§102-37.275—May a SASP accept personal checks and non-official payment methods in payment of service charges?

No, service charge payments must readily identify the donee institution as the payer (or the name of the parent organization when that organization pays the operational expenses of the donee). Personal checks, personal cashier checks, personal money orders, and personal credit cards are not acceptable.

§102-37.280—How may a SASP use service charge funds?

Funds accumulated from service charges may be deposited, invested, or used in accordance with State law to:

(a) Cover direct and reasonable indirect costs of operating the SASP;

(b) Purchase necessary equipment for the SASP;

(c) Maintain a reasonable working capital reserve;

(d) Rehabilitate surplus property, including the purchase of replacement parts;

(e) Acquire or improve office or distribution center facilities; or

(f) Pay for the costs of internal and external audits.

§102-37.285—May a SASP use service charge funds to support non-SASP State activities and programs?

No, except as provided in 102-37.495, you must use funds collected from service charges or from other sources such as proceeds from sale of undistributed property or funds collected from compliance cases, solely for the operation of the SASP and the benefit of participating donees.

Subpart E—Donations to Public Agencies, Service Educational Activities (SEAs), and Eligible Nonprofit Organizations

§102-37.375—How is the pronoun “you” used in this subpart?

The pronoun “you,” when used in this subpart, refers to the State agency for surplus property (SASP).

§102-37.380—What is the statutory authority for donations of surplus Federal property made under this subpart?

The following statutes provide the authority to donate surplus Federal property to different types of recipients:

(a) Section 549(d) of title 40, United States Code authorizes surplus property under the control of the Department of Defense (DOD) to be donated, through SASPs, to educational activities which are of special interest to the armed services (referred to in this Part 102-37 as service educational activities or SEAs).

(b) Section 549(c)(3) of title 40, United States Code authorizes SASPs to donate surplus property to public agencies and to nonprofit educational or public health institutions, such as:

(1) Medical institutions.

(2) Hospitals.

(3) Clinics.

(4) Health centers.
(5) Drug abuse or alcohol treatment centers.

(6) Providers of assistance to homeless individuals.

(7) Providers of assistance to impoverished families and individuals.

(8) Schools.

(9) Colleges.

(10) Universities.

(11) Schools for the mentally disabled.

(12) Schools for the physically disabled.

(13) Child care centers.

(14) Radio and television stations licensed by the Federal Communications Commission as educational radio or educational television stations.

(15) Museums attended by the public.

(16) Libraries, serving free all residents of a community, district, State or region.

(17) Historic light stations as defined under section 308(e)(2) of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470w-7(e)(2)), including a historic light station conveyed under subsection (b) of that section, notwithstanding the number of hours that the historic light station is open to the public.

(c) Section 213 of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended (42 U.S.C. 3020d), authorizes donations of surplus property to State or local government agencies, or nonprofit organizations or institutions, that receive Federal funding to conduct programs for older individuals.

**Donee Eligibility**

§102-37.385—Who determines if a prospective donee applicant is eligible to receive surplus property under this subpart?

(a) For most public and nonprofit activities, the SASP determines if an applicant is eligible to receive property as a public agency, a nonprofit educational or public health institution, or for a program for older individuals. A SASP may request GSA assistance or guidance in making such determinations.

(b) For applicants that offer courses of instruction devoted to the military arts and sciences, the Defense Department will determine eligibility to receive surplus property through the SASP as a service educational activity or SEA.

§102-37.390—What basic criteria must an applicant meet before a SASP can qualify it for eligibility?

To qualify for donation program eligibility through a SASP, an applicant must:

(a) Conform to the definition of one of the categories of eligible entities listed in §102-37.380 (see Appendix C of this part for definitions);

(b) Demonstrate that it meets any approval, accreditation, or licensing requirements for operation of its program;

(c) Prove that it is a public agency or a nonprofit and tax-exempt organization under section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code;

(d) Certify that it is not debarred, suspended, or excluded from any Federal program, including procurement programs; and

(e) Operate in compliance with applicable Federal nondiscrimination statutes.
§102-37.395—How can a SASP determine whether an applicant meets any required approval, accreditation, or licensing requirements?

A SASP may accept the following documentation as evidence that an applicant has met established standards for the operation of its educational or health program:

(a) A certificate or letter from a nationally recognized accrediting agency affirming the applicant meets the agency’s standards and requirements.

