

# 14 Principles of Ethical Conduct

1. Public service is a public trust, requiring you to place the law and these 14 principles above private gain;
2. You shall not hold financial interests that conflict with the conscientious performance of your official duty;
3. You shall not engage in financial transactions using non-public Government information, or allow the improper use of such information, to further any private interest;
4. You shall not, except as permitted by ethics rules, solicit or accept any gift or other item of monetary value from any person or entity seeking official action from, doing business with, or conducting activities regulated by SBA, or whose interests may be substantially affected by the performance or non-performance of your official duties;
5. You shall put forth an honest effort in the performance of your official duties;
6. You shall not knowingly make unauthorized commitments or promises of any kind purporting to bind the Government or SBA;
7. You shall not use public office for private gain;
8. You shall act impartially and not give preferential treatment to any private entity, organization or individual;
9. You shall protect and conserve Federal property and shall not use it for other than authorized activities;
10. You shall not engage in outside employment or activities, including seeking or negotiating employment, that conflict with your official Government duties and responsibilities;
11. You shall disclose waste, fraud, abuse and corruption to appropriate authorities;
12. You shall satisfy in good faith your obligations as a citizen, including all of your just financial obligations, especially those imposed by law;
13. You shall adhere to all laws and regulations that provide equal opportunity for all Americans regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap; and
14. You shall endeavor to avoid any actions creating the appearance that you are violating the law or these ethical principles. "An appearance" shall be determined from the perspective of a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts.