

ings on proposals for a system for the competitive award of all grants and contracts, including support centers, and that nothing herein shall apply to any competitive awards program currently in existence”.

Pub. L. 101-162, title VI, §608 (part), Nov. 21, 1989, 103 Stat. 1036, provided: “That none of the funds appropriated under this Act or under any prior Acts for the Legal Services Corporation shall be used to consider, develop, or implement any system for the competitive award of grants or contracts until such action is authorized pursuant to a majority vote of a Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation composed of eleven individuals nominated by the President after January 20, 1989, and subsequently confirmed by the United States Senate, except that nothing herein shall prohibit the Corporation Board, members, or staff from engaging in in-house reviews of or holding hearings on proposals for a system for the competitive award of all grants and contracts, including support centers, and that nothing herein shall apply to any competitive awards program currently in existence; subsequent to confirmation such new Board of Directors shall develop and implement a proposed system for the competitive award of all grants and contracts”.

Pub. L. 100-459, title VI, §605, Oct. 1, 1988, 102 Stat. 2227, provided: “That a Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation, composed of individuals nominated by the President after January 20, 1989 and subsequently confirmed by the United States Senate, shall develop and implement a system for the competitive award of all grants and contracts, including support centers, to take effect after September 30, 1989.”

#### **§ 2996g. Records and reports**

##### **(a) Authority to require reports**

The Corporation is authorized to require such reports as it deems necessary from any grantee, contractor, or person or entity receiving financial assistance under this subchapter regarding activities carried out pursuant to this subchapter.

##### **(b) Authority to require recordkeeping; access to records**

The Corporation is authorized to prescribe the keeping of records with respect to funds provided by grant or contract and shall have access to such records at all reasonable times for the purpose of insuring compliance with the grant or contract or the terms and conditions upon which financial assistance was provided.

##### **(c) Annual report to President and Congress; contents**

The Corporation shall publish an annual report which shall be filed by the Corporation with the President and the Congress. Such report shall include a description of services provided pursuant to section 2996f(a)(2)(C)(i) and (ii) of this title.

##### **(d) Copies and retention of reports**

Copies of all reports pertinent to the evaluation, inspection, or monitoring of any grantee, contractor, or person or entity receiving financial assistance under this subchapter shall be submitted on a timely basis to such grantee, contractor, or person or entity, and shall be maintained in the principal office of the Corporation for a period of at least five years subsequent to such evaluation, inspection, or monitoring. Such reports shall be available for public inspection during regular business hours, and copies shall be furnished, upon request, to inter-

ested parties upon payment of such reasonable fees as the Corporation may establish.

##### **(e) Publication in Federal Register of rules, regulations, guidelines and instructions**

The Corporation shall afford notice and reasonable opportunity for comment to interested parties prior to issuing rules, regulations, and guidelines, and it shall publish in the Federal Register at least 30 days prior to their effective date all its rules, regulations, guidelines, and instructions.

(Pub. L. 88-452, title X, §1008, as added Pub. L. 93-355, §2, July 25, 1974, 88 Stat. 386; amended Pub. L. 95-222, §9(b)(2), Dec. 28, 1977, 91 Stat. 1621.)

#### AMENDMENTS

1977—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 95-222 inserted provisions setting forth required contents of annual report.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1977 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 95-222 effective Dec. 28, 1977, see section 17(b) of Pub. L. 95-222, set out as a note under section 2996 of this title.

#### TERMINATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

For termination, effective May 15, 2000, of provisions in subsec. (c) of this section relating to filing annual report with Congress, see section 3003 of Pub. L. 104-66, as amended, set out as a note under section 1113 of Title 31, Money and Finance, and item 2 on page 202 of House Document No. 103-7.

#### **§ 2996h. Audits**

##### **(a) Annual audit; availability of records; filing and inspection of report**

(1) The accounts of the Corporation shall be audited annually. Such audits shall be conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards by independent certified public accountants who are certified by a regulatory authority of the jurisdiction in which the audit is undertaken.

(2) The audits shall be conducted at the place or places where the accounts of the Corporation are normally kept. All books, accounts, financial records, reports, files, and other papers or property belonging to or in use by the Corporation and necessary to facilitate the audits shall be made available to the person or persons conducting the audits; and full facilities for verifying transactions with the balances and securities held by depositories, fiscal agents, and custodians shall be afforded to any such person.

(3) The report of the annual audit shall be filed with the Government Accountability Office and shall be available for public inspection during business hours at the principal office of the Corporation.

##### **(b) Audit by Government Accountability Office**

(1) In addition to the annual audit, the financial transactions of the Corporation for any fiscal year during which Federal funds are available to finance any portion of its operations may be audited by the Government Accountability Office in accordance with such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Comptroller General of the United States.

