

## Stevens Amendment Guidance

The Stevens Amendment is a crucial piece of legislation regarding the disclosure of federal funds in grant projects. Compliance with the Stevens Amendment is essential to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of federal funds. Recipients of federal funds must acknowledge the federal government's contribution in any public communication or publication concerning the funded project. The primary objective of this requirement is to inform the public and stakeholders about the utilization of federal funds to support specific initiatives, programs, or projects.

Failure to comply could be considered a breach of responsibilities and may result in a corrective action plan; conditions placed on the award; or termination, suspension, or debarment of funds awarded.

Below are some essential considerations to bear in mind while adhering to the provisions of the Stevens Amendment:

**Purpose:** The Stevens Amendment is purposefully crafted to guarantee transparency and accountability in federal expenditure by mandating that recipients of federal grants and cooperative agreements acknowledge and disclose federal funding in their public communications.

**Required Disclosure:** In documents intended for public consumption, such as statements, press releases, Requests for Proposals (RFPs), and bid solicitations, it is mandatory for recipients to incorporate a disclosure statement when discussing projects or programs funded, either wholly or partially, with federal money.

**Mandatory Information:** The disclosure statement should encompass the following details:

- The percentage of total program or project costs financed with federal money.
- The precise dollar amount of federal funds earmarked for the project or program.
- The percentage and dollar amount representing the total costs covered by non-governmental sources (excluding the Federal Government).

**Applicability:** The scope of the Stevens Amendment extends to all public materials delineating projects or programs funded via the Department of Labor's annual appropriation, encompassing formats beyond printed materials.

**Definition of Non-Governmental Sources:** The term "non-governmental sources" encompasses all funding sources apart from the Federal Government.

**Exemption for Contracts:** It's important to note that the Stevens Amendment does not pertain to financial or non-financial contracts. It applies solely to publicly available documents describing projects or programs financed through federal funds.

**Consistency in Reporting:** It is recommended that grantees consistently employ a single method for disclosing funding amounts, whether opting for the annual award amount or cumulative award amount.

**Social Media and Hyperlinks:** In cases where character limitations or practical considerations preclude the inclusion of the full disclosure statement, employing a hyperlink to the statement is deemed sufficient.

**Consequences of Noncompliance:** While the Stevens Amendment itself does not outline specific sanctions, failure to comply could entail corrective actions, funding stipulations, or potential penalties in accordance with pending legislation.

**Treatment of Existing Materials:** Existing materials that lack the Stevens Amendment disclosure need not be discarded. Instead, we encourage updating such documents in forthcoming printings to align with the disclosure requisites.

**Priority of Service Exception:** It is essential to recognize that documents exclusively addressing Priority of Service are exempt from the Stevens Amendment disclosure unless they enumerate services funded by federal dollars.

These highlighted points underscore the paramount importance of transparently disclosing federal funding in publicly accessible documents, thereby fortifying the foundations of accountability in federal expenditure.

Please contact the [Title I mailbox](#) for additional clarification or guidance on this matter. The Title I Policy team is available to support your endeavors in navigating the requirements of the Stevens Amendment effectively.