

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED–2023–SCC–0200]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Application for Grants Under the Predominantly Black Institutions Formula Grant Program**AGENCY:** Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE), Department of Education (ED).**ACTION:** Notice.**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Department is proposing an extension without change of a currently approved information collection request (ICR).**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before March 11, 2024.**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for proposed information collection requests should be submitted within 30 days of publication of this notice. Click on this link www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain to access the site. Find this information collection request (ICR) by selecting “Department of Education” under “Currently Under Review,” then check the “Only Show ICR for Public Comment” checkbox. Reginfo.gov provides two links to view documents related to this information collection request. Information collection forms and instructions may be found by clicking on the “View Information Collection (IC) List” link. Supporting statements and other supporting documentation may be found by clicking on the “View Supporting Statement and Other Documents” link.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Shakir Davy, 202–453–7792.**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in

response to this notice will be considered public records.

Title of Collection: Application for Grants Under the Predominantly Black Institutions Formula Grant Program.*OMB Control Number:* 1840–0812.*Type of Review:* An extension without change of a currently approved ICR.*Respondents/Affected Public:* Private sector; State, local, and Tribal government.*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 39.*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 780.*Abstract:* The Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 amended title III, part A of the Higher Education Act to include section 318—the Predominantly Black Institutions (PBI) Program. The PBI Program makes 5-year grant awards to eligible colleges and universities to plan, develop, undertake and implement programs to enhance the institution’s capacity to serve more low- and middle-income Black American students; to expand higher education opportunities for eligible students by encouraging college preparation and student persistence in secondary school and postsecondary education; and to strengthen the financial ability of the institution to serve the academic needs of these students.

Dated: February 6, 2024.

Kun Mullan,*PRA Coordinator, Strategic Collections and Clearance, Governance and Strategy Division, Office of Chief Data Officer, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development.*

[FR Doc. 2024–02698 Filed 2–8–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–P**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Request for Information Regarding the Manufacturing Capital Connector****AGENCY:** Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains, Department of Energy.**ACTION:** Request for information (RFI).**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy (DOE or the Department)’s Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains is issuing this RFI to notify parties of its potential interest in initiating a Manufacturing Capital Connector (MCC) to support applicants seeking clean energy manufacturing funding opportunities and/or tax credits. The Department also seeks input from all stakeholders through this RFI to help gauge the interest in and to inform the overall design of the MCC.**DATES:** Written comments and information are requested by March 4, 2024.**ADDRESSES:** Interested parties may submit comments electronically to CapitalConnector-RFI@hq.doe.gov in accordance with the Response Guidelines in section VI of this document.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions may be addressed to Rachel Gould, CapitalConnector-RFI@hq.doe.gov or (202) 586–6116.**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Background**

The Department of Energy (DOE)’s Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains (MESC) is considering establishing a Manufacturing Capital Connector (MCC). The goal of the MCC is to facilitate the commitment of private sector capital necessary to bring important clean energy manufacturing projects to commercial operation. Specifically, the MCC will:

(1) Educate capital providers about DOE’s supply chain priority areas and DOE-administered clean energy manufacturing opportunities, such as the Qualifying Advanced Energy Project Credit (48C);

(2) Develop a list of capital providers interested in financing clean energy manufacturing projects and the Best Practices they offer (Best Practices are defined as a private capital provider’s proposed minimum level of consistent terms across applications regarding response time, pricing, minimum amount of capital, diligence requests (*i.e.*, all topics covered under Question 14 in the For Potential Capital Providers questions)) and share the list of interested capital providers and their Best Practices on a publicly accessible DOE website; and

(3) If an applicant decides to do so, the applicant may directly share their application information with those capital providers that offer Best Practices they find appealing. DOE is prohibited from providing capital providers with any information about the applicant nor confirmation of whether an organization has applied. Thus, information exchange would be independent of DOE and voluntary.

The notional MCC could be particularly beneficial to applicants for programs like 48C. The 48C program is an investment tax credit (ITC), and as such the IRS will make final allocation decisions, with companies receiving the tax credit only after the project is placed in service and the credit is earned. Therefore, unlike many DOE-administered grant and loan programs,