

Dated: April 7, 2006.

**Erica R. Cantor,**

*Director, Division of Trade Adjustment Assistance.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Employment and Training Administration

[ETA Handbook No. 384]

#### Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicemembers (UCX) Handbook; Comment Request

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) [44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)]. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Office of Workforce Security (OWS) is soliciting comments concerning the extension of the Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicemembers (UCX) Handbook, Number 384.

A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the addressee section of this notice or by accessing: <http://www.doleta.gov/Performance/guidance/OMBControlNumber.cfm>.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addressee section below on or before June 16, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on this notice may be mailed or delivered to Keith Ribnick, Office of Workforce Security (OWS), U.S. Department of Labor, Room S-4231, Frances Perkins Building, 200 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20210, telephone (202) 693-3223 (this is not a toll-free number), fax number (202) 693-3975.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background

The UCX law (5 U.S.C. 8521-8523) provides for the payment of

unemployment compensation to eligible ex-servicemembers separated from the military service. State workforce agencies (SWAs), through agreements with the Secretary of Labor, act as agents of the Secretary for the purpose of providing unemployment compensation to ex-servicemembers following the Department's regulations at 20 CFR 614 and guidelines in the Department's UCX Handbook. SWAs must be able to obtain certain military service information from each claimant filing for UCX benefits to enable them to determine eligibility for benefits. The forms ETA 841 and ETA 843 (and related instructions) contained in the UCX Handbook are necessary and utilized by SWAs for the purpose of obtaining this needed information.

The form ETA 841, which is in the current Office of Management and Budget (OMB) inventory of approved burden collection, has become an optional form and is no longer used by the majority of SWAs. Since the ETA 841 is rarely used, the burden is so minimal it cannot be determined; hence, no burden is being requested.

Information pertaining to a UCX claimant can only be obtained from the Federal Claims Control Center (FCCC) or the individual's military discharge form (DD Form 214) received from the appropriate branch of service. If the FCCC or the ex-servicemember does not have this information readily available, the most effective way to obtain this information is by use of the form ETA 843 which is prescribed by the Department of Labor for the SWAs' use. The completed ETA Form 843 is sent to the appropriate military branch to obtain an official copy of the DD Form 214 or to obtain clarification about information contained in an existing DD Form 214. Without this information, SWAs could not adequately determine the ex-servicemembers' eligibility for benefits and would not be able to properly administer the program.

##### II. Review Focus

The Department of Labor is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and,
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

##### Current Actions

This is a request for OMB approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)) of an extension to an existing collection of information previously approved and assigned OMB control No. 1205-0176. The current burden is based on an inventory of 105,958 UCX claims filed in fiscal year (FY) 2005. This request is based on same number of UCX claims filed in FY 2005 since it is estimated that approximately the same number of UCX claims will be filed in Fiscal Years 2006, 2007 and 2008. Fifty-three (53) SWAs utilize the ETA Form 843. The ETA Form 843 is used by SWAs only when it is necessary to obtain additional clarifying information from the military pertaining to the UCX claimant or to obtain a copy of the DD Form 214. It is estimated that only 5 percent (5,297) of the UCX claims filed will require use of the ETA Form 843. The ETA Form 843 maybe sent to any one of the four branches of military service (Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force), the Coast Guard, or the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). These latter two agencies are considered branches of military service for UCX purposes but are not under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense.

*Type of Review:* Extension, without change.

*Agency:* Employment and Training Administration.

*Title:* Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicemembers (UCX) Handbook Number 384.

*OMB Number:* 1205-0176.

*Agency Number:* ETA Handbook # 384.

*Recordkeeping:* 3 years.

*Affected Public:* Federal Government, State workforce agencies and Individuals.

*Total Respondents:* 1.

*Frequency:* As needed.

*Total responses:* 5,297

*Average Time Per Response:* 1.0 minutes.

*Estimated Total Burden Hours:* 88 hours.

*Total Burden Cost (capital/startup):* \$0.

*Total Burden Cost (operating/maintaining): \$747,138.*

Comments submitted in response to this comment request will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: April 6, 2006.

**Cheryl Atkinson,**

*Administrator, Office of Workforce Security.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Employment and Training Administration

#### Solicitation for Grant Applications (SGA); Older Americans Act—Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) National Grants for Program Year 2006; SGA/DFA-PY 05-06

**AGENCY:** Employment and Training Administration (ETA), Labor.

**ACTION:** Notice; Amendment 2 to SGA/DFA-PY 05-06.

**SUMMARY:** The Employment and Training Administration published a document in the **Federal Register** on March 2, 2006 at 71 FR 10797, announcing the availability of funds and solicitation for grant applications (SGA) for the national grants portion of the Senior Community Service Employment Program. The Department amended the SGA to allow an extension of the application deadline, which was published in the **Federal Register** on April 7, 2006 at 71 FR 17922. This notice is the second amendment to the SGA, and it amends the SGA in several respects.

