

## II. Identification of the Categorical Exclusion

NOAA's categorical exclusion, C1, for habitat restoration actions is codified in NOAA's procedures for implementing NEPA (<https://www.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-10/NOAA-NAO-216-6A-Companion-Manual-03012018%20%281%29.pdf>) and related authorities, as contained in the Companion Manual to NOAA Administrative Order NAO 2–16–6A. The text of categorical exclusion C–1 is as follows, “Habitat restoration actions, provided that such action: (1) transplants only organisms currently or formerly present at the site or in its immediate vicinity (if transplant is a component of the action); (2) does not require substantial placement of fill or dredging; (3) does not involve any removal of debris, excavation, or conditioning of soils unless such removal of debris, excavation, or conditioning of soils is geographically limited to the impact area such that site conditions will not impede or negatively alter natural processes, is in compliance with all permit and disposal requirements, and will not impact critical aquifers or recharge areas; and (4) does not involve an added risk of human or environmental exposure to toxic or hazardous substances, pathogens, or radioactive materials. *Notes:* If applicable, limitations and mitigation measures identified in the NOAA Restoration Center Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Habitat Restoration Actions must be followed. This CE includes, but is not limited to, response or restoration actions under CERLCA, OPA, or NMSA, if such actions help to restore an ecosystem, habitat, biotic community, or population of living resources to a determinable pre-impact condition prior to the incident leading to the response or restoration.”

### Proposed Action

DARPA proposes to deploy and field test ecological engineering and biological adaptation strategies for corals in south Florida that have been tested in laboratory settings. The need to field test these strategies is to determine the best methods for coral translocation that will maximize wave attenuation, promote coral growth, mimic natural reef building and self-repair, increase the adaptive capacity of coral, and provide for long-term resiliency of the artificial reef that will be a part of DARPA's Reefense program in south Florida.

## III. Consideration of Extraordinary Circumstances

If an agency determines that a categorical exclusion covers a proposed action, the agency must evaluate the proposed action for extraordinary circumstances in which a normally excluded action may have a significant effect. (40 CFR 1501.4(b)). DARPA does not currently have its own NEPA implementing procedures to guide its application of extraordinary circumstances. Until DARPA establishes NEPA implementing procedures, for purposes of considering extraordinary circumstances in connection with the NOAA categorical exclusion discussed in this notice, DARPA has considered whether the proposed action has the potential to result in significant effects. DARPA has assessed extraordinary circumstances and determined they are not present.

## IV. Consultation With NOAA and Determination of Appropriateness

DARPA and NOAA consulted on the appropriateness of DARPA's adoption of the categorical exclusion. This consultation included a review of NOAA's experience applying the categorical exclusion and the proposed action for which DARPA plans to utilize it. Following this consultation and review, DARPA has determined that the impacts of the proposed action to deploy and field test ecological engineering and biological adaptation strategies for corals that have been tested in laboratory settings are similar to the impacts, which are not significant, of projects for which NOAA may apply the categorical exclusion. Additionally, DARPA determined that there are no extraordinary circumstances. Therefore, DARPA has determined that its proposed use of NOAA's categorical exclusion C1, as described within this notice, would be appropriate.

### Notice to the Public and Documentation of Adoption

This notice documents adoption of the NOAA categorical exclusion listed above and is available for use by DARPA, effective immediately.

Dated: May 22, 2024.

**Aaron T. Siegel,**

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED–2024–SCC–0077]

### Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Maintenance-of-Effort Requirements and Waiver Requests Under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund and the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund

**AGENCY:** Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE), 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 July 29, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** To access and review all the documents related to the information collection listed in this notice, please use <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching the Docket ID number Docket Search Results ED–2024–SCC–0077. Comments submitted in response to this notice should be submitted electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> by selecting the Docket ID number or via postal mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery. If the [regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) site is not available to the public for any reason, the Department will temporarily accept comments at [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov). Please include the docket ID number and the title of the information collection request when requesting documents or submitting comments. Please note that comments submitted after the comment period will not be accepted. Written requests for information or comments submitted by postal mail or delivery should be addressed to the Manager of the Strategic Collections and Clearance Governance and Strategy Division, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, LBJ, Room 6W203, Washington, DC 20202–8240.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Andrew Brake, (202) 453–6136.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on

proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the Department's information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. The Department is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary for 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:* Maintenance-of-Effort Requirements and Waiver Requests under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund and the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund.