(b) The applicant’s appearance on a list with other similarly approved or accredited institutions or programs when that list is published by a State, regional, or national accrediting authority.

(c) Letters from State or local authorities (such as a board of health or a board of education) stating that the applicant meets the standards prescribed for approved or accredited institutions and organizations.

(d) In the case of educational activities, letters from three accredited or State-approved institutions that students from the applicant institution have been and are being accepted.

(e) In the case of public health institutions, licensing may be accepted as evidence of approval, provided the licensing authority prescribes the medical requirements and standards for the professional and technical services of the institution.

(f) The awarding of research grants to the institution by a recognized authority such as the National Institutes of Health, the National Institute of Education, or by similar national advisory council or organization.

§102-37.400—What type of eligibility information must a SASP maintain on donees?

In general, you must maintain the records required by your State plan to document donee eligibility (see Appendix B of this part). For SEAs, you must maintain separate records that include:

(a) Documentation verifying that the activity has been designated as eligible by DOD to receive surplus DOD property.

(b) A statement designating one or more donee representative(s) to act for the SEA in acquiring property.

(c) A listing of the types of property that are needed or have been authorized by DOD for use in the SEA’s program.

§102-37.405—How often must a SASP update donee eligibility records?

You must update donee eligibility records as needed, but no less than every 3 years, to ensure that all documentation supporting the donee’s eligibility is current and accurate. Annually, you must update files for nonprofit organizations whose eligibility depends on annual appropriations, annual licensing, or annual certification. Particular care must be taken to ensure that all records relating to the authority of donee representatives to receive and receipt for property, or to screen property at Federal facilities, are current.

§102-37.410—What must a SASP do if a donee fails to maintain its eligibility status?

If you determine that a donee has failed to maintain its eligibility status, you must terminate distribution of property to that donee, recover any usable property still under Federal restriction (as outlined in 102-37.465), and take any other required compliance actions.

§102-37.415—What should a SASP do if an applicant appeals a negative eligibility determination?

If an applicant appeals a negative eligibility determination, forward complete documentation on the appeal request, including your comments and recommendations, to the applicable GSA regional office for review and coordination with GSA headquarters. GSA’s decision will be final.

Terms and Conditions of Donation

§102-37.435—For what purposes may donees acquire and use surplus property?

A donee may acquire and use surplus property only for the following authorized purposes:

(a) Public purposes. A public agency that acquires surplus property through a SASP must use such property to carry out or to promote one or more public purposes for the people it serves.
(b) **Educational and public health purposes, including related research.** A nonprofit educational or public health institution must use surplus property for education or public health, including research for either purpose and assistance to the homeless or impoverished. While this does not preclude the use of donated surplus property for a related or subsidiary purpose incident to the institution’s overall program, the property may not be used for a nonrelated or commercial purpose.

(c) **Programs for older individuals.** An entity that conducts a program for older individuals must use donated surplus property to provide services that are necessary for the general welfare of older individuals, such as social services, transportation services, nutrition services, legal services, and multipurpose senior centers.

§102-37.440—May donees acquire property for exchange?

No, a donee may not acquire property with the intent to sell or trade it for other assets.

§102-37.445—What certifications must a donee make before receiving property?

Prior to a SASP releasing property to a donee, the donee must certify that:

(a) It is a public agency or a nonprofit organization meeting the requirements of the Property Act and/or regulations of GSA;

(b) It is acquiring the property for its own use and will use the property for authorized purposes;

(c) Funds are available to pay all costs and charges incident to the donation;


(e) It isn’t currently debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or otherwise excluded from receiving the property.

§102-37.450—What agreements must a donee make?

Before a SASP may release property to a donee, the donee must agree to the following conditions:

(a) The property is acquired on an “as is, where is” basis, without warranty of any kind, and it will hold the Government harmless from any or all debts, liabilities, judgments, costs, demands, suits, actions, or claims of any nature arising from or incident to the donation of the property, its use, or final disposition.

(b) It will return to the SASP, at its own expense, any donated property:

(1) That is not placed in use for the purposes for which it was donated within 1 year of donation; or

(2) Which ceases to be used for such purposes within 1 year after being placed in use.

(c) It will comply with the terms and conditions imposed by the SASP on the use of any item of property having a unit acquisition cost of $5,000 or more and any passenger motor vehicle or other donated item. (Not applicable to SEAs.)

