

Consultation outline

LAO proposes three-year increase to financial eligibility



Updated: December 11, 2024

In accordance with LAO's [Public Consultation Policy](#), established pursuant to section 33 of the [Legal Aid Services Act, 2020](#), Legal Aid Ontario (LAO) is consulting on proposed changes to the [Legal Aid Services Rules](#) (the Rules) to implement a short-term increase to its financial eligibility thresholds.

LAO is proposing to raise its current income thresholds for all duty counsel and criminal certificate services to \$45,440 for family sizes 1-4. LAO is also proposing to increase its asset thresholds for duty counsel and criminal certificate services to \$15,000 regardless of family size. Both increases will be in effect for a period of three years.

The proposed amendments add two new sections to the Rules, immediately following section 12. The new sections set out the higher income and asset thresholds to be eligible for duty counsel and criminal certificate services, respectively. The amendments also reproduce the tables in section 12 of the Rules to correct an error and to add headings to the tables in that section, in response to stakeholder feedback, that will improve the readability and accessibility of those tables. For consistency, these headings are also included in the new sections.

The draft Rule amendments contain what are known as 'sunset clauses', so that the time-limited increases will automatically end after three years. The coming into force date of the amending rule is still to be determined.

For more information, see the [Amending Rule](#).