

Dated: October 23, 2017.

**Brandon Lipps,**

*Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.*

[FR Doc. 2017-24348 Filed 11-7-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-30-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### National Institute of Food and Agriculture

#### Notice of Availability of Draft Scientific Assessment for Public Comment

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of draft scientific assessment for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is publishing this notice on behalf of the Carbon Cycle Interagency Working Group (CCIWG)/U.S. Carbon Cycle Science Program and the United States Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) to announce the availability of a draft assessment, the 2nd State of the Carbon Cycle Science Report (SOCCR-2), for a 60-day public review. Collected comments will be carefully reviewed by the relevant chapter author teams. Following revision and further review, a revised draft will undergo final Federal interagency clearance.

**DATES:** Written comments on this notice must be received by 11:59 p.m. on January 8, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** Once released, the draft USGCRP 2nd State of the Carbon Cycle Report can be accessed via the USGCRP Open Notices page (<http://www.globalchange.gov/notices>) or directly at the USGCRP Review and Comment System (<https://review.globalchange.gov/>). Registration details can be found on the review site home page, and review instructions can be found on a dedicated special report page where comments from the public will be accepted electronically. Comments may be submitted only via this online mechanism.

All comments received through this process will be considered by the relevant chapter authors without knowledge of the commenters' identities. When the final assessment is issued, the comments and the commenters' names, along with the authors' responses, will become part of the public record and made available on <http://www.globalchange.gov>. Information submitted by a commenter as part of the registration process (such

as an email address) will not be disclosed publicly.

**Instructions:** Response to this notice is voluntary. Responses to this notice may be used by the government for program planning on a non-attribution basis. USDA therefore requests that no business proprietary information or copyrighted information be submitted in response to this notice. Please note that the U.S. Government will not pay for response preparation, or for the use of any information contained in the response.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** *U.S. Carbon Cycle Science Program/CCIWG/USGCRP Contact:* Dr. Gyami Shrestha; email: [gshrestha@usgcrp.gov](mailto:gshrestha@usgcrp.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** *Context:* The U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) is mandated under the Global Change Research Act (GCRA) of 1990 to conduct a quadrennial National Climate Assessment (NCA). Under its current decadal strategic plan (<http://go.usa.gov/3qGU4>), USGCRP is building sustained assessment capacity. The sustained assessment supports the Nation's ability to understand, anticipate, and respond to risks and potential impacts brought about by global environmental change. As part of the ongoing NCA process, the 2nd State of the Carbon Cycle Report (SOCCR-2) is being developed to inform the assessment. The last (3rd) NCA (2014) (NCA3: <http://nca2014.globalchange.gov>) and the process to develop it provided a foundation for subsequent activities and reports. The SOCCR-2 assessment provides an update to the carbon cycle science information presented in the 2014 NCA and the 2007 State of the Carbon Cycle Report, a Scientific Assessment Product (SAP 2.2) that directly informed the 2nd NCA. The SOCCR-2 assessment provides updated carbon cycle science findings and projections, and is an important input to the authors of the next quadrennial NCA, expected in 2018.

The 2nd State of the Carbon Cycle Report (SOCCR-2) is a product of the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), and is organized and led by an interagency team, the Carbon Cycle Interagency Working Group. The draft assessment was written by Federal and non-Federal authors identified via an Open Call for nominations ([www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/02/12/2016-02927/request-for-public-engagement-in-the-interagency-special-report-2nd-state-of-the-carbon-cycle-report](http://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/02/12/2016-02927/request-for-public-engagement-in-the-interagency-special-report-2nd-state-of-the-carbon-cycle-report)). An interagency Federal Steering Committee selected authors based on their demonstrated subject

matter expertise, relevant publications, and knowledge of specific topics designated in an outline included in the SOCCR-2 prospectus that can be found through a link on the SOCCR-2 (<https://www.carboncyclescience.us/state-carbon-cycle-report-soccr>). This assessment responds to the 1990 Congressional mandate to periodically produce National Climate Assessments and to assist the nation in understanding, assessing, predicting, and responding to global change. The report adheres to the Information Quality Act requirements ([http://www.cio.noaa.gov/services\\_programs/info\\_quality.html](http://www.cio.noaa.gov/services_programs/info_quality.html)) for quality, transparency, and accessibility as appropriate for a Highly Influential Scientific Assessment (HISA).

Done at Washington, DC, on November 3, 2017.

