

Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

PURPOSE

Grand Traverse County is an equal opportunity employer. In accordance with anti-discrimination law, it is the purpose of this policy to effectuate these principles and mandates. Grand Traverse County prohibits discrimination and harassment of any type and affords equal employment opportunities to employees and applicants without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, gender identity or sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, or any other characteristic protected by law. Grand Traverse County conforms to the spirit as well as to the letter of all applicable laws and regulations.

Scope

The policy of equal employment opportunity (EEO) and anti-discrimination applies to all aspects of the relationship between Grand Traverse County and its employees, including:

- Recruitment
- Employment
- Promotion
- Transfer
- Training
- Working conditions
- Wages and salary administration
- Employee benefits and application of policies

The policies and principles of EEO also apply to the selection and treatment of independent contractors, personnel working on our premises who are employed by temporary agencies and any other persons or firms doing business for or with Grand Traverse County.

Dissemination and Implementation of Policy

The County Administrator will be responsible for the dissemination of this policy. Directors, managers and supervisors are responsible for implementing equal employment practices within each department. The Human Resources department is responsible for overall compliance and will maintain personnel records in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Procedures

Grand Traverse County administers our EEO policy fairly and consistently by:

- Posting all required notices regarding employee rights under EEO laws in areas highly visible to employees.
- Advertising for job openings with the statement *"We are an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law."*
- Posting all required job openings with the appropriate state agencies.
- Forbidding retaliation against any individual who files a charge of discrimination, opposes a practice believed to be unlawful discrimination, reports harassment, or assists, testifies or participates in an EEO agency proceeding.
- Requires employees to report to a member of management, a Human Resources representative or the County Administrator any apparent discrimination or harassment. The report should be made within 48 hours of the incident.

- Promptly notifies the County Administrator of all incidents or reports of discrimination or harassment and takes other appropriate measures to resolve the situation.

Harassment

Harassment is a form of unlawful discrimination and violates Grand Traverse County policy. Prohibited sexual harassment, for example, is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment.
- Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individuals.
- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

Harassment also includes unwelcome conduct that is based on race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, age (40 or older), disability or genetic information. Harassment becomes unlawful where:

- Enduring the offensive conduct becomes a condition of continued employment, or
- The conduct is severe or pervasive enough to create a work environment that a reasonable person would consider intimidating, hostile, or abusive.

Grand Traverse County encourages employees to report all incidents of harassment to a member of management or the Human Resources department. Grand Traverse County investigates all complaints of harassment promptly and fairly, and, when appropriate, takes immediate corrective action to stop the harassment and prevent it from recurring.

Remedies

Violations of this policy, regardless of whether an actual law has been violated, will not be tolerated. Grand Traverse County will promptly, thoroughly and fairly investigate every issue that is brought to its attention in this area and will take disciplinary action, when appropriate, up to and including termination of employment.

Note: This policy may differ for those employees who are members of recognized unions, organizations, or associations. Any questions related to the content of this policy, or its interpretation, should be directed to Human Resources.