



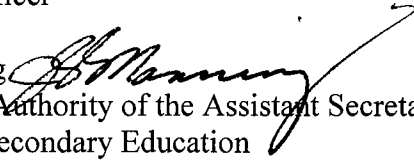
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

DATE: December 11, 2006

TO: Rachel Potter  
OMB Desk Officer

FROM: James Manning   
Delegated the Authority of the Assistant Secretary  
Office of Postsecondary Education

SUBJECT: Request for Emergency Clearance of Loan Discharge Application for  
September 11, 2001 Survivors

We are requesting an emergency clearance of the application for Loan Discharge for September 11, 2001 Survivors (attached).

On September 30, 2006, President Bush signed into law the Third Higher Education Extension Act (Pub.L.109-292). This Act, among other things, authorizes a discharge of the outstanding balance of certain Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program loans, William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program loans and Federal Perkins (Perkins) Loan Program loans owed by survivors of eligible public servants and other eligible victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. This discharge is separate from and in addition to discharge otherwise available under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. The discharge is available only for FFEL, Direct Loan or Perkins Loan Program loans on which amounts were owed on September 11, 2001, and on which amounts are still owed on the day the discharge or cancellation is requested. No refunding of any payment made on the loan is authorized.

The Department of Education is required to develop procedures for borrowers to file applications for this new loan discharge benefit under implementing regulations that must be published within 90 days after the date of enactment of the Third Higher Education Extension Act (no later than December 29, 2006). As part of the application process, we have developed the attached form to enable borrowers to apply for this new benefit. The form will collect the information needed to establish a borrower's eligibility for the discharge.

So that eligible borrowers will have a means of applying for the new loan discharge benefit as soon as possible after publication of the implementing regulations, we are requesting an OMB emergency clearance of the application form. We will also submit this forms clearance package through the regular 120-day review process in order to receive a three-year approval for the form.

If you have any questions about this request, please feel free to contact Gail McLarnon at 202-219-7048.

Attachment