**DATES:** This notice is effective on April 17, 2006.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** James W. Stockton, Grant Officer, Division of Federal Assistance, Telephone (202) 693-3335. (This is not a toll-free number.)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Labor published a notice to the SCSEP SGA (SGA/DFA-PY 05-06) at 71 FR 10797 in an April 7, 2006 **Federal Register** Notice (71 FR 17922). The Department extended the deadline for applications with a notice published in the **Federal Register** on April 7, 2006 at 71 FR 17922. The first amendment to the SGA, a correction to Appendix K, was published in the **Federal Register** on March 26, 2006 at 71 FR 15768. As

a result, several additional date changes must also be amended. In addition, through this notice, the Department is also amending other sections of the SCSEP SGA to exclude certain requirements for organizations applying under the Asian and Pacific Islander or Indian funding categories. The SGA and associated **Federal Register** notices can be viewed on the <http://www.doleta.gov/seniors> Web site. The following additional amendments are made to the SCSEP SGA that was published on March 2, 2006 at 71 FR 10797:

(1) Section I “Funding Opportunity Description” (page 10799) is amended to read:

*Right of first refusal.* Under this solicitation, all successful applicants must allow the current participants to remain in the program under the same conditions in which they are found in order to minimize disruptions to the program. Therefore, although participants may not elect to remain under a former grantee, they must be able to continue community service work-based training with the same host agency for a minimum of 90 days beginning on August 1, 2006.

(2) Section II “Award Information—Type of Assistance Instrument” (page 10800) is amended to change the grant period from “an initial one year grant” to “an initial eleven (11) month grant.” The Department will allocate the full appropriation available for national grantees.

(3) Section II(B)(2) “Minimum Request for Funding” (page 10800) is amended to insert the following paragraph after the fourth paragraph:

Organizations applying under the Asian and Pacific Islander or Indian funding categories are exempt from the minimum funding requirement to apply for 10 percent or \$1.6 million of the amount allocated in a state. Organizations applying under these categories are also exempt from the provision that requires applicants to apply for all of the positions allocated in a county and the provision that requires applicants to apply for contiguous locations. However, the Department believes that it becomes increasingly difficult to provide program oversight and the attendant fiduciary duties if applicants under these categories bid for less than 80 positions.

(4) Section II(C) “Period of Performance” (page 10801) is amended to change the start date of the program from July 1, 2006 to August 1, 2006. In addition, this section is amended to change the initial period of performance

from “one (1) year” to “eleven (11) months.”

(5) Section III(A)(4) “Eligible Applicants/Other Useful Information” (page 10801) is amended to include the following sentence after the second sentence:

Asian and Pacific Islander or Indian organizations that apply under the General (“G”) funding category are not exempt from any of the SGA funding requirements described in section II, “Award Information.”

(6) Section III(C) “Ineligible Applicants” (page 10802) is amended to add paragraph (6), which reads as follows:

Asian and Pacific Islander or Indian organizations that apply under the General (“G”) funding category and fail to meet the funding requirements described in section II that apply to all applicants that apply under that category.

(7) Section IV(B)(2) “Requirements for the Cost Proposal” (page 10803) is amended in the “note” at the end of Section to change the cost proposal coverage from “one (1) year” of program operations to “eleven (11) months” of program operations.

(8) Section IV(E) “Funding Restrictions” (page 10803) is amended by adding the following sentence to the end of the paragraph:

Please note that organizations applying under the Asian Pacific Islander or Indian funding categories are exempt from this requirement.

(9) Section VI(A) “Award Notices” (page 10807) is amended in the first two sentences to read as follows:

The Department anticipates completing its review and ranking of proposals by late June 2006. The Grant Officer expects to announce the results of this competition no later than mid-July 2006.

(10) Section VIII(C) “Questions about the Program or SGA” (page 10808) amends the fifth sentence to change the length of time that questions will be received from “one month” to “two months” after publication. Therefore, the Department will accept and respond to questions that are received up to and including May 2, 2006. The Department will not respond to questions received after that deadline. Applicants are urged to frequently check the Question and Answer section at <http://www.doleta.gov/seniors/SGA/>

*SGA\_QA.cfm*. The Department also re-emphasizes that questions must be submitted to the Grant Officer and not to the program staff.

(11) Section VIII(D) “Post-Selection Negotiations and Requirements” (page 10808) is amended in the last sentence