INTERIM PROCEDURES
Reasonable Accommodations

1. **PURPOSE:** This revised directive establishes United States Mint (Mint) policy and procedures for processing requests for reasonable accommodation for employees and applicants with disabilities.

2. **SCOPE:** This directive applies to all Mint facilities and offices, and all employees and applicants for employment with the Mint.

3. **OUTCOME:** To comply with the requirement to provide reasonable accommodation to qualified employees and applicants with disabilities, unless the Mint can demonstrate that a particular accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the operation of its program.

4. **POLICY:**
   
a. The Mint is committed to providing reasonable accommodation to employees and applicants for employment to assure that individuals with disabilities enjoy full access to equal employment opportunity (EEO). To comply with the requirement to provide reasonable accommodation to qualified employees and applicants with disabilities, unless the Mint can demonstrate that a particular accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the operation of its program. Reasonable accommodation shall be provided for individuals with a disability when needed to:

   (1) Ensure equal opportunity in the job application process;
   (2) Perform the essential functions of a position held or desired; and
   (3) Enjoy equal access to benefits and privileges of employment as enjoyed by individuals without a disability.

   b. Requests for reasonable accommodation will be processed and reasonable accommodations will be provided by the Mint where appropriate, in a timely, efficient, and cost-effective manner in accordance with policy and procedures contained herein.
c. The Mint may provide a reasonable accommodation other than the item or accommodation requested, if the alternative is effective. Generally, this will be done when the alternative is more efficient, cost effective, or has less impact on the business operations of the Mint.

5. **DEFINITIONS**:

   a. **Deciding Official**. An individual who has authority to approve or deny a request for a reasonable accommodation. The Deciding Official is generally the employee's first-level supervisor or any supervisor in the employee’s chain of command or servicing Human Resources (HR) Officer for applicants.

   b. **Disability**. A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of an individual; a record of such an impairment; or being regarded as having such an impairment. Under the American with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), a reasonable accommodation is not required to be provided to an individual who only meets the “regarded as” definition of a disability. 29 C.F.R. § 1630.2 (g)(1)(i)(ii) and (iii) and 1630.2 (o)(4).

   c. **Essential Functions**. The fundamental job duties of the employment position the individual with a disability holds or desires. This does not include marginal functions of the position. A job function may be considered essential for any of several reasons, including but not limited to the following: the reason the position exists is to perform that function; there is a limited number of employees available among whom the performance of that job function can be distributed; and/or the function may be highly specialized so that the incumbent in the position is hired for his or her expertise or ability to perform the particular function. 29 C.F.R. § 1630.2 (n)(1)(2)(i)(ii) and (iii).

   d. **Extenuating Circumstances**. Factors that could not reasonably have been anticipated or avoided in advance of the request for accommodation or situations in which unforeseen or unavoidable events prevent prompt processing and delivery of an accommodation (e.g., identified software is not compatible with existing equipment).

   e. **Genetic Information**. As defined by the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) of 2008, includes information concerning the manifestation of disease/disorder in family members
(“family medical history”), information about an individual’s or family member’s genetic tests, the fact that an individual or an individual’s family member sought or received genetic services, and genetic information of a fetus carried by an individual or an individual’s family member or an embryo lawfully held by an individual or family member receiving assistive reproductive services.

f. **Individual with a Disability.** For the purpose of providing a reasonable accommodation, an “individual with a disability” is defined as a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of that person’s major life activities or who has a record of such an impairment.

g. **Interactive Process.** The process by which the individual requesting an accommodation and the Deciding Official discuss the request for accommodation, determine whether an accommodation will be provided, and examine potential alternative accommodations.

h. **Major Life Activities.** Major life activities include, but are not limited to, caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, sitting, reaching, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, interacting with others, working, and the operation of a major bodily function. Major bodily functions include functions of the immune system, special sense organs and skin; normal cell growth; and digestive, genitourinary, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, cardiovascular, endocrine, hemic, lymphatic, musculoskeletal, and reproductive functions. The operation of a major bodily function includes the operation of an individual organ within a body system. 29 C.F.R. § 1630.2 (i)(1)(i) and (ii).

i. **Mental Impairment.** Any mental or psychological disorder, such as an intellectual disability (formerly termed “mental retardation”), organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities. 29 C.F.R. § 1630.2 (h)(2).

j. **Physical Impairment.** Any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more body systems, such as neurological, musculoskeletal, special sense organs, respiratory (including speech organs), cardiovascular, reproductive, digestive, genitourinary, immune, circulatory, hemic, lymphatic, skin, and endocrine. 29 C.F.R. § 1630.2 (h)(1).
k. **Reasonable Accommodation.** Any modification or adjustment to the job application process, work environment, or the way things are customarily done that enables a qualified individual with a disability to apply for a job, perform job duties, or enjoy equal benefits and privileges of employment that are enjoyed by individuals without disabilities. Reasonable accommodation may include, but is not limited to, making existing facilities accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities; job restructuring; part-time or modified work schedules; reassignment to a vacant position; acquisition or modifications of equipment or devices; appropriate adjustment or modifications of examinations, training materials, or policies; providing qualified readers or interpreters; and other similar accommodations for individuals with disabilities. 29 C.F.R. § 1630.2 (o)(1)(i)(ii) and (iii) and 1630.2 (o)(2)(i)(ii).

l. **Reassignment.** Reasonable accommodation of last resort, that, absent undue hardship, is provided to employees (not applicants) who, because of a disability, can no longer perform the essential functions of their job, with or without reasonable accommodation. Reassignments are made only to funded vacant positions and for employees who are qualified to fill the vacant position. If the employee is qualified for the position, he/she will be reassigned to the job and will not have to compete.

m. **Receiving Official.** Individual designated to receive requests for reasonable accommodation. The Mint has designated the local EEO Manager from each field facility to receive requests from all employees at that facility, and the headquarters' Disability Program Manager (DPM) to receive requests from headquarters and Fort Knox employees. The names and contact information for the local EEO Managers in the field facilities and headquarters' DPM will be publicized to all employees and posted on the Mint intranet website and bulletin boards. For applicants, the HR Specialist with whom the applicant has contact in connection with the application process is designated to receive the requests.

