

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions; State, local, or tribal governments.

Annual Burden Hours: 759 hours.

Number of Respondents: 1938.

Responses Per Respondent: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 23 minutes.

Frequency: One time.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Summary of Information Collection

The national survey of employers with Guard or Reserve members who are absent from work for more than 30 days to serve in the military will use a self-administered survey instrument delivered by mail. The survey will focus on the varying economic costs and impacts to employers' operations when Guard or Reserve members are absent to serve in the military. Survey questions are organized into two sections: Operations and Human Resources. Section One will collect information on the impact on operations and Section Two on the economic impact on human resources. Eligible employers will have employed Guard or Reserve members who were absent from work for more than 30 days to serve in the military at any time since 2002. Respondents will be the most knowledgeable person(s) about operations and human resources at each sampled employer. Therefore, it is anticipated that employers with greater than 30 employees may require two people from different departments, while smaller employers may require only one person to accurately respond to both sections.

Dated: February 10, 2005.

Patricia L. Toppings,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 05-3230 Filed 2-18-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-06-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: DoD, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, TRICARE Management Activity.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Department of Defense, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, TRICARE Management Activity announces a proposed public information collection and seeks public

comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by April 25, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted to: Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, TRICARE Management Activity, Skyline Five, Suite 810, 5111 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3206.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposed and associated collection instruments, please write to the above address or call Capt. Deborah McKay, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, TRICARE Management Activity at (703) 681-0064.

Title and OMB Number: DoD Patient Safety Survey; OMB Number 0720-TBD.

Needs and Uses: The 2001 National Defense Authorization Act contains specific sections addressing patient safety in military and veteran's health care systems. This legislation states that the Secretary or Defense shall establish a patient care error reporting and management system to study occurrences of errors in patient care and that one of the purposes of the system should be "To identify systemic factors that are associated with such occurrences" and "To provide for action to be taken to correct the identified systemic factors" (Sec. 754, items b2 and b3). In addition, the legislation states that the Secretary shall "Continue research and development investments to improve communication, coordination, and team work in the provision of health care" (Sec. 754, item d4).

In its ongoing response to this legislation, DoD plans to implement a Web-based patient safety culture survey to a census of all staff working in Army, Navy, and Air Force Military Health System (MHS) facilities in the U.S. and internationally, including Military Treatment Facility (MTF) hospitals as well as ambulatory and dental services. The survey obtains MHS staff opinions

on patient safety issues such as teamwork, communications, medical error occurrence and response, error reporting, and overall perceptions of patient safety. The purpose of the survey is to assess the current status of patient safety in MHS facilities as well as to provide baseline input for assessment of patient safety improvement over time. Survey results will be prepared at the facility and Service levels and MHS overall.

Affected Public: Federal government; individuals or households.

Annual Burden Hours: 2,384.

Number of Respondents: 14,022.

Responses Per Respondent: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 10 minutes.

Frequency: On occasion.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Summary of Collection

The survey to be implemented is the pilot-tested Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Survey on Patient Safety Culture that was publicly released in November 2004. The development and testing of this survey was funded by the AHRQ and sponsored by the Department of Defense as an agency member of the Quality Interagency Coordination Task Force (QuIC), along with ten other Federal agencies. The pilot of the AHRQ Survey on Patient Safety Culture was previously approved by OMB (No.: 0935-0115, Exp. Date: 01/31/2004). This survey was chosen because it measures a number of different dimensions pertaining to patient safety culture, has demonstrated reliability and validity, and the specificity of the items will provide the DoD with actionable information about MHS patient safety.

Data Collection Method

The proposed project will administer the patient safety culture survey as a web-based instrument to a census of all staff, both clinical and non-clinical, working in all U.S. and international MHS facilities. Due to the large number of staff to be surveyed across the Services, data collection will be phased beginning with the Army, followed by the Navy and Air Force. Standard survey procedures will be implemented. Potential respondents will receive a prenotification letter followed by an email survey notification containing an embedded hyperlink to the internet location where the survey can be completed. Two additional e-mail survey notifications will be sent, a week apart, so that the data collection field period will be four weeks for each Service. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete. All survey

responses are voluntary and will be individually anonymous; only group-level results will be tabulated to protect individual anonymity.

