

Legal Services Program Eligibility Requirements

The Legal Assistance Services Program is not means tested, under no circumstances shall a person 60 years of age or older be denied legal services based on his/her income or assets. No person 60 years of age or older shall be required to disclose his/her income; However, income and benefits questions shall be asked in order to identify the appropriate resources for the person.

Recognizing that the resources of the Older Americans Act (OAA) are inadequate to need the legal needs of all seniors South Carolinians, legal assistance must be targeted to populations of seniors specified under the OAA.

Criteria:

- Persons 60 years of age and older
- Greatest Economic Need [1]
- Greatest Social Need [2]

Legal assistance and elder rights programs work in conjunction with other AoA programs and services to maximize the independence, autonomy and well-being of older persons.

For individuals not meeting certain criteria, referrals may be made to:

SC Legal Services
SC Bar

[1] Greatest Economic Need – means the need resulting from an income level at or below the poverty line. In SC, greatest Economic need is generally interpreted to mean those between 125% - 200% of federal poverty guidelines.

[2] Greatest Social Need – means the need caused by non-economic factors, which include – physical and mental disabilities; language barriers; and cultural, social, or geographical isolation, including caused by racial or ethnic status, that – restricts the ability of an individual to perform normal daily tasks; or threatens the capacity of the individuals to live independently.