n. **Reconsideration/Appeal Process.** A voluntary process through which an individual can request reconsideration or appeal of denial of reasonable accommodation, regardless of whether the individual has started the EEO complaint process.

o. **Undue hardship.** With respect to providing an accommodation, undue hardship means significant difficulty or expense incurred. Several factors should be considered in determining undue hardship, including: the nature and cost of the accommodation needed; the
overall financial resources of the facility involved in providing the reasonable accommodation, the number of persons employed at this facility, and effect on expenses and resources of this facility; the overall financial resources, size, number of employees, and number, type, and location of facilities of the Mint; the type of operation(s) including the composition, structure and functions of the workforce, and the geographic separateness and administrative or fiscal relationship of the facility involved in providing the reasonable accommodation; and the impact of the accommodation upon the operation of the facility. Determination of undue hardship is made on a case-by-case basis. 29 C.F.R. §1630.2 (p)(1)(2)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv) and (v).

p. **Vacancy Search.** An inquiry by the Workforce Solutions Directorate (WSD) to determine whether there are any available vacant positions or positions that are expected to become available within a reasonable amount of time for which an employee may be qualified, with or without a reasonable accommodation. A vacancy search is performed to determine whether reassignment to a vacant position is possible as a form of reasonable accommodation. A position is considered vacant even if a notice or job announcement seeking applicants is posted.

q. **Voluntary Modification.** A change in the work environment, made outside of the reasonable accommodation process, to address an employee’s impairment-related needs without establishing that an individual has a disability. This is most appropriate when the modification is easy and inexpensive, such as a request for an ergonomic computer mouse or keyboard.

6. **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

a. **The Diversity Management and Civil Rights (DMCR) Office** will develop and issue policy and procedures governing the provision of reasonable accommodation; oversee and evaluate the Mint’s reasonable accommodation process to ensure compliance with the governing laws, regulations, executive orders, and policy related to the provision of reasonable accommodation; and advise managers, supervisors, and officials regarding such laws, regulations, executive orders, and policies. The DMCR Office will record, monitor, and provide a quarterly status report on all active reasonable accommodations to the Director’s Office.

b. **Local EEO Managers and Headquarters’ Disability Program Manager (DPM) will:**
(1) Monitor and track reasonable accommodation requests to ensure timely processing and compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and requirements.

(2) Provide guidance to supervisors and employees on reasonable accommodation policy and procedures.

(3) Advise supervisors and managers of their role and responsibilities in the reasonable accommodation process.

(4) Request and review medical documentation required to support a reasonable accommodation request. See section 7.e. for guidance about medical documentation.

(5) Prepare and submit quarterly and annual reports to the headquarters’ Diversity Management and Civil Rights Office.

(6) Coordinate a request for a vacancy search for reassignment as a reasonable accommodation with WSD, the Deciding Official, and the employee when it is determined that an employee with a disability cannot be accommodated in his or her current position or if all other accommodations would cause an undue hardship on the Mint, and the employee has stated that he/she would be interested in a possible reassignment.

c. The Deciding Official will:

(1) Forward a copy of all reasonable accommodation requests with the decision to the local EEO Manager or headquarters’ DPM as appropriate.

(2) Identify and consider possible accommodations, and respond to request for accommodation promptly as discussed in section 7.g.

(3) Initiate and/or participate in the interactive process as discussed in section 7.c.

(4) Respond to requests for reconsideration promptly as discussed in section 7.j.

(5) Consult with the local EEO Manager or headquarters’ DPM for guidance and assistance as required to process a request for reasonable accommodation and request for reconsideration.

(6) Receive approval from the Associate Director, Office Chief, or Plant Superintendent for any expenditure greater than $2500 for a reasonable accommodation.

(7) Receive approval from the Associate Director, Office Chief, or Plant Superintendent prior to denying a request for a reasonable accommodation.
d. Individual Requesting Reasonable Accommodation or His/her Representative will:

(1) If, because of a reason related to a medical condition, it becomes necessary, an employee shall request a reasonable accommodation verbally or in writing.

(2) Upon request to support the request for reasonable accommodation and in a timely manner, provide medical documentation to the local EEO Manager or headquarters’ DPM.

e. Workforce Solutions Directorate will:

(1) Conduct and document vacancy searches to identify vacant positions for reassignment as a reasonable accommodation at the request of the local EEO Manager or headquarters’ DPM.

(2) Review the employee’s qualifications, determine the essential functions of a position in consultation with the employee’s supervisor, and make the final decision on whether an employee is qualified for a position for reassignment, specifying the grade, pay, and location.

(3) Ensure that any offer for a reassignment position as a reasonable accommodation is made promptly.

f. Onsite Medical Doctor or Other Health Care Provider, at the request of the local EEO Manager or headquarters’ DPM, will:

(1) Review and assess the medical information submitted in support of a request for a reasonable accommodation.

(2) When necessary, conduct a medical examination of the individual requesting an accommodation to assist in determining whether the individual has a disability and needs an accommodation.

7. CRITICAL REQUIREMENTS:

a. Requesting a Reasonable Accommodation. An individual with a disability must let the Mint know that he/she needs an adjustment or change at work or in the application process because of a medical condition.

(1) Employees in the field facilities should submit requests for reasonable accommodation to their Receiving Official, as defined in section 5.h.
(2) If an employee or applicant submits a request to anyone other than the Receiving Official, that individual must forward the request to the designated Receiving Official as quickly as possible, but not later than three (3) business days of receipt.

(3) A request for a reasonable accommodation may be made by a family member, friend, health professional, or other representative acting on behalf of the applicant or employee with a disability. The request should be made to the Receiving Official. When a representative makes the request, the Receiving Official should contact the individual for whom the request was made to confirm that he/she is requesting a reasonable accommodation.