(d) It agrees that, upon execution of the SASP distribution document, it has conditional title only to the property during the applicable period of restriction. Full title to the property will vest in the donee only after the donee has met all of the requirements of this part.

(e) It will comply with conditions imposed by GSA, if any, requiring special handling or use limitations on donated property.

(f) It will use the property for an authorized purpose during the period of restriction.

(g) It will obtain permission from the SASP before selling, trading, leasing, loaning, bailing, cannibalizing, encumbering or otherwise disposing of property during the period of restriction, or removing it permanently for use outside the State.

(h) It will report to the SASP on the use, condition, and location of donated property, and on other pertinent matters as the SASP may require from time to time.
(i) If an insured loss of the property occurs during the period of restriction, GSA or the SASP (depending on which agency has imposed the restriction) will be entitled to reimbursement out of the insurance proceeds of an amount equal to the unamortized portion of the fair market value of the damaged or destroyed item.

§102-37.460—What special terms and conditions apply to the donation of aircraft and vessels?

The following special terms and conditions apply to the donation of aircraft and vessels:

(a) There must be a period of restriction which will expire after the aircraft or vessel has been used for the purpose stated in the letter of intent (see 102-37.230) for a period of 5 years, except that the period of restriction for a combat-configured aircraft is in perpetuity.

(b) The donee of an aircraft must apply to the FAA for registration of an aircraft intended for flight use within 30 calendar days of receipt of the aircraft. The donee of a vessel must, within 30 calendar days of receipt of the vessel, apply for documentation of the vessel under applicable Federal, State, and local laws and must record each document with the U.S. Coast Guard at the port of documentation. The donee’s application for registration or documentation must include a fully executed copy of the conditional transfer document and a copy of its letter of intent. The donee must provide the SASP and GSA with a copy of the FAA registration (and a copy of its FAA Standard Airworthiness Certificate if the aircraft is to be flown as a civil aircraft) or Coast Guard documentation.

(c) The aircraft or vessel must be used solely in accordance with the executed conditional transfer document and the plan of utilization set forth in the donee’s letter of intent, unless the donee has amended the letter, and it has been approved in writing by the SASP and GSA and a copy of the amendment recorded with FAA or the U.S. Coast Guard, as applicable.

(d) In the event any of the terms and conditions imposed by the conditional transfer document are breached, title may revert to the Government. GSA may require the donee to return the aircraft or vessel or pay for any unauthorized disposal, transaction, or use.

(e) If, during the period of restriction, the aircraft or vessel is no longer needed by the donee, the donee must promptly notify the SASP and request disposal instructions. A SASP may not issue disposal instructions without the prior written concurrence of GSA.

(f) Military aircraft previously used for ground instruction and/or static display (Category B aircraft, as designated by DOD) or that are combat-configured (Category C aircraft) may not be donated for flight purposes.

(g) For all aircraft donated for nonflight use, the donee must, within 30 calendar days of receipt of the aircraft, turn over to the SASP the remaining aircraft historical records (except the records of the major components/life limited parts; e.g., engines, transmissions, rotor blades, etc., necessary to substantiate their reuse). The SASP in turn must transmit the records to GSA for forwarding to the FAA.

Release of Restrictions

§102-37.465—May a SASP modify or release any of the terms and conditions of donation?

You may alter or grant releases from State-imposed restrictions, provided your State plan of operation sets forth the standards by which such actions will be taken. You may not grant releases from, or amendments or corrections to:

(a) The terms and conditions you are required by the Property Act to impose on the use of passenger motor vehicles and any item of property having a unit acquisition cost of $5,000 or more.

(b) Any special handling condition or use limitation imposed by GSA, except with the prior written approval of GSA.

(c) The statutory requirement that usable property be returned by the donee to the SASP if the property has not been placed in use for the purposes for which it was donated within 1 year of donation or ceases to be used by the donee for those purposes within 1 year of being placed in use, except that:

(1) You may grant authority to the donee to cannibalize property items subject to this requirement when you determine that such action will result in increased use of the property and that the proposed action meets the standards prescribed in your plan of operation.

(2) You may, with the written concurrence of GSA, grant donees:
A time extension to place property into use if the delay in putting the property into use was beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the donee.

Authority to trade in one donated item for one like item having similar use potential.

