

10A NCAC 01A .1002 AUDITS OF HOSPITALS, NONPROFITS, HIGHER EDUCATION AGENCIES

(a) Public and private hospitals, public and private institutions of higher education and quasi-public and private nonprofit organizations [recipient organization(s)] which receive, use, or expend State or Federal funds must comply with the requirements of G.S. 143-6.1, Office of the State Auditor's Audit Advisory #2 and OMB Circular A-133 as applicable. These regulations detail reporting and other requirements that recipient organizations must meet in order to receive State or Federal funds. Depending on the amount of State or Federal funds received, used, or expended, the recipient organization(s) may be required to have either an audit made or a sworn accounting of receipts and expenditures.

(b) The University of North Carolina and public hospitals operated by the State of North Carolina have annual audits performed by the State Auditor. The scope of such audits and the contents of the audit reports are the responsibility of the State Auditor and shall be accepted and relied upon by the Department unless a cognizant Federal agency finds that such audits do not meet the requirements of OMB Circular A-133.

(c) The above audit requirements are not applicable to procurements. However, the purpose and substance of an agreement rather than form shall govern whether financial assistance was provided. A subrecipient is an entity that receives financial assistance passed down from the prime recipient. The subrecipient's responsibility is to help the recipient meet the requirements of the assistance award. The test for a subrecipient relationship is whether financial assistance is received from a recipient to carry out a program. A vendor is an entity that receives a procurement contract for goods or services. The vendor's responsibility is to meet the requirements of the procurement contract.

(d) The above audit requirements do not replace a request for submission of audit reports in connection with requests for direct appropriation of state aid by the General Assembly through the Secretary of the Department for recommendations to the Governor and the Advisory Budget Commission and the General Assembly in accordance with G.S. 159-34.

(e) The above audit requirements do not replace requirements for submission of a financial audit report or financial information by the Department in connection with applications for funding or licensure, provider certification or cost reporting, and other purposes not related to provision of State and Federal financial assistance.

(f) The Secretary of the Department may grant a waiver of any or all of the audit standards to a recipient organization who does not receive any grants, contracts or other financial assistance financed in whole or in part with Federal funds when an audit of assistance financed with State funds is not otherwise required by law and is not cost effective.

(g) Each recipient organization shall submit one copy of the audit report and corrective action plan required in Paragraph (a) of this Rule to each division of the Department which provided State or Federal financial assistance during the fiscal year covered by such audit within 30 days from the date the report is issued by the auditor, and no later than the 13th month following the close of the recipient organization's fiscal year in which assistance was received.

(h) Upon receipt of the audit report the Department shall conduct a desk review of the audit report to determine if the reporting standards required in OMB Circular A-133 have been met. If an audit received from a recipient organization does not meet the standards required in OMB Circular A-133, the Secretary of the Department shall issue a letter of determination to the recipient organization rejecting the audit and listing the required standards that were not met. The recipient organization shall be allowed no more than 90 days from the date of receipt of the Secretary's determination letter to submit a revised audit report which meets the standards required in OMB Circular A-133. If the recipient organization fails to submit an audit report revised in accordance with the determination letter, the Secretary of the Department may suspend further financial assistance payments to the recipient organization or subject the recipient organization to an audit or compliance review by the Department or the State Auditor.

(i) The Department or any affected division of the Department may request any additional information deemed necessary for clarification of an audit finding, recommendation, questioned cost or the corrective action plan. The recipient organization shall provide the information to the requesting official within 30 days after the receipt of the request. If additional information or clarification from the independent auditor is requested, the recipient organization shall direct their auditor to provide the information requested to the requesting official.

(j) If the Department has reason to believe that due professional care was not used in conducting the audit required under OMB Circular A-133, or if the recipient organization or their auditor is unwilling or unable to provide clarification or additional information requested by an official of the Department, the Controller of the Department may make or arrange for any review of the auditor's work papers deemed necessary for timely resolution of the audit findings, recommendations, or questioned cost.

(k) The Secretary of the Department shall provide the recipient organization with a written determination which accepts or rejects the corrective action plan for each audit finding, recommendation or questioned cost that pertains

to or otherwise affects a program of the Department. If the corrective action plan is rejected the reasons for the rejection and an acceptable corrective action shall be specified in the determination letter. If the corrective action plan indicates that the proposed corrective action for nonmonetary findings has not been implemented, the determination on all nonmonetary findings shall specify the time by which the local government or public authority shall implement the corrective action if different from the time proposed in the corrective action plan. The determination on all questioned cost or other charges to the Department shall state whether the cost or other charge is allowable or unallowable for reimbursement to the recipient organization under applicable laws, rules and other provisions of assistance agreements. If a cost or other charge to the Department is determined to be unallowable for reimbursement, the determination letter shall require full monetary repayment to the Department within 60 days of the date of the determination letter. The amount of any cost or other charge determined to be unallowable shall constitute a debt due the State of North Carolina until repayment in full is received by the Department.

(l) A determination by the Secretary of the Department required under Paragraph (k) or Paragraph (h) of this Rule shall become final unless a petition for contested case is filed in accordance with G.S. 150B-23.

(m) Upon a petition for contested case filed in accordance with G.S. 150B-23, monetary repayment or implementation of a corrective action required under Paragraph (k) of this Rule shall be suspended only for individual determinations or parts of a determination specifically disputed in the appeal. Interest may be charged under the conditions specified under Paragraph (n) of this Rule on the amount of any cost or other charge determined to be unallowable under Paragraph (k) of this Rule.

(n) Except where otherwise provided by statutes or regulations, Federal agencies are required to charge interest on overdue amounts in accordance with the Federal Claims Collection Standards (4 CFR Ch. II). The date from which interest is computed is not extended by litigation or the filing of any form of appeal. If a Federal agency charges the Department interest on the Federal share of an overdue amount from a recipient organization, the Department shall charge the interest to the recipient organization.

(o) If a recipient organization fails to make repayment of an amount due to the Department or obtain Department approval of a deferred payment plan by the "due date" specified in Paragraph (k) of this Rule the Department shall offset the amount of the disallowance or any portion thereof remaining unpaid and any interest due from subsequent reimbursements or other amounts due the recipient organization until the amount due is fully recovered.

(p) A recipient organization may propose a plan for repayment of amounts determined to be unallowable on an installment basis. The recipient organization must certify that it is unable to make repayment by the "due date" specified in Paragraph (k) of this Rule and that commercial financing can not be obtained. Repayment of the Federal share of amounts determined to be unallowable shall not be allowed on an installment basis unless the Federal grantor agency approves of the installment plan or otherwise allows the Department the same installment repayment terms. Interest may be charged as specified under Paragraph (n) of this Rule while awaiting Federal approval of an installment plan or on installment payments.

(q) If a recipient organization fails to submit the corrective action plan required under Paragraph (a) of this Rule or additional information requested under Paragraph (i) of this Rule or fails to implement corrective action within the time frame established by the Secretary under Paragraph (k) of this Rule, the Secretary of the Department or the Director of the requesting Division may suspend payment to the recipient organization of all or any portion of the administrative and indirect cost funding administered by the Department until such time as the required audit, corrective action plan or additional information is submitted as requested. Alternatively, the Secretary of the Department may issue a unilateral determination on the audit findings, recommendations, and questioned cost requiring any corrective action and repayment of questioned cost deemed necessary for compliance with the laws and rules governing assistance programs affected.

History Note: Authority G.S. 143B-10(j); 143B-139.1;
Eff. January 1, 1990;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2000;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. April 23, 2017.