(4) Individuals may request a reasonable accommodation verbally or in writing at any time. The request does not have to use any special words, such as “reasonable accommodation,” “disability,” or “Rehabilitation Act.” The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) provides the following examples:
   (a) An employee tells her supervisor, “I’m having trouble getting to work at my scheduled starting time because of medical treatments I’m undergoing.” This is a request for a reasonable accommodation.
   (b) An employee tells his supervisor, “I need six weeks off to get treatment for a back problem.” This is a request for a reasonable accommodation.
   (c) A new employee, who uses a wheelchair, informs the employer that her wheelchair cannot fit under the desk in her office. This is a request for a reasonable accommodation.
   (d) An employee tells his supervisor that he would like a new chair because his present one is uncomfortable. Although this is a request for a change at work, his statement is insufficient to put the employer on notice that he is requesting a reasonable accommodation. He does not link his need for the new chair with a medical condition.

(5) A written request made via the Reasonable Accommodation Request form (see Attachment A) is preferred but not required. If a verbal request is made, the Receiving Official must complete the written Confirmation of Request form (see Attachment B). To ensure accurate records, the Receiving Official will also confirm receipt of the request in writing with
the individual requesting the accommodation, documenting the date of the verbal request, the accommodation requested, and the medical reason for accommodation. For requests from applicants, the HR Specialist must submit the Confirmation Request form to their local EEO Manager or headquarters' DPM for record keeping purposes.

(6) The written Confirmation of Request form is only required the first time a recurring accommodation (e.g., sign language interpreter; intermittent leave for migraine headaches) is needed; however, advance notice that is appropriate to the accommodation and under the circumstances is required for each subsequent time the accommodation is needed.

(7) An individual may request a reasonable accommodation whenever he/she chooses. Approval or denial of a previous accommodation request does not prevent an individual from requesting an accommodation at a later time if circumstances change and he/she needs an accommodation because of limitation from a disability.

b. Processing the Request for Reasonable Accommodation. The reasonable accommodation process begins as soon as the request for accommodation is made verbally or received in writing, whichever occurs first. After a request is received, the Receiving Official will forward the request for accommodation to the appropriate Deciding Official for a decision and notify the individual requesting the accommodation to whom the request was forwarded for processing. The Deciding Official must process each request and provide a decision pursuant to section 7.g. If the Deciding Official is out of the office or otherwise unavailable when an action or decision is needed to process a request, the individual appointed as their acting designee or delegated authority will also serve as the Deciding Official to continue processing the reasonable accommodation request within the required timeframe and avoid unnecessary delay. The time frames discussed in section 7.g will not be suspended or extended because of unavailability of the Deciding Official. The Receiving Official will monitor and track the process to closure but will have no decision making role.

c. Interactive Process. The reasonable accommodation process is interactive, meaning the individual requesting the accommodation and the Deciding Official shall discuss the reasonable accommodation request, the disability, its functional limitations, and possible accommodations that effectively meet the individual's
disability-related needs. Communication throughout the entire process is critical, especially when the specific limitation, problem, or barrier is unclear, an effective accommodation is not obvious, or different types of reasonable accommodations are being considered.

1. The Deciding Official will proactively search for and consider possible accommodations, consulting with appropriate resources for assistance. The individual requesting the accommodation should, to the extent possible, help identify an effective accommodation. A list of reasonable accommodation resources is provided in Attachment C.

2. Mint personnel (e.g. Human Resources staff or Information Technology staff) may be contacted to obtain information or assistance necessary to process a request and must respond quickly.

d. Reassignment. An employee may be reassigned to a vacant position as a reasonable accommodation of last resort, only if it has been determined that no other effective accommodation is available to enable the employee to perform the essential functions of his/her current job or if all other accommodations would cause an undue hardship on the Mint. Reassignment must be considered as an accommodation prior to terminating an employee with a disability who has requested accommodation but cannot be accommodated in his or her current position. However, there is no obligation to create a position for the purpose of reassignment.

1. Upon being notified that an employee cannot be accommodated in his or her current position, the local EEO Manager or headquarters’ DPM will request a Mint vacancy search for reassignment as a reasonable accommodation, unless the employee declines the offer for a vacancy search for reassignment as a reasonable accommodation.

2. At the outset of the vacancy search, the employee shall be asked to provide an updated resume or brief description of his/her current skills and accomplishments, and identify the lowest grade level and the locations he/she will accept. The vacancy search will be conducted within the parameters identified by the employee regarding the lowest grade level and locations the employee is willing to accept. To assist in this process, the local EEO Manager or headquarters’ DPM will be responsible for requesting the above information from the employee in consultation with WSD. Employees are
encouraged to provide as much information as possible to ensure the greatest consideration for reassignment opportunities. Failure to provide such information may result in the inability to find a position for reassignment.

(3) In determining Mint positions available for reassignment, WSD will review and identify all funded vacant Mint positions and Mint positions expected to become vacant within **thirty (30) business days** from the date the vacancy search started: (1) for which the employee may be qualified with or without reasonable accommodation; and (2) that fall within the parameters established by the employee’s preferred grade(s) and location(s) he/she is willing to accept as outlined in 7(d)(2). The Mint vacancy search will be conducted for **thirty (30) business days**.

(4) WSD makes the decision on whether an employee is qualified for a vacant position and ensures that the position identified is an approved and funded vacant position.

(5) If the Mint vacancy search is completed and no vacant or expected to become vacant equivalent position is identified or only a lower level position is identified, a Treasury-wide vacancy search will be requested by the Mint headquarters’ DPM. Upon this request, the Department of Treasury’s DPM will conduct a Treasury-wide search for **thirty (30) business days**. A representative from the headquarters’ WSD and the headquarters’ DPM must jointly consult with the Associate Director of WSD or designee for guidance before the Treasury-wide search is requested. The Mint vacancy search must be conducted for **thirty (30) business days** before expanding to a Treasury-wide search.