§102-37.470—At what point may restrictions be released on property that has been authorized for cannibalization?

Property authorized for cannibalization must remain under the period of restriction imposed by the transfer/distribution document until the proposed cannibalization is completed. Components resulting from the cannibalization, which have a unit acquisition cost of $5,000 or more, must remain under the restrictions imposed by the transfer/distribution document. Components with a unit acquisition cost of less than $5,000 may be released upon cannibalization from the additional restrictions imposed by the State. However, these components must continue to be used or be otherwise disposed of in accordance with this part.

§102-37.475—What are the requirements for releasing restrictions on property being considered for exchange?

GSA must consent to the exchange of donated property under Federal restrictions or special handling conditions. The donee must have used the donated item for its acquired purpose for a minimum of 6 months prior to being considered for exchange, and it must be demonstrated that the exchange will result in increased utilization value to the donee. As a condition of approval of the exchange, the item being exchanged must have remained in compliance with the terms and conditions of the donation. Otherwise, §102-37.485 applies. The item acquired by the donee must be:

(a) Made subject to the period of restriction remaining on the item exchanged; and

(b) Of equal or greater value than the item exchanged.

Compliance and Utilization

§102-37.480—What must a SASP do to ensure that property is used for the purpose(s) for which it was donated?

You must conduct utilization reviews, as provided in your plan of operation, to ensure that donees are using surplus property during the period of restriction for the purposes for which it was donated. You must fully document your efforts and report all instances of noncompliance (misuse or mishandling of property) to GSA.

§102-37.485—What actions must a SASP take if a review or other information indicates noncompliance with donation terms and conditions?

If a review or other information indicates noncompliance with donation terms and conditions, you must:

(a) Promptly investigate any suspected failure to comply with the conditions of donated property;

(b) Notify GSA immediately where there is evidence or allegation of fraud, wrongdoing by a screener, or nonuse, misuse, or unauthorized disposal or destruction of donated property;

(c) Temporarily defer any further donations of property to any donee to be investigated for noncompliance allegations until such time as the investigation has been completed and:

(1) A determination made that the allegations are unfounded and the deferment is removed.

(2) The allegations are substantiated and the donee is proposed for suspension or debarment; and

(d) Take steps to correct the noncompliance or otherwise enforce the conditions imposed on use of the property if a donee is found to be in noncompliance. Enforcement of compliance may involve:

(1) Ensuring the property is used by the present donee for the purpose for which it was donated.

(2) Recovering the property from the donee for:

(i) Redistribution to another donee within the State;

(ii) Transfer through GSA to another SASP; or
(iii) Transfer through GSA to a Federal agency.

(3) Recovering fair market value or the proceeds of disposal in cases of unauthorized disposal or destruction.

(4) Recovering fair rental value for property in cases where the property has been loaned or leased to an ineligible user or used for an unauthorized purpose.

(5) Disposing of by public sale property no longer suitable, usable, or necessary for donation.

§102-37.490—When must a SASP coordinate with GSA on compliance actions?
You must coordinate with GSA before selling or demanding payment of the fair market or fair rental value of donated property that is:

(a) Subject to any special handling condition or use limitation imposed by GSA (see 102-37.455); or

(b) Not properly used within 1 year of donation or which ceases to be properly used within 1 year of being placed in use.

§102-37.495—How must a SASP handle funds derived from compliance actions?
You must handle funds derived from compliance actions as follows:

(a) Enforcement of Federal restrictions. You must promptly remit to GSA any funds derived from the enforcement of compliance involving a violation of any Federal restriction, for deposit in the Treasury of the United States. You must also submit any supporting documentation indicating the source of the funds and essential background information.

(b) Enforcement of State restrictions. You may retain any funds derived from a compliance action involving violation of any State-imposed restriction and use such funds as provided in your State plan of operation.

Special Provisions Pertaining to SEAs

§102-37.510—Are there special requirements for donating property to SEAs?
Yes, only DOD-generated property may be donated to SEAs. When donating DOD property to an eligible SEA, SASPs must observe any restrictions the sponsoring Military Service may have imposed on the types of property the SEA may receive.

§102-37.515—Do SEAs have a priority over other SASP donees for DOD property?
Yes, SEAs have a priority over other SASP donees for DOD property, but only if DOD requests GSA to allocate surplus DOD property through a SASP for donation to a specific SEA. In such cases, DOD would be expected to clearly identify the items in question and briefly justify the request.