(2) Any such audit shall be conducted at the place or places where accounts of the Corpora-

tion are normally kept. The representatives of the Government Accountability Office shall have access to all books, accounts, financial records, reports, files, and other papers or property belonging to or in use by the Corporation and necessary to facilitate the audit; and full facilities for verifying transactions with the balances and securities held by depositories, fiscal agents, and custodians shall be afforded to such representatives. All such books, accounts, financial records, reports, files, and other papers or property of the Corporation shall remain in the possession and custody of the Corporation throughout the period beginning on the date such possession or custody commences and ending three years after such date, but the Government Accountability Office may require the retention of such books, accounts, financial records, reports, files, papers, or property for a longer period under section 3523(c) of title 31.

(3) A report of such audit shall be made by the Comptroller General to the Congress and to the President, together with such recommendations with respect thereto as he shall deem advisable.

**(c) Annual financial audit of recipient persons or bodies**

(1) The Corporation shall conduct, or require each grantee, contractor, or person or entity receiving financial assistance under this subchapter to provide for, an annual financial audit. The report of each such audit shall be maintained for a period of at least five years at the principal office of the Corporation.

(2) Upon request, the Corporation shall submit to the Comptroller General of the United States copies of such reports, and the Comptroller General may, in addition, inspect the books, accounts, financial records, files, and other papers or property belonging to or in use by such grantee, contractor, or person or entity, which relate to the disposition or use of funds received from the Corporation. Such audit reports shall be available for public inspection, during regular business hours, at the principal office of the Corporation.

**(d) Attorney-client privilege**

Notwithstanding the provisions of this section or section 2996g of this title, neither the Corporation nor the Comptroller General shall have access to any reports or records subject to the attorney-client privilege.

(Pub. L. 88-452, title X, §1009, as added Pub. L. 93-355, §2, July 25, 1974, 88 Stat. 387; amended Pub. L. 95-222, §14, Dec. 28, 1977, 91 Stat. 1623; Pub. L. 104-66, title II, §2111, Dec. 21, 1995, 109 Stat. 730; Pub. L. 108-271, §8(b), July 7, 2004, 118 Stat. 814.)

CODIFICATION

In subsec. (b)(2), “section 3523(c) of title 31” substituted for “section 117(b) of the Accounting and Auditing Act of 1950 (31 U.S.C. 67(b))” on authority of Pub. L. 97-258, §4(b), Sept. 13, 1982, 96 Stat. 1067, the first section of which enacted Title 31, Money and Finance.

AMENDMENTS

2004—Subsecs. (a)(3), (b)(1), (2). Pub. L. 108-271 substituted “Government Accountability Office” for “General Accounting Office” wherever appearing.

1995—Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 104-66 substituted “Upon request, the” for “The” in first sentence.

1977—Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 95-222 inserted provisions relating to duration of retention of books, etc., by Corporation.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1977 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 95-222 effective Dec. 28, 1977, see section 17(b) of Pub. L. 95-222, set out as a note under section 2996 of this title.

**§ 2996i. Financing**

**(a) Authorization of appropriations**

There are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out the activities of the Corporation, \$90,000,000 for fiscal year 1975, \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 1976, and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 1977. There are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out the activities of the Corporation \$205,000,000 for the fiscal year 1978, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the two succeeding fiscal years. The first appropriation may be made available to the Corporation at any time after six or more members of the Board have been appointed and qualified. Appropriations for that purpose shall be made for not more than two fiscal years, and shall be paid to the Corporation in annual installments at the beginning of each fiscal year in such amounts as may be specified in Acts of Congress making appropriations.

**(b) Availability of funds**

Funds appropriated pursuant to this section shall remain available until expended.

**(c) Non-Federal funds**

Non-Federal funds received by the Corporation, and funds received by any recipient from a source other than the Corporation, shall be accounted for and reported as receipts and disbursements separate and distinct from Federal funds; but any funds so received for the provision of legal assistance shall not be expended by recipients for any purpose prohibited by this subchapter, except that this provision shall not be construed to prevent recipients from receiving other public funds or tribal funds (including foundation funds benefiting Indians or Indian tribes) and expending them in accordance with the purposes for which they are provided, or to prevent contracting or making other arrangements with private attorneys, private law firms, or other State or local entities of attorneys, or with legal aid societies having separate public defender programs, for the provision of legal assistance to eligible clients under this subchapter.

**(d) Limitations on grant or contract authority**

Not more than 10 percent of the amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) of this section for any fiscal year shall be available for grants or contracts under section 2996e(a)(3) of this title in any such year.

(Pub. L. 88-452, title X, §1010, as added Pub. L. 93-355, §2, July 25, 1974, 88 Stat. 388; amended Pub. L. 95-222, §§5(c), 15, Dec. 28, 1977, 91 Stat. 1619, 1623.)

AMENDMENTS

1977—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 95-222, §15, inserted provisions authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 1978 and