(6) Positions equivalent to the employee’s current grade and pay will be considered first. If no such positions are available, positions at a lower grade will be considered if the employee indicated that he/she would accept a lower graded position. If a vacant position is identified in the Mint search, the headquarters’ DPM will notify the employee of the results and WSD will coordinate the reassignment offer to be made to the employee. If only a vacant position at a lower grade is identified, WSD will keep the position vacant until a Treasury-wide vacancy search is conducted for positions at the employee’s current grade level.
(7) If a vacant position is identified in the Treasury-wide search, the headquarters DPM will notify the employee, his or her supervisor, local EEO Manager, and appropriate WSD of the results as quickly as possible, but not later than five (5) business days of receiving notification from the Department of Treasury, barring the need for additional information to clarify the positions identified. The HR Office of the gaining bureau/agency will coordinate the reassignment offer to be made to the employee in consultation with the Mint WSD and headquarters’ DPM.

(8) While the vacancy search is being conducted, the Deciding Official and employee should discuss and consider possible short-term solutions such as the use of leave (accrued paid leave and/or unpaid leave) or temporary assignment until the vacancy search process is completed.

(9) Employees do not compete for a position identified for reassignment as a reasonable accommodation; however, employees cannot be promoted as part of the reassignment process.

(10) WSD will forward records of all vacancy searches conducted to their local EEO Manager or headquarters’ DPM for record keeping. WSD will document the Mint search conducted using the Mint vacancy search forms as appropriate.

(11) Reassignment may be made to a vacant position outside of the employee’s commuting area if the employee is willing to relocate. As with voluntary transfers, the employee must pay for any relocation costs unless the Mint policy provides such payment for employees without a disability.

(12) Once a reassignment offer is made, the employee has fourteen (14) business days to accept or decline the offer. The local EEO Manager or headquarters’ DPM will record the acceptance or rejection on the Reasonable Accommodation Request or Confirmation of Reasonable Accommodation Request form, whichever is applicable. If the employee accepts the reassignment offer, the Deciding Official must reassign the employee to the identified position with guidance from WSD. The employee is not required to accept the reassignment offer. However, if the employee cannot be accommodated in his or her current position and rejects the
reassignment offer, the employee may not be qualified to remain in the position.

(13) If no suitable vacant position for which the employee is qualified to perform is found in the Treasury-wide vacancy search, the headquarters' DPM will provide written notification of the vacancy search results to the employee as quickly as possible, but not later than ten (10) business days from the date of receiving notification from the Department of Treasury. As part of the interactive process, the headquarters' DPM will explain to the employee why a reassignment could not be provided as a reasonable accommodation and document the explanation on the Reasonable Accommodation Request form or Confirmation of Reasonable Accommodation Request form, whichever is appropriate.

(14) Prior to terminating an employee, the Mint must have fulfilled its obligation to complete a vacancy search, identify any vacant positions or positions that will become vacant, notify the employee of the results, and offer an appropriate vacancy to the employee or inform the employee that no appropriate vacancies are available for reassignment.

(15) The local EEO Manager or headquarters' DPM will explain the reassignment process to the employee using the Reassignment as a Reasonable Accommodation Memorandum of Understanding form (see Attachment D) and provide a copy of the signed form to the employee.

e. Medical Documentation. If an individual's disability and/or need for accommodation is not obvious or otherwise already known (e.g., clearly visible or already on file), the Mint has the right to request and receive medical documentation to establish that the individual has a disability as defined in section 5.b, and that an accommodation is needed. Failure to provide requested medical documentation or to cooperate with efforts to obtain such documentation may result in denial or delay of the requested accommodation.

(1) Medical documentation should not be sought if both the disability and the need for accommodation are obvious or the individual has already provided the agency with sufficient information to establish the existence of a disability and the need for an accommodation.
(2) The Receiving Official will determine whether medical documentation is needed. If it is needed, the Deciding Official will be notified of the request for accommodation and the need for medical documentation. If medical documentation is not needed, the request for accommodation will be forwarded to the Deciding Official with instructions to proceed with processing the request. The local EEO Manager and headquarters’ DPM will be guided by principles set forth in the Americans with Disability Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA) in determining whether medical documentation is necessary to support a request for reasonable accommodation and whether an individual has a disability.

(3) If a determination is made to seek medical information, the Receiving Official will request information about the disability and/or its functional limitations from the individual and/or ask the individual to obtain such information from an appropriate health care professional such as a doctor, occupational therapists, or rehabilitation counselor. The requested medical information must be provided within fifteen (15) business days of the individual’s receipt of the request for medical information, absent extenuating circumstances.

(4) Requested medical information should be sufficient to establish the individual has a disability and needs the reasonable accommodation requested. Unrelated documentation will not be requested. All requests for information should describe the nature of the job, the essential functions the individual is expected to perform, and any other relevant information such as the individual’s position description and/or performance plan. The Receiving Official may work with the individual’s supervisor/manager or WSD to obtain appropriate information on the nature of the job, essential functions, position description, and/or performance plan. Requests for medical information will follow the requirements set forth in EEOC’s Enforcement Guidance: “Disability-Related Inquiries and Medical Examinations of Employees under the Americans with Disabilities Act,” available at EEOC’s internet site at www.eeoc.gov and comply with the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) of 2008.

(5) The following medical information may be requested in connection with a reasonable accommodation: the nature, severity, and duration of the impairment; the activity or
activities limited by the impairment and the extent to which the impairment limits the individual’s ability to perform the activity or activities; and/or why the individual requires reasonable accommodation or the particular reasonable accommodation requested, as well as how the reasonable accommodation will assist the individual to apply for a job, perform the essential functions of the job, or enjoy a benefit of the workplace.

(6) Once the medical documentation is received, the Receiving Official and if necessary, on-site or other health care provider at the expense of the Mint, will review and evaluate the medical documentation. If the initial medical documentation provided does not clearly explain the nature of the disability or the need for the reasonable accommodation, the Receiving Official may request additional information. The Receiving Official will explain, in writing, why the information previously provided is insufficient, what additional information is required, and why it is required. In lieu of requesting additional information from the employee, the Receiving Official may ask the employee to sign a limited release, allowing the local EEO Manager or headquarters’ DPM to contact the individual’s health care professional or doctor for the additional information.

