

Legal Services Corporation

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basic types of bonds in general usage are:

(a) An individual bond which covers a named individual in a stated penalty;

(b) A name schedule bond which covers a number of named individuals in the respective amounts set opposite their names;

(c) A position schedule bond which covers all of the occupants of positions listed in the schedule in the respective amounts set opposite such positions;

(d) A blanket bond which covers all the insured's directors, officers, employees and agents with no schedule or list of those covered being necessary and with all new directors, officers, employees and agents bonded automatically, in a blanket penalty.

§ 1629.6 Effective date.

(a) Each program shall certify in its Application for Refunding, beginning with the application for FY 1985 funds, that it has obtained a bond or bonds which satisfy the requirements of this part.

(b) A copy of such bond or bonds shall be provided to the Corporation at its request.

PART 1630—COST STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

Sec.

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. App. 3, 42 U.S.C. 2996e, 2996f, 2996g, 2996h(c)(1), and 2996i(c); Pub. L. 105-119, 111 Stat. 2440; Pub. L. 104-134, 110 Stat. 3009.

SOURCE: 62 FR 68224, Dec. 31, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1630.1 Purpose.

This part is intended to provide uniform standards for allowability of costs and to provide a comprehensive, fair, timely, and flexible process for the resolution of questioned costs.

§ 1630.2 Definitions.

(a) *Allowed costs* means a questioned cost that the Corporation, in a management decision, has determined to be eligible for payment from a recipient's Corporation funds.

(b) *Corrective action* means action taken by a recipient that:

(1) Corrects identified deficiencies;

(2) Produces recommended improvements; or

(3) Demonstrates that audit or other findings are either invalid or do not warrant recipient action.

(c) *Derivative income* means income earned by a recipient from Corporation-supported activities during the term of a Corporation grant or contract, and includes, but is not limited to, income from fees for services (including attorney fee awards and reimbursed costs), sales and rentals of real or personal property, and interest earned on Corporation grant or contract advances.

(d) *Disallowed cost* means a questioned cost that the Corporation, in a management decision, has determined should not be charged to a recipient's Corporation funds.

(e) *Final action* means the completion of all actions that Corporation management, in a management decision, has concluded are necessary with respect to the findings and recommendations in an audit or other report. In the event that Corporation management concludes no corrective action is necessary, final action occurs when a management decision has been made.

(f) *Management decision* means the evaluation by Corporation management of findings and recommendations in an audit or other report and the recipient's response to the report, and the issuance of a final, written decision by management concerning its response to such findings and recommendations, including any corrective actions which Corporation management has concluded are necessary

to address the findings and recommendations.

(g) *Questioned cost* means a cost that a recipient has charged to Corporation funds which Corporation management, the Office of Inspector General, the General Accounting Office, or an independent auditor or other audit organization authorized to conduct an audit of a recipient has questioned because of an audit or other finding that:

(1) There may have been a violation of a provision of a law, regulation, contract, grant, or other agreement or document governing the use of Corporation funds;

(2) The cost is not supported by adequate documentation; or

(3) The cost incurred appears unnecessary or unreasonable and does not reflect the actions a prudent person would take in the circumstances.

(h) *Recipient* as used in this part means any grantee or contractor receiving funds from the Corporation under sections 1006(a)(1) or 1006(a)(3) of the Act.

[62 FR 68225, Dec. 31, 1997; 63 FR 1532, Jan. 9, 1998]

**§ 1630.3 Standards governing allow-
ability of costs under Corporation
grants or contracts.**

(a) *General criteria.* Expenditures by a recipient are allowable under the recipient's grant or contract only if the recipient can demonstrate that the cost was:

(1) Actually incurred in the performance of the grant or contract and the recipient was liable for payment;

(2) Reasonable and necessary for the performance of the grant or contract as approved by the Corporation;

(3) Allocable to the grant or contract;

(4) In compliance with the Act, applicable appropriations law, Corporation rules, regulations, guidelines, and instructions, the Accounting Guide for LSC Recipients, the terms and conditions of the grant or contract, and other applicable law;

(5) Consistent with accounting policies and procedures that apply uniformly to both Corporation-financed and other activities of the recipient;

(6) Accorded consistent treatment over time;

(7) Determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

(8) Not included as a cost or used to meet cost sharing or matching requirements of any other federally financed program, unless the agency whose funds are being matched determines in writing that Corporation funds may be used for federal matching purposes; and

(9) Adequately and contemporaneously documented in business records accessible during normal business hours to Corporation management, the Office of Inspector General, the General Accounting Office, and independent auditors or other audit organizations authorized to conduct audits of recipients.

