

2021 WSFR National Virtual Federal Aid Coordinators Meeting

Questions and Answers (Q&A)

Topic/Speaker: PR Modernization Act Changes and Implementation: Status Update on Draft Policy Recommendation - Diana Swan-Pinion and Ryan Oster, WSFR Policy / WSFR Systems & Training Branches

1. Naomi Bentivoglio: How do you avoid lobbying while simultaneously allowing advertising?

Lobbying refers to costs for activities for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any Federal agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with the awarding, extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of a Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement. 31 U.S.C. 1352 prohibits the use of Federal funds appropriated by any Act to be used for the purpose of lobbying.

2 CFR 200.421 refers to advertising as costs of advertising media and corollary administrative costs. Examples of advertising include magazines, newspapers, radio, television, and electronic or computer transmittals. Under Federal awards, certain aspects of advertising are allowable to charge WSFR grants. Please see 2 CFR 200.421(b)(1-4) for eligible activities.

2. Marianne Cox: Will the PR Modernization Advisories currently posted be superseded by the policy or have they been incorporated into the policy guidance?

Until the PR Modernization Implementation guidance is fully developed and endorsed, the Advisories are meant to serve as the WSFR's programs operational interpretation of existing laws, regulation, and guidance to very specific questions submitted by States and other entities in regards to the PR Modernization Act. The implementation guidance is meant to provide guidance on how the WSFR program will implement the new law. The Advisories work hand-in-hand with the implementation guidance and are very specific to individual questions from States.