Subpart F—Donations to Public Airports

§102-37.520—What is the authority for public airport donations?
The authority for public airport donations is 49 U.S.C. 47151. 49 U.S.C. 47151 authorizes executive agencies to give priority consideration to requests from a public airport (as defined in 49 U.S.C. 47102) for the donation of surplus property if the Department of Transportation (DOT) considers the property appropriate for airport purposes and GSA approves the donation.

§102-37.525—What should a holding agency do if it wants a public airport to receive priority consideration for excess personal property it has reported to GSA?
A holding agency interested in giving priority consideration to a public airport should annotate its reporting document to make GSA aware of this interest. In an addendum to the document, include the name of the requesting airport, specific property requested, and a brief description of how the airport intends to use the property.

§102-37.530—What are FAA’s responsibilities in the donation of surplus property to public airports?
In the donation of surplus property to public airports, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), acting under delegation from the DOT, is responsible for:
(a) Determining the property requirements of any State, political subdivision of a State, or tax-supported organization for public airport use;

(b) Setting eligibility requirements for public airports and making determinations of eligibility;

(c) Certifying that property listed on a transfer request is desirable or necessary for public airport use;

(d) Advising GSA of FAA officials authorized to certify transfer requests and notifying GSA of any changes in signatory authority;

(e) Determining and enforcing compliance with the terms and conditions under which surplus personal property is transferred for public airport use; and

(f) Authorizing public airports to visit holding agencies for the purpose of screening and selecting property for transfer. This responsibility includes:

1. Issuing a screening pass or letter of authorization to only those persons who are qualified to screen.

2. Maintaining a current record (to include names, addresses, and telephone numbers, and additional identifying information such as driver’s license or social security numbers) of screeners operating under FAA authority and making such records available to GSA upon request.

3. Recovering any expired or invalid screener authorizations.

§102-37.535—What information must FAA provide to GSA on its administration of the public airport donation program?

So that GSA has information on which to base its discretionary authority to approve the donation of surplus personal property, FAA must:

(a) Provide copies of internal instructions that outline the scope of FAA’s oversight program for enforcing compliance with the terms and conditions of transfer; and

(b) Report any compliance actions involving donations to public airports.

Subpart G—Donations to the American National Red Cross

§102-37.540—What is the authority for donations to the American National Red Cross?

Section 551 of title 40, United States Code authorizes GSA to donate to the Red Cross, for charitable use, such property as was originally derived from or through the Red Cross.

§102-37.545—What type of property may the American National Red Cross receive?

The Red Cross may receive surplus gamma globulin, dried plasma, albumin, anti-hemophilic globulin, fibrin foam, surgical dressings, or other products or materials it processed, produced, or donated to a Federal agency.

§102-37.550—What steps must the American National Red Cross take to acquire surplus property?

Upon receipt of information from GSA regarding the availability of surplus property for donation, the Red Cross will:

(a) Have 21 calendar days to inspect the property or request it without inspection; and

(b) Be responsible for picking up property donated to it or arranging and paying for its shipment.

§102-37.555—What happens to property the American National Red Cross does not request?

Property the Red Cross declines to request will be offered to SASPs for distribution to eligible donees. If such property is transferred, GSA will require the SASP to ensure that all Red Cross labels or other Red Cross identifications are obliterated or removed from the property before it is used.
Appendix C—Glossary of Terms for Determining Eligibility of Public Agencies and Nonprofit Organizations

The following is a glossary of terms for determining eligibility of public agencies and nonprofit organizations:

“Accreditation” means the status of public recognition that an accrediting agency grants to an institution or program that meets the agency’s standards and requirements.

“Accredited” means approval by a recognized accrediting board or association on a regional, State, or national level, such as a State board of education or health; the American Hospital Association; a regional or national accrediting association for universities, colleges, or secondary schools; or another recognized accrediting association.

“Approved” means recognition and approval by the State department of education, State department of health, or other appropriate authority where no recognized accrediting board, association, or other authority exists for the purpose of making an accreditation. For an educational institution or an educational program, approval must relate to academic or instructional standards established by the appropriate authority. For a public health institution or program, approval must relate to the medical requirements and standards for the professional and technical services of the institution established by the appropriate authority.

