



www.few.org



700 North Fairfax Street, Suite 510
Alexandria, VA 22314
202/898-0994
fax 202/898-1535

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 29, 2009

Contact: Janet Kopenhaver
703-528-7822

FEW Welcomes Doubling of Compliance Rate of Federal Agencies with MD-715 Reports

(Washington, D.C.) – Federally Employed Women’s (FEW) National President Sue Webster welcomed the news that federal agencies have doubled their compliance levels with respect to meeting their reporting requirements under Management Directive 715 (MD-715). This Directive requires agencies to take appropriate steps to ensure that all employment decisions are free from discrimination. According to the recently-released Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) “Annual Report on the Federal Workforce,” with extensions, 80.7%, or 117 of the 145 agencies and subcomponents submitted timely MD-715 reports in fiscal year 2008, almost twice the number filed timely in fiscal year 2007 (50%).

“When the dismal fiscal year 2007 compliance numbers were released, FEW was extremely disappointed and proactively began expressing its deep concerns about these reporting requirements to decision-makers here in Washington, DC,” Webster stated. “We issued a Press Release, discussed the issue with leaders on Capitol Hill and met with White House officials in an effort to bring more awareness to the importance of MD-715 and apply more pressure on agencies to comply. Judging from the vast improvement in reporting by federal agencies, we can assume that our efforts paid off,” added Webster.

According to the EEOC publication, “MD-715 reports provide information on an agency’s progress in achieving the model Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Program elements and eliminating barriers.” (<http://eeoc.gov/federal/fsp2008/index.html>)

“This is very good news,” asserted FEW Vice President for Compliance Michelle Crockett. “However, our work is not done until we can revitalize the Federal Women’s Programs (FWP) in every federal agency in the United States Government,” Crockett advised. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) regulations implementing Public Law 92-261 (EEO Act of 1972) require that each federal agency designate an FWP Manager to advise the EEO Director on matters affecting the employment and advancement of women. The rules also require that federal agencies allocate sufficient resources for FWPs.

FEW is committed to working with agencies to strengthen the FWP and pledges to continue to work with the Obama Administration and congressional leaders to ensure that FWP Managers in every federal agency are named and receive adequate support to perform their important role of improving the status of women in the federal government through education, counseling agency employees and providing management officials with information on workforce trends.

FEW is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1968 after Executive Order 11375 was issued that added sex discrimination to the list of prohibited discrimination in the federal government. FEW has grown into a proactive organization serving more than one million federally employed women – both in the military and civilian workforce. For more information, visit www.few.org.

###