**Sonny Ramaswamy,**

*Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture.*

[FR Doc. 2017-24347 Filed 11-7-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Housing Service

#### Rural Business-Cooperative Service

#### Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Rural Housing Service (RHS) and Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), USDA.

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comments requested.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the above-named Agencies to request an extension for the currently approved information collection in support of the servicing of Community and Direct Business Programs Loans and Grants.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by January 8, 2018 to be assured of consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For inquiries on the Information Collection Package, contact Anita Outen, Community Programs, RHS, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Mail Stop 0787, Washington, DC 20250-0787, Telephone (202) 690-5273.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* 7 CFR 1951-E, Servicing of Community and Direct Business Programs Loans and Grants.

*OMB Number:* 0575-0066.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* March 31, 2018.

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

*Abstract:* The Community Facilities program is authorized to make loans and grants to public entities, nonprofit corporations, and Indian tribes for the development of essential community facilities primarily serving rural residents. The Direct Business and Industry program, under Rural Business-Cooperative Service, is authorized to make loans to improve, develop, or finance business, industry, and employment, and improve the economic and environmental climate in rural communities.

The purpose of this collection is to establish security servicing policies, assist recipients in meeting the objectives of the loans and grants, repay loans on schedule, comply with agreements, and protect the Government's financial interest. Routine servicing responsibilities include collection of payments, compliance reviews, security inspections, review of financial reports, determining applicant/borrower eligibility and project feasibility for various servicing actions, monitoring delinquent accounts, and supervision activities.

Supervision by the Agencies include, but is not limited to: Review of budgets, management reports, audits and financial statements; performing security inspections; providing, arranging, or recommending technical assistance; evaluating environmental impacts of proposed actions by the borrower; performing civil rights compliance reviews; and assisting in the development of workout agreements.

Information will be collected by the field offices from applicants, borrowers, consultants, lenders, and attorneys.

Failure to collect information could result in improper servicing of these loans.

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

*Respondents:* State, local or tribal Governments, Not-for-profit institutions, businesses, and individuals.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 112.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Number of Responses:* 1,446.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 1,327.

Copies of the information collection can be obtained from Jeanne Jacobs,

Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 692-0040.

#### Comments

*Comments are invited on:* (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agencies, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agencies' estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (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. Comments may be sent to Jeanne Jacobs, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20024. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

**Bryan Hooper,**

*Acting Administrator, Rural Housing Service.*

[FR Doc. 2017-24244 Filed 11-7-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-XV-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Housing Service

#### Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Rural Housing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comments requested.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Housing Service's (RHS or Agency) intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the programs under Direct Single Family Housing Loans and Grants.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by January 8, 2018 to be assured consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Brooke Baumann, Branch Chief, Single Family Housing Direct Loan Division, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Stop 0783, Washington, DC 20250-0783,

Telephone: (202) 690-4250, Email: [brooke.baumann@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:brooke.baumann@wdc.usda.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Direct Single Family Housing Loans and Grants.

*OMB Number:* 0575-0172.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* March 31, 2018.

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

*Abstract:* Through its direct single family housing loan and grant programs (specifically the Sections 502 and 504 programs), RHS provides eligible applicants with financial assistance to own adequate but modest homes in rural areas. The financing and servicing is provided directly by RHS. The Section 502 direct loan program provides 100 percent loan financing to assist low- and very low-income applicants purchase modest homes in eligible rural areas by providing payment assistance to increase an applicant's repayment ability. The Section 504 loan program provides one percent interest rate loans to very low-income homeowners in eligible rural areas to repair, improve, or modernize their home or to remove health and safety hazards. The Section 504 grant program provides grants to elderly very low-income homeowners in eligible rural areas to remove health and safety hazards, or accessibility barriers from their home, often in conjunction with a Section 504 loan.

Applicants must provide the Agency with a uniform residential loan application and supporting documentation (*e.g.* verification of income, assets, liabilities, etc.) when applying for assistance. The information requested regarding the applicant and the property is vital in order for the Agency to make sound eligibility and underwriting decisions that comply with the laws and regulations that govern the programs. The information requested is comparable to that required by any public or private mortgage lender.

When servicing loans, RHS offers servicing options that are standard to the industry. In addition, RHS offers unique servicing options (*e.g.* payment subsidies and payment moratoriums) and is required to take unique servicing actions (*e.g.*, review borrowers for their ability to refinance with private credit). Borrowers must provide the Agency with pertinent information when a servicing option/action is requested/required in order for the Agency to make sound servicing decisions that comply with the laws and regulations that govern the programs.