“Child care center” means a public or nonprofit facility where educational, social, health, and nutritional services are provided to children through age 14 (or as prescribed by State law) and that is approved or licensed by the State or other appropriate authority as a child day care center or child care center.

“Clinic” means an approved public or nonprofit facility organized and operated for the primary purpose of providing outpatient public health services and includes customary related services such as laboratories and treatment rooms.

“College” means an approved or accredited public or nonprofit institution of higher learning offering organized study courses and credits leading to a baccalaureate or higher degree.

“Conservation” means a program or programs carried out or promoted by a public agency for public purposes involving directly or indirectly the protection, maintenance, development, and restoration of the natural resources of a given political area. These resources include but are not limited to the air, land, forests, water, rivers, streams, lakes and ponds, minerals, and animals, fish and other wildlife.

“Drug abuse or alcohol treatment center” means a clinic or medical institution that provides for the diagnosis, treatment, or rehabilitation of alcoholics or drug addicts. These centers must have on their staffs, or available on a regular visiting basis, qualified professionals in the fields of medicine, psychology, psychiatry, or rehabilitation.

“Economic development” means a program(s) carried out or promoted by a public agency for public purposes to improve the opportunities of a given political area for the establishment or expansion of industrial, commercial, or agricultural plants or facilities and which otherwise assist in the creation of long-term employment opportunities in the area or primarily benefit the unemployed or those with low incomes.

“Education” means a program(s) to develop and promote the training, general knowledge, or academic, technical, and vocational skills and cultural attainments of individuals in a community or given political area. Public educational programs may include public school systems and supporting facilities such as centralized administrative or service facilities.

“Educational institution” means an approved, accredited, or licensed public or nonprofit institution, facility, entity, or organization conducting educational programs or research for educational purposes, such as a child care center, school, college, university, school for the mentally or physically disabled, or an educational radio or television station.

“Educational radio or television station” means a public or nonprofit radio or television station licensed by the Federal Communications Commission and operated exclusively for noncommercial educational purposes.

“Health center” means an approved public or nonprofit facility that provides public health services, including related facilities such as diagnostic and laboratory facilities and clinics.

“Historic light station” means a historic light station as defined under section 308(e)(2) of the National Historic Preservation Act 16 U.S.C. 470w-7(e)(2), including a historic light station conveyed under subsection (b) of that section, notwithstanding the number of hours that the historic light station is open to the public.
“Homeless individual” means:

(1) An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, or who has a primary nighttime residence that is:

(i) A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill);

(ii) An institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or

(iii) A public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

(2) For purposes of this part, the term “homeless individual” does not include any individual imprisoned or otherwise detained pursuant to an Act of the Congress or a State law.

“Hospital” means an approved or accredited public or nonprofit institution providing public health services primarily for inpatient medical or surgical care of the sick and injured and includes related facilities such as laboratories, outpatient departments, training facilities, and staff offices.

“Library” means a public or nonprofit facility providing library services free to all residents of a community, district, State, or region.

“Licensed” means recognition and approval by the appropriate State or local authority approving institutions or programs in specialized areas. Licensing generally relates to established minimum public standards of safety, sanitation, staffing, and equipment as they relate to the construction, maintenance, and operation of a health or educational facility, rather than to the academic, instructional, or medical standards for these institutions.

“Medical institution” means an approved, accredited, or licensed public or nonprofit institution, facility, or organization whose primary function is the furnishing of public health and medical services to the public or promoting public health through the conduct of research, experiments, training, or demonstrations related to cause, prevention, and methods of diagnosis and treatment of diseases and injuries. The term includes, but is not limited to, hospitals, clinics, alcohol and drug abuse treatment centers, public health or treatment centers, research and health centers, geriatric centers, laboratories, medical schools, dental schools, nursing schools, and similar institutions. The term does not include institutions primarily engaged in domiciliary care, although a separate medical facility within such a domiciliary institution may qualify as a “medical institution.”

“Museum” means a public or nonprofit institution that is organized on a permanent basis for essentially educational or aesthetic purposes and which, using a professional staff, owns or uses tangible objects, either animate or inanimate; cares for these objects; and exhibits them to the public on a regular basis (at least 1000 hours a year). As used in this part, the term “museum” includes, but is not limited to, the following institutions if they satisfy all other provisions of this definition: Aquariums and zoological parks; botanical gardens and arboretums; nature centers; museums relating to art, history (including historic buildings), natural history, science, and technology; and planetariums. For the purposes of this definition, an institution uses a professional staff if it employs at least one fulltime staff member or the equivalent, whether paid or unpaid, primarily engaged in the acquisition, care, or public exhibition of objects owned or used by the institution. This definition of “museum” does not include any institution that exhibits objects to the public if the display or use of the objects is only incidental to the primary function of the institution.