(7) If sufficient information is not provided within the time specified after the second request or the individual refuses to provide the requested information, the Mint may either deny the request for reasonable accommodation or request that the employee be examined by the on-site medical staff or other health care provider, at the expense of the Mint, to obtain the necessary information. Failure to accept the offered medical exam may result in denial of the requested accommodation.

(8) Due to the confidentiality rules of the Rehabilitation Act, the Receiving Official or onsite medical staff or other health care provider will only share with the Deciding Official information that is needed to make a decision on the reasonable accommodation request, i.e., necessary work restrictions, individual’s functional limitations, and accommodations, not the details of the medical condition.

(9) The Receiving Official will inform the Deciding Official whether the medical documentation provided demonstrates that the individual has a disability, that reasonable accommodation is
appropriate, and provide relevant information about the individual’s functional limitations, as necessary.

(10) Periodic updates from the employee may be necessary to ensure the accommodation is effective and that the need for accommodation still exists.

(11) Deciding Officials should not accept medical documentation or request medical documentation from employees. Any medical documentation submitted to the Deciding Official inadvertently should be forwarded to the local EEO Manager or headquarters’ DPM and must be kept confidential as described in section 7.f. below.

f. **Confidentiality.** All medical information/documentation, including any information/documentation obtained in connection to the reasonable accommodation request must be kept confidential, including the request for reasonable accommodation, the fact that an individual has a disability, the functional limitations, and the fact that an individual is receiving a reasonable accommodation. The local EEO Manager and the headquarters’ DPM will maintain reasonable accommodation records, including medical documentation, in secure files separate from an employee’s official personnel file. In addition, individuals who obtain or receive such information are strictly bound by these confidentiality requirements. Information regarding the disability and reasonable accommodation should only be disclosed to individuals who have a “need to know.” Depending on the circumstances of each individual case, the following is a non-exhaustive list of individuals who may have a “need to know:”

(1) Deciding Officials, supervisors, and managers to implement work restrictions or to provide a reasonable accommodation, but medical information should only be disclosed if absolutely necessary;

(2) First aid and safety personnel if the disability could require emergency treatment or special arrangements in emergency situations such as evacuations;

(3) Office of Chief Counsel in connection with providing legal advice to Mint officials;

(4) Government officials to investigate compliance with the Rehabilitation Act;
(5) Worker’s compensation offices or insurance carriers in certain situations; and

(6) Mint EEO officials to maintain records and evaluate and report on performance in processing reasonable accommodation requests.

(7) HR officers who provide assistance and advice throughout the process.

(8) Onsite Medical Doctor or Other Health Care Provider as described in section 6.f.

When necessary to disclose medical information, the individual disclosing such information must inform the recipients of the information about the confidentiality requirements that apply.

g. Time Frames for Processing Reasonable Accommodation Requests and Providing Reasonable Accommodations. The time necessary to process a request will depend largely on the nature of the accommodation and whether it is necessary to obtain supporting documentation. The time frame begins on the date the initial verbal request is made or written request is received, whichever occurs first.

(1) Generally, a request for reasonable accommodation shall be processed (including accommodation provided, if approved) as quickly as reasonably possible but not more than in twenty (20) business days absent extenuating circumstances or a need for supporting medical documentation. The following are examples of accommodations that can be provided within twenty (20) business days:

(a) An employee with insulin dependent diabetes asks for two or three breaks each day to test blood sugar levels.

(b) An employee with a learning disability asks that the agenda for staff meetings be distributed a day in advance because the disability makes reading difficult and he/she needs more time to prepare.

(2) If supporting medical documentation is needed, the Receiving Official will request the medical documentation within the twenty (20) business day timeframe. The twenty (20) business day timeframe stops the day the request for medical information is made to the individual or sent to the doctor and resumes the day sufficient medical documentation is received.
(3) Expedited Processing: In certain circumstances, a request for reasonable accommodation should be expedited and the decision should be made sooner than within twenty (20) business days. Examples include:
(a) Expediting a request for reasonable accommodation to enable an applicant with a disability to apply for a job.
(b) Providing an employee with a sign language interpreter for a meeting scheduled to occur shortly for instance in five (5) days.

(4) Extenuating Circumstances: When there are situations that could not be reasonably anticipated or avoided in advance of the reasonable accommodation request, or are beyond the Mint’s ability to control, the time for processing the reasonable accommodation request and providing the accommodation will be extended as reasonably necessary. Extensions due to such extenuating circumstances should be rare and limited to situations where it is absolutely necessary. Examples include the following:
(a) Back-ordered equipment that cannot be otherwise obtained;
(b) Allowing time for the employee with a disability to test equipment on a trial basis to see if it is effective before it is purchased; or
(c) An accommodation involving removal of an architectural barrier.

(6) If there are extenuating circumstances, the Deciding Official must inform the individual in writing of the reason for the delay, and the projected date for providing a decision or reasonable accommodation.

(6) If there is delay due to extenuating circumstances or to obtain medical documentation, the Deciding Official should consider providing temporary measures, such as providing assistive technology or schedule changes, to facilitate the work of an employee. The use of temporary measures does not mean and may not be used to imply that the individual has a disability or that any reasonable accommodation is needed.

h. Granting a Reasonable Accommodation Request. If the reasonable accommodation request is approved, the Deciding Official will give the completed Reasonable Accommodation Request or
Confirmation of Reasonable Accommodation Request form, whichever is applicable, to the individual and a copy to the local EEO Manager or headquarters' DPM and discuss implementation of the chosen accommodation. If the accommodation cannot be provided immediately, the Deciding Official must inform the individual in writing of the projected date that the accommodation will be provided.

(1) If the Deciding Official decides to provide an alternative accommodation other than the one requested, he/she will record on the form both the reason why the specified accommodation was not provided and the reason why he/she believes the alternative accommodation will be effective. If the alternative accommodation is not accepted, the Deciding Official will record the rejection on the form.

A Deciding Official may take temporary or permanent measures, such as granting leave or providing assistive technology, to facilitate the work of an employee. However, taking such measures, by itself, does not mean, and may not be used to imply that the Mint has determined that the individual has a disability or that any reasonable accommodation is needed.