(b) *Reasonable costs.* A cost is reasonable if, in its nature or amount, it does not exceed that which would be incurred by a prudent person under the same or similar circumstances prevailing at the time the decision was made to incur the cost. If a questioned cost is disallowed solely on the ground that it is excessive, only the amount that is larger than reasonable shall be disallowed. In determining the reasonableness of a given cost, consideration shall be given to:

(1) Whether the cost is of a type generally recognized as ordinary and necessary for the operation of the recipient or the performance of the grant or contract;

(2) The restraints or requirements imposed by such factors as generally accepted sound business practices, arms-length bargaining, Federal and State laws and regulations, and the terms and conditions of the grant or contract;

(3) Whether the recipient acted with prudence under the circumstances, considering its responsibilities to its clients and employees, the public at large, the Corporation, and the Federal government; and

(4) Significant deviations from the established practices of the recipient which may unjustifiably increase the grant or contract costs.

(c) *Allocable costs.* A cost is allocable to a particular cost objective, such as a grant, project, service, or other activity, in accordance with the relative

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benefits received. Costs may be allocated to Corporation funds either as direct or indirect costs according to the provisions of this section. A cost is allocable to a Corporation grant or contract if it is treated consistently with other costs incurred for the same purpose in like circumstances and if it:

(1) Is incurred specifically for the grant or contract;

(2) Benefits both the grant or contract and other work and can be distributed in reasonable proportion to the benefits received; or

(3) Is necessary to the overall operation of the recipient, although a direct relationship to any particular cost objective cannot be shown.

(d) *Direct costs.* Direct costs are those that can be identified specifically with a particular final cost objective, i.e., a particular grant award, project, service, or other direct activity of an organization. Costs identified specifically with grant awards are direct costs of the awards and are to be assigned directly thereto. Direct costs include, but are not limited to, the salaries and wages of recipient staff who are working on cases or matters that are identified with specific grants or contracts. Salary and wages charged directly to Corporation grants and contracts must be supported by personnel activity reports.

(e) *Indirect costs.* Indirect costs are those that have been incurred for common or joint objectives and cannot be readily identified with a particular final cost objective. Any direct cost of a minor amount may be treated as an indirect cost for reasons of practicality where the accounting treatment for such cost is consistently applied to all final cost objectives. Indirect costs include, but are not limited to, the costs of operating and maintaining facilities, and the costs of general program administration, such as the salaries and wages of program staff whose time is not directly attributable to a particular grant or contract. Such staff may include, but are not limited to, executive officers and personnel, accounting, secretarial and clerical staff.

(f) *Allocation of indirect costs.* Where a recipient has only one major function, i.e., the delivery of legal services to low-income clients, allocation of indi-

rect costs may be by a simplified allocation method, whereby total allowable indirect costs (net of applicable credits) are divided by an equitable distribution base and distributed to individual grant awards accordingly. The distribution base may be total direct costs, direct salaries and wages, attorney hours, numbers of cases, numbers of employees, or another base which results in an equitable distribution of indirect costs among funding sources.

(g) *Exception for certain indirect costs.* Some funding sources may refuse to allow the allocation of certain indirect costs to an award. In such instances, a recipient may allocate a proportional share of another funding source's share of an indirect cost to Corporation funds, provided that the activity associated with the indirect cost is permissible under the LSC Act and regulations.

(h) *Applicable credits.* Applicable credits are those receipts or reductions of expenditures which operate to offset or reduce expense items that are allocable to grant awards as direct or indirect costs. Applicable credits include, but are not limited to, purchase discounts, rebates or allowances, recoveries or indemnities on losses, insurance refunds, and adjustments of overpayments or erroneous charges. To the extent that such credits relate to allowable costs, they shall be credited as a cost reduction or cash refund in the same fund to which the related costs are charged.

(i) *Guidance.* The Circulars of the Office of Management and Budget shall provide guidance for all allowable cost questions arising under this part when relevant policies or criteria therein are not inconsistent with the provisions of the Act, applicable appropriations law, this part, the Accounting Guide for LSC Recipients, Corporation rules, regulations, guidelines, instructions, and other applicable law.

[62 FR 68225, Dec. 31, 1997; 63 FR 1532, Jan. 9, 1998]

§ 1630.4 Burden of proof.

The recipient shall have the burden of proof under this part.

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§ 1630.5 Costs requiring Corporation prior approval.

