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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

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

Notice of Intent To Extend a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as amended, 44 U.S.C. chapter 35, and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR Part 1320, this notice announces the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service's (CSREES) intention to request an extension for three years for a currently approved information collection in support of programs administered by CSREES's Higher Education Programs (HEP) unit.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by April 9, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Sally J. Rockey, Deputy Administrator, Competitive Research Grants and Awards Management, CSREES, USDA, STOP 2240, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-2240, (202) 401-1761. E-mail: OEP@reeusda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: CSREES/Food and Agricultural Sciences National Needs Graduate Fellowships Grants Program Application Guidelines.

OMB Number: 0524-0024.

Expiration Date of Current Approval: August 31, 1998.

Type of Request: Intent to extend a currently approved information collection for three years.

Abstract: The HEP unit of USDA/CSREES administers a competitive, peer-reviewed research and teaching

program, under which grants of a high-priority nature are awarded. This program is authorized pursuant to the authorities contained in section 1417(b)(6) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3152(b)(6)), for the Food and Agricultural Sciences National Needs Graduate Fellowships Program.

This program is conducted to help meet the Nation's needs for food and agricultural scientific and professional expertise. These fellowships are intended to encourage outstanding students to pursue and complete a graduate degree in an area of the food and agricultural sciences for which development of scientific expertise is designated by HEP-CSREES as a national need.

Before awards can be made, certain information is required from applicants as part of an overall proposal package. In addition to project summaries, descriptions of the research or teaching efforts, literature reviews, curricula vitae of principal investigators, and other, relevant technical aspects of the proposed project, supporting documentation of an administrative and budgetary nature also must be provided. Because of the nature of the competitive, peer-reviewed process, it is important that information from applicants be available in a standardized format to ensure equitable treatment.

Each year, HEP solicitations are issued requesting proposals for various teaching areas targeted for support. Applicants submit proposals for these targeted teaching areas following the format outlined in the proposal application guidelines accompanying each solicitation. These proposals are evaluated by peer review panels and awarded on a competitive basis.

This program uses forms that were approved in an OMB-approved collection of information package (OMB No. 0524-0024).

The National Needs Graduate Fellowships Grants Program Summary (not numbered), Forms CSREES-701, "Proposal Cover Page;" CSREES-702, "National Need Summary;" CSREES-703, "Proposal Budget;" CSREES-706, "Intent to Submit;" CSREES-707, "Fellowship Appointment Documentation;" CSREES-708, "Summary Vita—Teaching Proposal;"

CSREES-709, "Graduate Fellow Exit Report" are mainly used for proposal evaluation and administration purposes. While some of the information will be used to respond to inquiries from Congress and other government agencies, the forms are not designed to be statistical surveys or data collection instruments. Their completion by potential recipients is a normal part of the application to Federal agencies which support basic and applied science.

The following information is collected from each applicant:

Form CSREES-701—*Proposal Identification:* Provides names, addresses, and phone numbers of project directors and authorized agents of applicant institutions and general information regarding the proposals.

Form CSREES-702—*National Need Summary:* Provides a summary for the national need area addressed in the proposal.

Form CSREES-703—*Budget:* Provides a breakdown of the purposes for which funds will be spent in the event of a grant award.

Form CSREES-706—*Intent to Submit:* Provides names, addresses, and phone numbers of project directors and authorized agents of applicant institutions and general information regarding potential proposals.

Form CSREES-707—*Fellowship Appointment Documentation:* Completed by project directors awarded grants under the program. Provides documentation of fellowship appointments, pertinent demographic data on fellows supported under the program.

Form CSREES-708—*Teaching Credentials:* Identifies key personnel contributing substantially to the conduct of a teaching project and provides pertinent information concerning their backgrounds.

Form CSREES-709—*Graduate Fellow Exit Report:* Provides documentation of fellows' completion of the program.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 23 hours per response for applicants and two hours per response for grantees.

Respondents: Non-profit institutions, individuals, and State, local, or Tribal governments.

Estimated Number of Responses per Form: For applicants: 200 each for the

National Needs Narrative (not numbered), Forms CSREES-701, CSREES-702, CSREES-703, CSREES-706, and 400 for CSREES-708. For grantees: 100 each for Forms CSREES-707 and CSREES-709.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: For applicants: 9,233 hours, broken down by: 50 hours for Form CSREES-701 (one-quarter hour per 200 respondents); 300 hours for Form CSREES-702 (one and one-half hours per 200 respondents); 50 hours for Form CSREES-703 (one-quarter hour per 200 respondents); 33 hours for Form CSREES-706 (10 minutes per 200 respondents); 2,800 hours for Form CSREES-708 (seven hours per 400 respondents); and 6,000 hours for the National Need Narrative (30 hours per 200 respondents). For grantees, this estimate is 225 hours, broken down by: 25 hours for Form CSREES-707 (one-quarter hour per 100 respondents); and 200 hours for Form CSREES-709 (two hours per 100 respondents).

Frequency of Responses: Annually.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Suzanne Plimpton, Policy and Program Liaison Staff, CSREES, (202) 401-1302. E-mail: OEP@reeusda.gov.

Comments: 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 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: Sally J. Rockey, Deputy Administrator, Competitive Research Grants and Awards Management, CSREES, USDA, STOP 2240, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-2240, (202) 401-1761. E-mail: OEP@reeusda.gov. Comments also may be submitted directly to OMB and should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20502.

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

Done at Washington, D.C., this 22nd day of January, 1998.

B.H. Robinson,

Administrator, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service.

[FR Doc. 98-2508 Filed 2-2-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Consumer Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request-Determining Eligibility for Free School Meals and Milk of Children From Households Certified for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

AGENCY: Food and Consumer Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Food and Consumer Service (FCS) announces its intention to request Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review and approval of a revision in the information collections related to making eligibility determinations for free and reduced price meals and free milk in schools. The revision is the result of a statutory change extending automatic eligibility for free meals and free milk to children from families under Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs.

DATES: To be assured of consideration, comments must be received by April 6, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send comments and requests for copies of this information collection to: Mr. Terry Hallberg, Chief, Program Analysis and Monitoring Branch, Child Nutrition Division, Food and Consumer Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1008, Alexandria, Virginia 22302.

Comments are invited on the following areas: (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 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.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Terry Hallberg at (703) 305-2600.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: 7 CFR Part 245, Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced Price Meals and Free Milk in Schools.

OMB Number: 0584-0026.

Expiration Date: 12/31/99.

Type of Request: Revision of existing collection.

Abstract: Section 109(g)(1)(B)(i)(I) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 amended Section 9(b)(6)(A)(ii) of the National School Lunch Act to extend automatic eligibility for free meals and free milk to children from families under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program, under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act, provided the TANF standards are comparable to or more restrictive than the State's Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program standards in effect on June 1, 1995. Information is needed to meet the statutory requirement that the Secretary ensure that TANF is comparable to or more restrictive than the AFDC program in effect on June 1, 1995, in order for the State to implement automatic eligibility or direct certification procedures for children from TANF households. Because States have latitude in the way they administer TANF, the Secretary is asking States agencies, in cooperation with the agency in each State administering TANF, to make the comparison and inform the Secretary of their determination. Thereafter, State agencies would only have to notify the Secretary when the TANF program in their State is no longer comparable to or is no longer more restrictive than the State's AFDC Program in effect on June 1, 1995.

Estimate of Burden: A new reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated at 12 hours per respondent.

Respondents: State agencies.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 52 respondents (50 States, D.C. and Guam). Although several States have two State agencies that administer the School Nutrition Programs, only 1 response per State is requested.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 624 burden hours.