Any costs associated with an approved accommodation shall be paid for by the individual's current assigned Directorate/Office.

i. Denial of a Reasonable Accommodation Request. If the reasonable accommodation request is not granted, the Deciding Official will give the completed Reasonable Accommodation Request or Confirmation of Reasonable Accommodation Request form, whichever is applicable, to the individual and a copy to the local EEO Manager or headquarters’ DPM and discuss specifically why the accommodation was denied. The Deciding Official must document the denial on the form by checking the box identifying the reason for the denial and include the explanation for the denial written in plain language, clearly stating the specific reason(s) for the denial of a reasonable accommodation. The Deciding Official cannot simply state that an accommodation is denied because of unspecified undue hardship or that the accommodation would not be effective without explaining why.

(1) Before denying a reasonable accommodation request, the Deciding Official must consult with their supervisor or next level manager in their chain of command and their local EEO Manager or headquarters’ DPM.
(2) The form used to provide the written denial will also inform the individual of the Mint procedures available for reconsideration and appeal of a denial of reasonable accommodation, and provide notice of the right to file an EEO complaint, pursue a Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) appeal, or a grievance under a grievance procedures, as appropriate. (See Attachment A and Attachment B.)

(3) Before reaching a determination that the requested accommodation would be an undue hardship, the Deciding Official must explore whether other effective accommodation options could be provided that would not cause undue hardship, as defined in section 5.j. When determining if undue hardship exists, the Mint will follow the requirements set forth in EEOC’s Enforcement Guidance: “Reasonable Accommodation and Undue Hardship under the Americans with Disabilities Act,” available at www.eeoc.gov.

j. Reconsideration/Appeal Process. If a request for a reasonable accommodation is not granted, the individual may request that the Deciding Official reconsider the decision. The individual may present additional information to support his/her request or may be requested to provide information to assist in making a decision.

(1) Requests for reconsideration must first be submitted in writing to the Deciding Official within ten (10) business days of receiving the reasonable accommodation decision. The Deciding Official will respond to the request in writing within five (5) business days of receiving the request.

(2) If the decision is not reversed, the individual may submit an appeal of the Deciding Official’s decision with the next level manager or any other senior official in the Deciding Official’s chain of command who was not involved in the original decision. The appeal must be submitted in writing within ten (10) business days of receiving the denial of the request for reconsideration. A response to the appeal will be provided in writing within ten (10) business days.

(3) A request for reconsideration or an appeal of the Deciding Official’s decision does not extend the time limits for filing an EEO complaint, pursuing MSPB appeal, or filing a grievance. (See section 7.i. below.)
k. **Information Tracking, Evaluation, and Reporting.** The local EEO Managers and headquarters’ DPM will prepare and submit both quarterly and annual reports to the Headquarters Diversity Management and Civil Rights Office to assist in the evaluation of the reasonable accommodation program. These reports will also serve as the source for the reasonable accommodation narrative discussion included in the annual Management Directive 715 (MD-715) report. Only general information will be included in the narrative such as accessibility of the reasonable accommodation policy to Mint employees and applicants, the total number of reasonable accommodation requests, the number approved, the number approved within the required timeframe, and the number denied.

(1) The local EEO Manager and headquarters’ DPM will maintain records related to an individual’s request for a reasonable accommodation for the duration of the employee’s tenure with the Mint.

l. **Relationship of Procedures to Statutory and Collective Bargaining Claims.** The policy, requirements, and procedures described in this document are in addition to and do not limit, modify, or replace statutory and collective bargaining protections for individuals with disabilities and the remedies they provide for denial of a reasonable accommodation request. The requirements governing statutory and collective bargaining claims, including time limits for filing such claims, remain unchanged.

(1) An individual who chooses to pursue the available remedies for denial of reasonable accommodation must comply with the following, as appropriate:

(a) EEO Complaint: Contact your local EEO Manager within 45 calendar days from the date of receipt of the Deciding Official’s written decision of denial.

(b) MSPB Appeal: Initiate an appeal within 30 calendar days of the appealable adverse action as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 1201.3.

(c) Grievance under a Collective Bargaining Agreement: File a grievance in accordance with the provisions of the controlling Collective Bargaining Agreement.

m. The Mint may provide voluntary modifications, outside of the reasonable accommodation process, when an employee or applicant requests an accommodation or modification that is simple and/or inexpensive to provide. The manager, supervisor, or any designated official with authority to approve a request for a reasonable
accommodation may choose to grant a voluntary modification without first establishing that the individual has a disability and going through the reasonable accommodation process. Generally, medical documentation is not necessary for a voluntary modification; however, if medical documentation is necessary:

NOTE: If a voluntary modification is not appropriate, the Mint must treat the request for accommodation or modification as a reasonable accommodation.

Approval of a voluntary modification does not mean and may not be used to imply, that the Mint has determined that the individual has a disability or that any reasonable accommodation is needed.

8. **AUTHORITY:**


   b. Executive Order 13164, Requiring Federal Agencies to Establish Procedures to Facilitate the Provision of Reasonable Accommodation (July 26, 2000)

   c. Treasury Interim Modification and Reasonable Accommodation Policy and Procedures, Transmittal Number: TN-12-002 (November 15, 2011)

   d. *EEOC Policy Guidance on Executive Order 13164, Establishing Procedures to Facilitate the Provision of Reasonable Accommodation*, Number 915.003 (October 20, 2000)

   e. *EEOC Enforcement Guidance: Reasonable Accommodation and Undue Hardship under the Americans with Disabilities Act*, Number 915.002 (October 17, 2002)

   f. Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008 (Public Law 110-325), effective January 1, 2009


9. **REFERENCES:** The laws, regulations and requirements listed above as well as the following guidance from EEOC were sources of information for this directive:
a. *EEOC Practical Advice for Drafting and Implementing Reasonable Accommodation Procedures under Executive Order 13164*

b. *EEOC Technical Assistance Manual on the Employment Provisions (Title I) of Disabilities Act*

c. *Enforcement Guidance: Disability-Related Inquiries and Medical Examinations of Employees under the Americans with Disabilities Act.*

10. **CANCELLATION:**


11. **DOCUMENT REVIEW DATE:** March 30, 2018

12. **RESPONSIBLE OFFICE:** Diversity Management and Civil Rights Office
ATTACHMENT A

UNITED STATES MINT

REQUEST FOR REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

SECTION A: (To be completed by employee, applicant, or representative.)