*OMB Control Number:* 1810-0745.

*Type of Review:* Extension without change of a currently approved ICR.

*Respondents/Affected Public:* State, Local, and Tribal Governments.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 81.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 358.

*Abstract:* This is a request for an extension without change of an existing information collection, 1810-0745. This collection solicits from States, Outlying Areas, and State educational agencies (SEAs) maintenance of effort (MOE) data under section 18008 of the CARES Act. Under four programs the Governors Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER Fund, section 18002) and the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund, section 18003) and two formula grant programs to the Outlying Areas authorized under section 18001(a)(1), Education Stabilization Fund-State Educational Agencies (ESF-SEA) and Education Stabilization Fund-Governors (ESF-Governor) States are required to maintain fiscal effort on behalf of elementary, secondary and postsecondary education. Recipients of the resources from the ESSER Fund, the GEER Fund, the ESF-SEA Fund, and

the ESF-Governor Fund have signed Certifications and Agreements, in which they agree to abide by the provisions of the CARES Act, including MOE requirement.

Dated: May 23, 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. 2024-11815 Filed 5-29-24; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket ID ED-2024-FSA-0070]

### Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

**AGENCY:** Federal Student Aid, Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of a modified system of records.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (Privacy Act), the U.S. Department of Education (Department) publishes this notice of a modified system of records entitled "Aid Awareness and Application Processing" (18-11-21). This system maintains information necessary for the Department to process applications for Federal student financial program assistance under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA); to perform the responsibilities of the Federal Student Aid (FSA) Ombudsman; to provide Federal student loan repayment relief including under the borrower defense to repayment regulations; to notify aid applicants and aid recipients of aid program opportunities and updates under title IV of the HEA via digital communication channels; and to maintain the *StudentAid.gov* website as the front end for assisting customers with all of their Federal student financial aid needs throughout the student aid lifecycle. The Department's Digital and Customer Care (DCC) Information Technology (IT) system collects the electronic records maintained in the Aid Awareness and Application Processing (AAP) system.

**DATES:** Submit your comments on this modified system of records notice on or before July 1, 2024.

This modified system of records notice will become applicable upon publication in the **Federal Register** on May 30, 2024, except for the new and modified routine uses (1)(p), (1)(q), and 1(s) that are outlined in the section

entitled "ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND PURPOSES OF SUCH USES," which will be applicable July 1, 2024, unless they need to be changed as a result of public comment. The Department will publish any changes to the modified system of records notice resulting from public comment.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments must be submitted via the Federal eRulemaking Portal at *regulations.gov*. However, if you require an accommodation or cannot otherwise submit your comments via *regulations.gov*, please contact one of the program contact persons listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. The Department will not accept comments submitted by fax or by email, or comments submitted after the comment period closes. To ensure that the Department does not receive duplicate copies, please submit your comments only once. In addition, please include the Docket ID at the top of your comments.

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to *www.regulations.gov* to submit your comments electronically. Information on using *Regulations.gov*, including instructions for accessing agency documents, submitting comments, and viewing the docket, is available on the site under "FAQ".

*Privacy Note:* The Department's policy is to make comments received from members of the public available for public viewing in their entirety on the Federal eRulemaking Portal at *www.regulations.gov*. Therefore, commenters should be careful to include in their comments only information that they wish to make publicly available.

*Assistance to Individuals with Disabilities in Reviewing the Rulemaking Record:* On request, we will provide an appropriate accommodation or auxiliary aid to an individual with a disability who needs assistance to review the comments or other documents in the public rulemaking record for this notice. If you want to schedule an appointment for this type of accommodation or aid, please contact one of the program contact persons listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Rachel Coghlan, Central Processing System (CPS) System Manager, Student Experience and Aid Delivery, Federal Student Aid (FSA), U.S. Department of Education, Union Center Plaza, 830 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20202-5454. Telephone: (202) 377-3205. Email: *Rachel.Coghlan@ed.gov*.