

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

Notice of Request for Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Office of Advocacy and Outreach/1890 Programs

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this notice announces the Office of Advocacy and Outreach/1890 Programs intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection for the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program. **DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received May 8, 2012.

Additional Information or Comments: Contact Mona Adkins-Easley, Higher Education Initiatives Program Lead, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., 530-A, Whitten Building, Washington, DC 20250 or call 202-692-0251(O) or 202-720-7136 (Fax).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Title:* USDA/1890 National Scholars Program Application.

OMB Number: 0503-0015.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 2012.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is a joint human capital initiative between the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Universities. Through the Program, USDA offers scholarships to high school and college students who are seeking a bachelor's degree in the fields of agriculture, food, or natural resource sciences and related disciplines at 1890 Land-Grant Universities. In order for

graduating high school students and current freshman and sophomores to be considered for the scholarship, a completed application is required. The first section of the high school application requests the applicant to include biographical information (*i.e.* name, address, age, etc.); educational background information (*i.e.* grade point average, test scores, name of university(ies) interested in attending and desired major); and extracurricular activities. The second section of the application is completed by the student's guidance counselor and requests information pertaining to the student's academic status, graduate point average, and test scores. The last section of the application, which is to be completed by a teacher, provides information that assesses the applicant's interests, habits, and potential. The first section of the college application requests the applicant to include biographical information (*i.e.* name, address, age, etc.); educational background information (*i.e.* grade point average, test scores, name of university(ies) interested in attending and desired major); extracurricular activities, and an essay. Two letters of recommendation are required by a Department Head, Dean of a College or one of the University Vice President and a College Professor, however, there are not sections included in the application that these individuals will need to complete.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response.

Respondents: High School Students, Freshman and Sophomore College Students, Teachers, and Guidance Counselors.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,400 (600 applications).

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 7,200 hours.

Comments are invited on: (1) 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; (2) 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; (3)

ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Mona Adkins-Easley, Higher Education Initiatives Program Lead, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., 530-A, Whitten Building, Washington, DC 20250. All comments received will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the same address.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Pearlie S. Reed,

Assistant Secretary for Administration.

[FR Doc. 2012-5649 Filed 3-8-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Notice of Intent To Request Approval To Establish a New Information Collection

AGENCY: National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations, this notice announces the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) intention to request approval to establish a new information collection for the NIFA Division of Community and Education.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by May 8, 2012, to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Written comments concerning this notice and requests for copies of the information collection may be submitted by any of the following methods: Email: gmendez@nifa.usda.gov; Fax: 202-720-

0857; Mail: Office of Information Technology (OIT), NIFA, USDA, STOP 2216, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250–2216.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gidel Mendez, eGovernment Program Leader; Email: gmendez@nifa.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Division of Community and Education Project Output Tracking Questionnaires.

OMB Number: 0524–XXXX.

Type of Request: Intent to request approval to establish a new information collection system for three years.

Abstract: The Division of Community and Education (DOCE) at the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) houses grant programs that are responsible for awarding funds to secondary and postsecondary institutions to support a variety of activities including curriculum development, faculty development, experiential learning activities, and scientific instrumentation, among others. In order to improve federal program effectiveness and public accountability, DOCE will create questionnaires that will ask project directors to quantitatively report on the activities they use for their project and the outputs that are produced from the money.

Need and Use of the Information: Per the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, agencies are expected to provide adequate oversight and eliminate waste and inefficiency in federal programs. These questionnaires will help to do this in two ways: 1. They will provide transparency in the way in which federal money is spent; and 2. They will help to inform and guide programmatic priorities.

The information collected by these questionnaires will be able to be aggregated across the division, creating a clear picture of how the money was spent and the outputs that resulted without identifying specific project directors or institutions. This aggregated information can be summarized, and presented to stakeholders, as well as be used to respond to congressional inquiries.

In addition, trends and patterns in the way in which money was spent will be evident. National Program Leaders will be able to determine how much grant money went toward specific grant activities in a given year. They may be able to use this information to adjust programmatic priorities for the following fiscal year if projects addressing particular grant activities are disproportionately funded.

The information collected from the questionnaire will provide a more

comprehensive and accurate assessment of national program outputs. Currently, project directors are required to complete Current Research Information System (CRIS) reports annually, as well as a final report. There are no specific guidelines for the CRIS reports, and as a result, the reports often do not contain quantitative information relevant to project and program goals. CRIS reports do, however, provide important descriptive information, but standardized information at the division level is needed to augment these reports.

Estimate of Burden: DOCE estimates that an average of 20 minutes is required to complete the questionnaire and supplemental questionnaire with respect to each award. DOCE estimates that it makes approximately 300 awards each year, which means that there are 300 Project Directors that must complete these questionnaires annually. Therefore, the total annual burden on Project Directors is 100 hours.

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 will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to 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.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request to OMB for approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Done in Washington, DC, March 1, 2012.

Catherine E. Woteki,

Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics.

[FR Doc. 2012–5796 Filed 3–8–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Quarterly and Annual Performance Progress Reports

AGENCY: National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Written Comments must be submitted on or before May 8, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via email to Jjessup@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instruments and instructions should be sent to Anthony G. Wilhelm, Director, BTOP, Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, via email at btop@ntia.doc.gov, or by telephone at (202) 482–2048.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) appropriated funds for BTOP, which included competitive grants to expand public computer center capacity and innovative programs to encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service. Section 6001 of the Recovery Act establishes five core purposes to be advanced by projects funded under BTOP:

- (1) To provide access to broadband service to consumers residing in unserved areas of the country;
- (2) To provide improved access to broadband service to underserved areas of the country;
- (3) To provide broadband access, education, and support to community anchor institutions (*e.g.*, schools, libraries, and medical facilities), or organizations and agencies serving vulnerable populations (*e.g.*, low-income, unemployed, and aged), or job-creating strategic facilities located in State- or Federally-designated economic development areas;
- (4) To improve access to, and use of, broadband service by public safety agencies; and
- (5) To stimulate the demand for broadband, economic growth, and job creation.

OMB also requires agencies administering grant programs to