(a) *Advance understandings.* Under any given grant award, the reasonableness and allocability of certain cost items may be difficult to determine. In order to avoid subsequent disallowance or dispute based on unreasonableness or nonallocability, recipients may seek a written understanding from the Corporation in advance of incurring special or unusual costs. If a recipient elects not to seek an advance understanding from the Corporation, the absence of an advance understanding on any element of a cost does not affect the reasonableness or allocability of the cost.

(b) *Prior approvals.* Without prior written approval of the Corporation, no cost attributable to any of the following may be charged to Corporation funds:

(1) Pre-award costs and costs incurred after the cessation of funding;

(2) Purchases and leases of equipment, furniture, or other personal, non-expendable property, if the current purchase price of any individual item of property exceeds \$10,000;

(3) Purchases of real property; and

(4) Capital expenditures exceeding \$10,000 to improve real property.

(c) *Duration.* The Corporation's approval or advance understanding shall be valid for one year, or for a greater period of time which the Corporation may specify in its approval or understanding.

§ 1630.6 Timetable and basis for granting prior approval.

(a) The Corporation shall grant prior approval of a cost if the recipient has provided sufficient written information to demonstrate that the cost would be consistent with the standards and policies of this part. If the Corporation denies a request for approval, it shall provide to the recipient a written explanation of the grounds for denying the request.

(b) Except as provided in paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section, the Corporation may not assert the absence of prior approval as a basis for disallowing a questioned cost, if the Corporation has not responded to a writ-

ten request for approval within sixty (60) days of receiving the request.

(c) If additional information is necessary to enable the Corporation to respond to a request for prior approval, the Corporation may make a written request for additional information within forty-five (45) days of receiving the request for approval.

(d) If the Corporation has made a written request for additional information about a cost as provided by paragraph (c) of this section, and if the Corporation has not responded within thirty (30) days of receiving in writing all additional, requested information, the Corporation may not assert the absence of prior approval as a basis for disallowing the cost.

§ 1630.7 Review of questioned costs and appeal of disallowed costs.

(a) When the Office of Inspector General, the General Accounting Office, or an independent auditor or other audit organization authorized to conduct an audit of a recipient has identified and referred a questioned cost to the Corporation, Corporation management shall review the findings of the Office of Inspector General, General Accounting Office, or independent auditor or other authorized audit organization, as well as the recipient's written response to the findings, in order to determine accurately the amount of the questioned cost, the factual circumstances giving rise to the cost, and the legal basis for disallowing the cost. Corporation management may also identify questioned costs in the course of its oversight of recipients.

(b) If Corporation management determines that there is a basis for disallowing a questioned cost, and if not more than five years have elapsed since the recipient incurred the cost, Corporation management shall provide to the recipient written notice of its intent to disallow the cost. The written notice shall state the amount of the cost and the factual and legal basis for disallowing it.

(c) Within thirty (30) days of receiving written notice of the Corporation's intent to disallow the questioned cost, the recipient may respond with written evidence and argument to show that

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the cost was allowable, or that the Corporation, for equitable, practical, or other reasons, should not recover all or part of the amount, or that the recovery should be made in installments. If the recipient does not respond to the Corporation's written notice, Corporation management shall issue a management decision on the basis of information available to it.

(d) Within sixty (60) days of receiving the recipient's written response to the notice of intent to disallow the questioned cost, Corporation management shall issue a management decision stating whether or not the cost has been disallowed, the reasons for the decision, and the method of appeal as provided in this section.

(1) If Corporation management has determined that the questioned cost should be allowed, and that no corrective action by the recipient is necessary, final action with respect to the questioned cost occurs at the time when the Corporation issues the management decision.

(2) If Corporation management has determined that the questioned cost should be disallowed, the management decision shall also describe the expected recipient action to repay the cost, including the method and schedule for collection of the amount of the cost. The management decision may also require the recipient to make financial adjustments or take other corrective action to prevent a recurrence of the circumstances giving rise to the disallowed cost.

(e) If the amount of a disallowed cost exceeds \$2,500, the recipient may appeal in writing to the Corporation President within thirty (30) days of receiving the Corporation's management decision to disallow the cost. The written appeal should state in detail the reasons why the Corporation should not disallow part or all of the questioned cost. If the amount of a disallowed cost does not exceed \$2,500, or if the recipient elects not to appeal the disallowance of a cost in excess of \$2,500, the Corporation's management decision shall be final.

(f) Within thirty (30) days of receipt of the recipient's appeal of a disallowed cost in excess of \$2,500, the President shall either adopt, modify, or reverse the Corporation's management deci-

sion to disallow the cost. If the President has had prior involvement in the consideration of the disallowed cost, the President shall designate another senior Corporation employee who has not had prior involvement to review the recipient's appeal. The President shall also have discretion, in circumstances where the President has not had prior involvement in the disallowed cost, to designate another senior Corporation employee to review the recipient's appeal, provided that the senior Corporation employee has not had prior involvement in the disallowed cost.