There are a total of approximately 125,663 MHS staff in the United States and internationally (estimate on 12/16/04). Of these staff, approximately 18,696 staff (about 15%) are contractors, local nationals, volunteers or other MHS staff who are not direct employees of the DoD. Because OMB approval is required only for the non-DoD staff component, we provide estimates of the respondent burden for only these non-DoD MHS staff. Anticipating a 75% response rate, we anticipate responses from approximately 14,022 non-DoD MHS staff.

Dated: February 7, 2005.

Patricia L. Toppings,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 05-3231 Filed 2-18-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-06-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Innovation and Improvement

Overview Information; School Leadership Program; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2005

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 84.363A.

Dates

Applications Available: February 22, 2005.

Deadline for Notice of Intent to Apply: March 24, 2005.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: April 15, 2005.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: June 14, 2005.

Eligible Applicants: High-need local educational agencies (LEAs), consortia of high-need LEAs, or partnerships that consist of at least one high-need LEA and at least one nonprofit organization (which may be a community- or faith-based organization) or institution of higher education. (See section III. Eligibility Information, 3. *Other: Definition of "High-Need LEA" and other Eligibility Information*) in this notice.

Estimated Available Funds: \$12 million.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$250,000–\$750,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$500,000.

Estimated Number of Awards: 24.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose of Program: The School Leadership program is designed to assist high-need LEAs in the development, enhancement, or expansion of innovative programs to recruit, train, and mentor principals (including assistant principals) to serve in high-need schools through such activities as:

- Providing financial incentives to aspiring new principals;
- Providing stipends to principals who mentor new principals;
- Carrying out professional development programs in instructional leadership and management; and
- Providing incentives that are appropriate for teachers or individuals from other fields who want to become principals and that are effective in retaining new principals.

Priorities: Under this competition we are particularly interested in applications that address the following priorities.

Invitational Priorities: For FY 2005 these priorities are invitational priorities. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(1) we do not give an application that meets these invitational priorities a competitive or absolute preference over other applications.

These priorities are:

Invitational Priority 1—Commitment from the LEA. To successfully meet the purpose of this program and to develop institutional capacity and sustainability, projects need the full support of each participating high-need LEA. Therefore, the Secretary strongly encourages applicants to develop strategies for maximizing the involvement of each participating LEA in the project's design, development and implementation. These strategies, for example, might focus on ensuring that—

- The proposed project is part of an already well-defined and articulated district-wide strategy for improving student achievement in each participating high-need LEA;
- Each participating LEA's superintendent and his or her staff play key roles in identifying the competencies that program participants need to know and demonstrate, and use those competencies to implement and build the training program;
- Each participating LEA has established procedures for placing participants in part-time or full-time leadership positions or residencies in high-need schools as part of their training and preparation; and

- Each participating LEA is firmly committed to hiring successful program completers.

Invitational Priority 2—Innovative approaches to recruiting and preparing school leaders through alternative routes. Over the next five years the number of vacancies among principals and other school leaders is expected to grow by 20 percent; filling these positions will be particularly challenging for rural and urban districts, which tend to receive fewer applications for open positions.

Studies show that there is no overall shortage of candidates with the credentials that States require for school principals. However, those same studies indicate that most of these candidates typically acquired their credentials in order to obtain salary increases or attain an advanced degree, and not necessarily because of a strong personal commitment to becoming leaders of their schools and school communities.

The Department recognizes that some States have addressed the need to increase the pool of candidates who are committed to becoming school leaders in high-need LEAs and schools, in particular by making available alternative routes to meeting requirements for certification or licensure as a school principal or assistant principal. The Secretary strongly encourages eligible entities in States with these approved alternative routes to submit applications that propose to recruit individuals of diverse professional backgrounds who can take advantage of the alternative routes, and then create incentives for these individuals to participate in the program and to take leadership positions in high-need schools that face the greatest challenges.

Applicants may choose to address one or more of these invitational priorities within their responses to the selection criteria.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 6651(b).

Applicable Regulations: The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) in 34 CFR parts 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, 97, 98 and 99.

Note: The regulations in 34 CFR part 79 apply to all applicants except federally recognized Indian tribes.

Note: The regulations in 34 CFR part 86 apply to institutions of higher education only.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Discretionary grants.
Estimated Available Funds: \$12 million.