Employee/Applicant Name:_________________________ Date:______________
Telephone Number:____________________ Location:____________________
Office/Organization:______________________________________________
Occupational Series and Grade:______________________________________

Briefly describe the specific accommodation requested, if known. (Be as specific as possible, e.g., adaptive equipment, reader, interpreter, schedule change.) If the requested accommodation is time sensitive, please explain.

Briefly describe the medical reason for the requested accommodation.

Employee/Applicant or representative’s signature:________________________________________

SECTION B: (To be completed by the Deciding Official.)

_____ Accommodation approved as specifically requested

_____ Accommodation approved but different from original request. Alternative accommodation offered was ____ accepted ____ rejected.

Please describe the alternative accommodation provided. Explain why the original accommodation requested was not provided and why the alternative accommodation would be effective.
Accommodation denied because (check all that apply)

- Individual does not meet the definition of an individual with disability as defined under the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA)
- Accommodation is ineffective
- Medical documentation is inadequate
- Accommodation would require removal of essential functions of the job
- Accommodation would require lowering performance or production standard
- Accommodation would cause an undue hardship
- Other (Please identify):

In plain language, clearly state the detailed reason(s) for denying the request (e.g. explain specifically why an accommodation would be ineffective or cause undue hardship):

Deciding Official’s Signature: ___________________________ Date: ______________

An individual denied accommodation may request reconsideration by submitting a request in writing to the Deciding Official within ten (10) business days of receiving the accommodation decision. The individual may present additional information to support his/her request or may be requested to provide information to assist in making a decision. If the decision is not reversed, the individual may appeal in writing to the next level manager or any other senior official in the Deciding Official’s chain of command who was not involved in the original decision within ten (10) business days of receiving the denial of the request for reconsideration. Request for reconsideration or appeal of the Deciding Official’s decision does not extend the time limits for filing an EEO complaint, pursuing MSPB appeal, or grievance procedures.

If you wish to file an EEO complaint, pursue MSPB appeal, or grievance procedures, you must comply with the following, as appropriate:
• EEO Complaint: Contact your local EEO Manager within 45 calendar days from the date of receipt of the Deciding Official’s written decision of denial.
• Grievance: File a grievance in accordance with the provisions of the controlling Collective Bargaining Agreement.
• MSPB Appeal: Initiate an appeal within 30 calendar days of an appealable adverse action as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 1201.3.
ATTACHMENT B

UNITED STATES MINT

CONFIRMATION OF REQUEST FOR REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

SECTION A: (To be completed by the Receiving Official for verbal requests.)

Employee/Applicant Name: ______________________________ Date: ______________
Telephone Number: _____________________ Location: __________________________
Office/Organization: ________________________________
Occupational Series and Grade: ____________________________

Briefly describe the specific accommodation requested, if known. (Be as specific
as possible, e.g., adaptive equipment, reader, interpreter, schedule change.) If the
requested accommodation is time sensitive, please explain.

Briefly describe the medical reason for the requested accommodation.

SECTION B: (To be completed by the Deciding Official.)

_____ Accommodation approved as specifically requested

_____ Accommodation approved but different from original request. Alternative
accommodation offered was _____ accepted _____ rejected.

Please describe the alternative accommodation provided. Explain why the original
accommodation requested was not provided and why the alternative
accommodation would be effective.
Accommodation denied because (check all that apply)

___ Individual does not meet the definition of an individual with disability as defined under the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA)

___ Accommodation is ineffective

___ Medical documentation is inadequate

___ Accommodation would require removal of essential functions of the job

___ Accommodation would require lowering performance or production standard

___ Accommodation would cause an undue hardship

___ Other (Please identify):

In plain language, clearly state the detailed reason(s) for denying the request (e.g. explain specifically why an accommodation would be ineffective or cause undue hardship):

Deciding Official’s Signature: ______________________________ Date: ______________

An individual denied accommodation may request reconsideration by submitting a request in writing to the Deciding Official within **ten (10) business days** of receiving the accommodation decision. The individual may present additional information to support his/her request or may be requested to provide information to assist in making a decision. If the decision is not reversed, the individual may submit an appeal in writing to the next level manager or any other senior official in the Deciding Official’s chain of command who was not involved in the original decision within **ten (10) business days** of receiving the denial of the request for reconsideration. Request for reconsideration or appeal of the Deciding Official’s decision does not extend the time limits for filing an EEO complaint, pursuing MSPB appeal, or grievance procedures.
If you wish to file an EEO complaint, pursue MSPB appeal, or grievance procedures, you must comply with the following, as appropriate:

- **EEO Complaint:** Contact your local EEO Manager within 45 calendar days from the date of receipt of the Deciding Official’s written decision of denial.
- **Grievance:** File a grievance in accordance with the provisions of the controlling Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- **MSPB Appeal:** Initiate an appeal within 30 calendar days of an appealable adverse action as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 1201.3.
ATTACHMENT C

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION RESOURCES

1. **U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission**
   1-800-669-3362 (Voice) 1-800-800-3302 (TTY)
   [http://www.eeoc.gov](http://www.eeoc.gov)

   EEOC has published many ADA and Rehabilitation Act-related documents that may assist both individuals requesting accommodations as well as those involved in the decision-making process. The following EEOC documents are available at the eeoc.gov site:

   a. *Enforcement Guidance: Reasonable Accommodation and Undue Hardship under the Americans with Disabilities Act*
   b. *Enforcement Guidance: Pre-employment Disability-Related Questions and Medical Examinations*
   c. *Enforcement Guidance: Workers' Compensation and the ADA*
   d. *Enforcement Guidance: The Americans with Disabilities Act and Psychiatric Disabilities*
   e. *Enforcement Guidance: Disability-Related Inquiries and Medical Examinations of Employees under the Americans with Disabilities Act*
   f. Fact Sheet on the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.


