



LSC's financial eligibility regulation, 45 C.F.R. Part 1611, which enumerates financial eligibility requirements for grantees, implements underlying statutory provisions of the LSC Act which limit the use of LSC resources to those who would otherwise be unable to afford adequate legal counsel.<sup>1</sup> Part 1611 generally requires that grantees establish maximum income levels pursuant to which they can evaluate applicants for financial eligibility, and section 1611.3(b) prohibits those maximum income levels from exceeding one hundred and twenty-five percent (125%) of the current, official Federal Poverty Income Guidelines.<sup>2</sup> Section 1611.4(a) creates exceptions to this rule where an applicant's gross income exceeds the maximum income level established by a grantee but does not exceed 150 percent of the national eligibility level (125% of poverty), and 1) his or her disposable income is substantially reduced by expenses such as medical

I hope that this information fully responds to your inquiry. While LSC understands, shares and commends your desire to assist members of your community who have been, or will be, affected by the recent terrorist attacks, LSC does not have discretion to waive the general financial eligibility requirements for applicants for free legal services. If you have additional questions or would like to further discuss these issues, please feel free to contact me directly at (202)336-8871.

Sincerely,

Dawn M. Browning  
Assistant General Counsel

Victor M. Fortuno  
General Counsel