(g) The decision of the President or designee shall be final and shall be based on the written record, consisting of the Corporation's notice of intent to disallow the questioned cost, the recipient's response, the management decision, the recipient's written appeal, any additional response or analysis provided to the President or designee by Corporation staff, and the relevant findings, if any, of the Office of Inspector General, General Accounting Office, or other authorized auditor or audit organization. Upon request, the Corporation shall provide a copy of the written record to the recipient.

§ 1630.8 Recovery of disallowed costs and other corrective action.

(a) The Corporation shall recover any disallowed costs from the recipient within the time limits and conditions set forth in the Corporation's management decision. Recovery of the disallowed costs may be in the form of a reduction in the amount of future grant checks or in the form of direct payment from the recipient to the Corporation.

(b) The Corporation shall ensure that a recipient which has incurred a disallowed cost takes any additional, necessary corrective action within the time limits and conditions set forth in the Corporation's management decision. The recipient shall have taken final action when the recipient has repaid all disallowed costs and has taken all corrective action which the Corporation has stated in its management decision is necessary to prevent the recurrence of circumstances giving rise to a questioned cost.

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(c) In the event of an appeal of the Corporation's management decision, the decision of the President or designee shall supersede the Corporation's management decision, and the recipient shall repay any disallowed costs and take necessary corrective action according to the terms and conditions of the decision of the President or designee.

§ 1630.9 Other remedies; effect on other parts.

(a) In cases of serious financial mismanagement, fraud, or defalcation of funds, the Corporation shall refer the matter to the Office of Inspector General, and may take appropriate action pursuant to parts 1606, 1623, 1625, and 1640 of this chapter.

(b) The recovery of a disallowed cost according to the procedures of this part does not constitute a permanent reduction in the annualized funding level of the recipient, nor does it constitute a termination of financial assistance under part 1606, a suspension of funding under part 1623, or a denial of refunding under part 1625.

§ 1630.10 Applicability to subgrants.

When disallowed costs arise from expenditures incurred under a subgrant of Corporation funds, the recipient and the subrecipient will be jointly and severally responsible for the actions of the subrecipient, as provided by 45 CFR part 1627, and will be subject to all remedies available under this part. Both the recipient and the subrecipient shall have access to the review and appeal procedures of this part.

§ 1630.11 Applicability to non-LSC funds.

(a) No costs attributable to a purpose prohibited by the LSC Act, as defined by 45 CFR 1610.2(a), may be charged to private funds, except for tribal funds used for the specific purposes for which they were provided. No cost attributable to an activity prohibited by or inconsistent with section 504, as defined by 45 CFR 1610.2(b), may be charged to non-LSC funds, except for tribal funds used for the specific purposes for which they were provided.

(b) According to the review and appeal procedures of 45 CFR 1630.7, the

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Corporation may recover from a recipient's Corporation funds an amount not to exceed the amount improperly charged to non-LSC funds.

§ 1630.12 Applicability to derivative income.

(a) Derivative income resulting from an activity supported in whole or in part with funds provided by the Corporation shall be allocated to the fund in which the recipient's LSC grant is recorded in the same proportion that the amount of Corporation funds expended bears to the total amount expended by the recipient to support the activity.

(b) Derivative income which is allocated to the LSC fund in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section is subject to the requirements of this part, including the requirement of 45 CFR 1630.3(a)(4) that expenditures of such funds be in compliance with the Act, applicable appropriations law, Corporation rules, regulations, guidelines, and instructions, the Accounting Guide for LSC recipients, the terms and conditions of the grant or contract, and other applicable law.

[62 FR 68227, Dec. 31, 1997; 63 FR 1532, Jan. 9, 1998]

§ 1630.13 Time.

(a) *Computation.* Time limits specified in this part shall be computed in accordance with Rules 6(a) and 6(e) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

(b) *Extensions.* The Corporation may, on a recipient's written request for good cause, grant an extension of time and shall so notify the recipient in writing.

PART 1631 [RESERVED]

PART 1632—REDISTRICTING

Sec.

1632.1 Purpose.

1632.2 Definitions.

1632.3 Prohibition.

1632.4 Recipient policies.

AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 2996e(b)(1)(A); 2996f(a)(2)(C); 2996f(a)(3); 2996(g)(e); 110 Stat. 3009; 110 Stat. 1321(1996).

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