2. **Job Accommodation Network (JAN)**
   1-800-526-7234 (Voice) 1-877-781-9403 (TTY)
   [http://askjan.org](http://askjan.org)

   A service of the Office of Disability Employment Policy, JAN provides free, expert and confidential guidance on reasonable accommodations and provides referrals to other organizations that may have particular information about accommodations for persons with different disabilities. Two specific resources on accommodation options available on the website are: *A to Z of Accommodations and Disabilities and Searchable Online Accommodation Resource (SOAR).*
3. **ADA National Network**  
1-800-949-4232 (Voice/TTY)  
http://adata.org  

A network of 10 federally funded regional centers located throughout the United States that provide information, training, and technical assistance on the ADA. Each center works with local business, disability, governmental, rehabilitation, and other professional networks to provide current ADA information and assistance. The centers can provide information on reasonable accommodation and make referrals to local sources of expertise in reasonable accommodations.

4. **Interpreting Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

Contact your local EEO Manager or headquarters’ Disability Program Manager for assistance in providing Sign Language Interpreting (SLI), Communication Access Real-time Translation (CART) and Video Relay Interpreting (VRI) services for United States Mint employees, applicants, guests, and visitors.

5. **RESNA Technical Assistance Project**  
(703) 524-6686 (Voice) (703) 524-6639 (TTY)  
http://www.resna.org  

RESNA, the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America, can refer individuals to projects in all 50 states and the six territories offering technical assistance on technology-related services for individuals with disabilities. Services may include:

- Information and referral centers to help determine what devices may assist a person with a disability (including access to large data bases containing information on thousands of commercially available assistive technology products);
- Centers where individuals can try out devices and equipment;
- Assistance in obtaining funding for and repairing devices; and
- Equipment exchange and recycling programs.

6. **Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program (CAP)**  
(703) 614-8416 Voice (571) 384-5629 (Videophone)  
http://www.cap.mil  

CAP provides free assistive technology and related services to federal employees with disabilities, wounded service members, federal managers, supervisors, and IT professionals.
REASSIGNMENT AS A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

DATE: (Insert Date)

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR (Insert Employee Name)

FROM: (Insert Name/Title of EEO or Disability Program Manager)

SUBJECT: Reassignment as a Reasonable Accommodation

In accordance with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s (EEOC) Enforcement Guidance on Reasonable Accommodation and Undue Hardship under the American with Disabilities Act, (October 17, 2002), reassignment as a reasonable accommodation must be considered if it is determined that there are no other effective accommodations that would enable an employee to perform the essential functions of his/her current job, or if all possible accommodations would cause undue hardship. The United States Mint is prepared to explore reassignment to a funded vacant position for which you are qualified with or without a reasonable accommodation as a potential accommodation. Employees do not compete for a vacant position identified for reassignment as a reasonable accommodation; however, employees cannot be promoted as part of the reassignment process. There is no obligation to create a position for the purpose of reassignment.

To assist with starting the vacancy search process, you are asked to provide me with an updated resume or brief description of your current skills and accomplishments. You are encouraged to provide as much information as possible to ensure the greatest consideration for reassignment opportunities. Failure to provide such information may result in the inability to find a position for reassignment.

In order to assist the United States Mint in its efforts to identify a position to which you may be reassigned, we ask that you respond to the following questions. You are advised that if the United States Mint identifies and offers you a position based on the preferences indicated and you decline the position, the United States Mint has no further obligation to attempt to reassign you.
1. Positions equivalent to your current grade and pay will be considered first. If no such positions are available, positions at a lower grade will be considered. Are you willing to accept a reassignment to a lower grade position if no position equivalent to your current grade is available? Yes____ No____ If so, to what grade: ____________

You understand that you will not receive pay retention if you elect to accept a position at a lower grade.

2. Are you willing to be reassigned to a different type of position for which you may be qualified? Yes____ No____ If so, to what type(s) of positions? ___________________________ ___________________________ ___________________________ ___________________________

3. Are you willing to be reassigned to a position at another Mint or outside of your commuting area? Yes____ No____ If so, please identify the location(s) or commuting area(s): ___________________________ ___________________________ ___________________________ ___________________________

You understand that the United States Mint will not pay for any relocation costs if you elect to accept a position outside of your commuting area.

4. Are you willing to be reassigned to a different bureau within the Department of Treasury? Yes_____ No _____ If so, to which bureau(s)?

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

The Workforce Solutions Directorate will review and identify all funded vacant positions and positions expected to become vacant within thirty (30) business days from the date the vacancy search started for which you may be qualified with or without reasonable accommodation. The Mint vacancy search will be conducted for thirty (30) business days based on the preferences identified for the grade(s) and location(s) you are willing to accept.

The Workforce Solutions Directorate makes the decision on whether you are qualified for a vacant position and ensures that the position identified is an approved and funded vacant position.
If the Mint vacancy search is completed and no vacant or expected to become vacant equivalent position is identified or only a lower level position is identified, a Treasury-wide vacancy search will be requested by headquarters’ Disability Program Manager. Upon that request, the Department of Treasury’s Disability Program Manager will conduct a Treasury-wide search for **thirty (30) business days**.

Once a reassignment offer is made, you have **fourteen (14) business days** to accept or decline the offer. You are not required to accept the reassignment offer. However, if you cannot be accommodated in your current position and you reject a reassignment offer, you may not be qualified to remain in the position.

If no suitable vacant position for which you are qualified to perform is found in the Treasury-wide vacancy search, you will be provided written notification of the vacancy search results as quickly as possible, but not later than **ten (10) business days** from the date the notification is received from the Department of Treasury.

I have been notified of the reassignment process and my options. I have indicated my preferences stated above with full understanding of the reassignment process and my options. I also acknowledge receiving a copy of this memorandum.

_________________________    ______________________
Employee’s Signature            Date