

Subpart A—General Provisions

§ 1631.1 Purpose.

The purpose of this part is to set standards for purchasing, leasing, using, and disposing of LSC-funded personal property and real estate and using LSC funds to contract for services.

§ 1631.2 Definitions.

As used in this part:

(a) *Capital improvement* means spending more than \$25,000 of LSC funds to improve real estate through construction or the addition of fixtures that become an integral part of real estate.

(b) *LSC property interest agreement* means a formal written agreement between the recipient and LSC establishing the terms of LSC's legal interest in real estate purchased with LSC funds.

(c) *Personal property* means property other than real estate.

(d) *Purchase* means buying personal property or real estate or contracting for services with LSC funds.

(e) *Quote* means a quotation or bid from a potential source interested in selling or leasing property or providing services to a recipient.

(f) *Real estate* means land and buildings (including capital improvements), excluding moveable personal property.

(g)(1) *Services* means professional and consultant services rendered by persons who are members of a particular profession or possess a special skill and who are not officers or employees of an LSC recipient. *Services* includes, but is not limited to intangible products such as accounting, banking, cleaning, consultants, training, expert services, maintenance of equipment, and transportation.

(2) *Services* does not include:

(i) Services provided by recipients to their employees as compensation in addition to regular salaries and wages, including but not limited to employee insurance, pensions, and unemployment benefit plans;

(ii) Insurance, including malpractice insurance provided to staff attorneys and organizational insurance (e.g., directors and officers liability insurance, employment practices liability insur-

ance, and commercial liability insurance);

(iii) Annual audits required by section 509(a) of Public Law 104-134;

(iv) Services necessary to conduct litigation on behalf of clients (e.g., expert witnesses, discovery);

(v) Contracts for services necessary to address a recipient's internal personnel issues, such as labor counsel, investigators, and mediators; and

(vi) Contracts for employees, whether with the employee directly or with a placement agency.

(h) *Source* means a seller, supplier, vendor, or contractor who has agreed:

(1) To sell or lease property to the recipient through a purchase or lease agreement; or

(2) To provide services to the recipient through a contract.

§ 1631.3 Prior approval process.

(a) LSC shall grant prior approval of a cost listed in §1630.6(b) of this chapter if the recipient has provided sufficient written information to demonstrate that the cost would be consistent with the standards and policies of this part. LSC may request additional information if necessary to make a decision on the recipient's request.

(b)(1) For purchases or leases of personal property, contracts for services, and capital improvements, LSC will make a decision to approve or deny a request for prior approval within 30 days of receiving materials LSC deems sufficient to decide. LSC will inform a recipient within 20 days of receiving the initial prior approval request whether LSC needs additional information to make a decision.

(2) For purchases of real estate, LSC will make a decision within 60 days of receiving materials LSC deems sufficient to decide. LSC will inform a recipient within 20 days of receiving the initial prior approval request whether LSC needs additional information to make a decision.

(3) If LSC cannot make a decision whether to approve the request within the allotted time, it will provide the requester with a date by which it expects to make a decision.

(c) If LSC denies a request for prior approval, LSC shall provide the recipient with a written explanation of the grounds for denying the request.

(d) *Exigent circumstances.* (1) A recipient may use more than \$25,000 of LSC funds to purchase personal property or award a contract for services without seeking LSC's prior approval if the purchase or contract is necessary;

(i) To avoid imminent harm to the recipient's personnel, physical facilities, or systems;

(ii) To remediate or mitigate damage to the recipient's personnel, physical facilities or systems;

(iii) To avoid disruption to the recipient's client-service delivery system (e.g., an event that causes a recipient's telecommunications system to cease functioning); or

(iv) To respond to a natural disaster (e.g., a flood washes out roads leading to the recipient's offices such that the recipient must contract for services that will enable it to contact its clients).

(2) The recipient must provide LSC with a description of the exigent circumstances and the information described in §1631.8(b) within 30 days after the circumstances necessitating the purchase or contract have ended.

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§ 1631.4 Use of funds.

When LSC receives funds from a disposition of property under this section, LSC will use those funds to make emergency and other special grants to recipients. LSC generally will make such grants to the same service area as the returned funds originally supported.

§ 1631.5 Recipient policies, procedures, and recordkeeping.

Each recipient shall adopt written policies and procedures to guide its staff in complying with this part and shall maintain records sufficient to document the recipient's compliance with this part.

Subpart B—Procurement Policies and Procedures

§ 1631.6 Characteristics of procurements.

(a) Characteristics indicative of a procurement relationship between a recipient and another entity are when the other entity:

(1) Provides the goods and services within its normal business operations;

(2) Provides similar goods or services to many different purchasers;

(3) Normally operates in a competitive environment;

(4) Provides goods or services that are ancillary to the operation of the LSC grant; and

(5) Is not subject to LSC's compliance requirements as a result of the agreement, though similar requirements may apply for other reasons.

(b) In determining whether an agreement between a recipient and another entity constitutes a contract under this part or a subgrant under part 1627 of this chapter, the substance of the relationship is more important than the form of the agreement. All the characteristics above may not be present in all cases, and a recipient must use judgment in classifying each agreement as a subgrant or a contract.

§ 1631.7 Procurement policies and procedures.

Recipients must have written procurement policies and procedures. These policies must:

(a) Identify competition thresholds that establish the basis (for example, price, risk level, or type of purchase) for the level of competition required at each threshold (for example, certification that a purchase reflects the best value to the recipient; a price comparison for alternatives that the recipient considered; or requests for information, quotes, or proposals);

(b) Establish the grounds for non-competitive purchases;

(c) Establish the level of documentation necessary to justify procurements. The level of documentation needed may be proportional to the nature of the purchase or tied to competition thresholds;

(d) Establish internal controls that, at a minimum, provide for segregation