance may file a program complaint against agencies or recipients administering federally conducted or federally assisted programs of USDA. Through its evaluation and investigation program, OCRE conducts reviews to help determine compliance and noncompliance in employment programs, delivery of benefits, and services in Federally conducted and Federally assisted programs.