

§ 1628.5

§ 1628.5 Fund balance deficits.

(a) Sound financial management practices such as those set out in Chapter 3 of the Corporation's Accounting Guide for LSC Recipients should preclude deficit spending. Use of current year LSC grant funds to liquidate deficit balances in the LSC fund from a preceding period requires the prior written approval of the Corporation.

(b) Within 30 days of the submission of the recipient's annual audit, the recipient may apply to the Corporation for approval of the expenses associated with the liquidation of the deficit balance in the LSC fund.

(c) In the absence of approval by the Corporation, expenditures of current year LSC grant funds to liquidate a deficit from a prior year shall be identified as questioned costs under 45 CFR part 1630.

(d) The recipient's request must specify the same information relative to the deficit LSC fund balance as that set forth in §1628.4(a)(1) and (2). Additionally, the recipient must develop and submit a plan approved by its governing body describing the measures which will be implemented to prevent a recurrence of a deficit balance in the LSC fund. The Corporation reserves the right to require changes in the submitted plan.

(e) The decision of the Corporation regarding acceptance of these deficit-related costs shall be guided by the statutory mandate requiring the recipient to provide high quality legal services performed in an effective and economical manner. Special consideration will be given for emergencies, unusual occurrences, or other special circumstances giving rise to a deficit balance.

PART 1629—BONDING OF RECIPIENTS

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§ 1629.1 General.

(a) If any program which receives Corporation funds is not a government, or an agency or instrumentality thereof, such program shall carry fidelity bond coverage at a minimum level of at least ten (10) percent of the program's annualized LSC funding level for the previous fiscal year, or of the initial grant or contract, if the program is a new grantee or contractor. No coverage carried pursuant to this part shall be at a level less than \$50,000.

(b) A fidelity bond is a bond indemnifying such program against losses resulting from the fraud or lack of integrity, honesty or fidelity of one or more employees, officers, agents, directors or other persons holding a position of trust with the program.

§ 1629.2 Persons required to be bonded.

(a) Every director, officer, employee and agent of a program who handles funds or property of the program shall be bonded as provided in this part.

(b) Such bond shall provide protection to the program against loss by reason of acts of fraud or dishonesty on the part of such director, officer, employee or agent directly or through connivance with others.

§ 1629.3 Criteria for determining handling.

(a) The term "handles" shall be deemed to encompass any relationship of a director, officer, employee or agent with respect to funds or other property which can give rise to a risk of loss through fraud or dishonesty. This shall include relationships such as those which involve access to funds or other property or decision-making powers with respect to funds or property which can give rise to such risk of loss.

(b) Subject to the application of the basic standard of risk of loss to each situation, the criteria for determining whether there is "handling" so as to require bonding are:

- (1) Physical contact with cash, checks or similar property;

(2) The power to secure physical possession of cash, checks or similar property such as through access to a safe deposit box or similar depository, access to cash or negotiable instruments and assets, power of custody or safekeeping, or the power to borrow or withdraw funds from a bank or other account whether or not physical contact actually takes place;

(3) The power to transfer or cause to be transferred property such as mortgages, title to land and buildings, or securities, through actual or apparent authority, to oneself or to a third party, or to be negotiated for value.

(c) Persons who actually disburse funds or other property, such as officers authorized to sign checks or other negotiable instruments, or persons who make cash disbursements, shall be considered to be "handling" such funds or property.

(d) In connection with disbursements, any persons with the power to sign or endorse checks or similar instruments or otherwise render them transferable, whether individually or as cosigners with one or more persons, shall each be considered to be "handling" such funds or other property.

(e) To the extent a person's supervisory or decision-making responsibility involves factors in relationship to funds discussed in paragraphs (b) (1), (2), (3), or paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section, such persons shall be considered to be "handling" in the same manner as any person to whom the criteria of those subparagraphs apply.

§ 1629.4 Meaning of fraud or dishonesty.

The term "fraud or dishonesty" shall be deemed to encompass all those risks of loss that might arise through dishonest or fraudulent acts in the handling of funds as delineated in § 1629.3. As such, the bond must provide recovery for loss occasioned by such acts even though no personal gain accrues to the person committing the act and the act is not subject to punishment as a crime or misdemeanor, provided that within the law of the state in which the act is committed, a court could afford recovery under a bond providing protection against fraud or dishonesty. As applied under state laws, the term

"fraud or dishonesty" encompasses such matters as larceny, theft, embezzlement, forgery, misappropriation, wrongful abstraction, wrongful conversion, willful misapplication or any other fraudulent or dishonest acts.

§ 1629.5 Form of bonds.

Any form of bond which may be described as individual, schedule or blanket, or any combination of such forms of bonds, shall be acceptable to meet the requirements of this part. The 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.
- 1630.1 Purpose.
- 1630.2 Definitions.
- 1630.3 Standards governing allowability of costs under Corporation grants or contracts.
- 1630.4 Burden of proof.
- 1630.5 Costs requiring Corporation prior approval.
- 1630.6 Timetable and basis for granting prior approval.
- 1630.7 Review of questioned costs and appeal of disallowed costs.