“Nationally recognized accrediting agency” means an accrediting agency that the Department of Education recognizes under 34 CFR part 600. (For a list of accrediting agencies, see the Department’s web site at http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred.)


“Parks and recreation” means a program(s) carried out or promoted by a public agency for public purposes that involve directly or indirectly the acquisition, development, improvement, maintenance, and protection of park and recreational facilities for the residents of a given political area.

“Program for older individuals” means a program conducted by a State or local government agency or nonprofit activity that receives funds appropriated for services or programs for older individuals under the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended, under title IV or title XX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), or under titles VIII and X of the
Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2991 et seq.) and the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9901 et seq.).

“Provider of assistance to homeless individuals” means a public agency or a nonprofit institution or organization that operates a program which provides assistance such as food, shelter, or other services to homeless individuals.

“Provider of assistance to impoverished families and individuals” means a public or nonprofit organization whose primary function is to provide money, goods, or services to families or individuals whose annual incomes are below the poverty line (as defined in section 673 of the Community Services Block Grant Act) (42 U.S.C. 9902). Providers include food banks, self-help housing groups, and organizations providing services such as the following: Health care; medical transportation; scholarships and tuition assistance; tutoring and literacy instruction; job training and placement; employment counseling; child care assistance; meals or other nutritional support; clothing distribution; home construction or repairs; utility or rental assistance; and legal counsel.

“Public agency” means any State; political subdivision thereof, including any unit of local government or economic development district; any department, agency, or instrumentality thereof, including instrumentalities created by compact or other agreement between States or political subdivisions; multi-jurisdictional sub-state districts established by or pursuant to State law; or any Indian tribe, band, group, pueblo, or community located on a State reservation.

“Public health” means a program(s) to promote, maintain, and conserve the public’s health by providing health services to individuals and/or by conducting research, investigations, examinations, training, and demonstrations. Public health services may include but are not limited to the control of communicable diseases, immunization, maternal and child health programs, sanitary engineering, sewage treatment and disposal, sanitation inspection and supervision, water purification and distribution, air pollution control, garbage and trash disposal, and the control and elimination of disease-carrying animals and insects.

“Public health institution” means an approved, accredited, or licensed public or nonprofit institution, facility, or organization conducting a public health program(s) such as a hospital, clinic, health center, or medical institution, including research for such programs, the services of which are available to the public.

“Public purpose” means a program(s) carried out by a public agency that is legally authorized in accordance with the laws of the State or political subdivision thereof and for which public funds may be expended. Public purposes include but are not limited to programs such as conservation, economic development, education, parks and recreation, public health, public safety, programs of assistance to the homeless or impoverished, and programs for older individuals.

“Public safety” means a program(s) carried out or promoted by a public agency for public purposes involving, directly or indirectly, the protection, safety, law enforcement activities, and criminal justice system of a given political area. Public safety programs may include, but are not limited to those carried out by:

1. Public police departments.
2. Sheriffs’ offices.
3. The courts.
4. Penal and correctional institutions (including juvenile facilities).
5. State and local civil defense organizations.
6. Fire departments and rescue squads (including volunteer fire departments and rescue squads supported in whole or in part with public funds).

“School (except schools for the mentally or physically disabled)” means a public or nonprofit approved or accredited organizational entity devoted primarily to approved academic, vocational, or professional study and instruction, that operates primarily for educational purposes on a full-time basis for a minimum school year and employ a full-time staff of qualified instructors.

“School for the mentally or physically disabled” means a facility or institution operated primarily to provide specialized instruction to students of limited mental or physical capacity. It must be public or nonprofit and must operate on a full-time basis for the equivalent of a minimum school year prescribed for public school instruction for the mentally or physically
disabled, have a staff of qualified instructors, and demonstrate that the facility meets the health and safety standards of the State or local government.

“University” means a public or nonprofit approved or accredited institution for instruction and study in the higher branches of learning and empowered to confer degrees in special departments or colleges.