



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL AND ADULT EDUCATION

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TO : Ms. Rachel Potter
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THROUGH : James Hyler
Regulatory Information Services (RIMS)

FROM : Sharon Miller *Sharon Miller*
Director, Division of Academic and Technical Education

SUBJECT : Revised Application Package of IC 1830-0542 Native American Career and Technical Education Program (NACTEP)

The Department of Education (Department), Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) plans to publish a Notice Inviting Applications for the Native American Career and Technical Education Program (NACTEP) in the Federal Register on or about March 14, 2007.

In support of this effort, the Department submitted its NACTEP application package to OMB on or about January 26, 2007 for the 60-day clearance process. At the time of submission, the application package reflected the program office's best information, in regards to selection criteria and other applicant submission guidance. Since that time, the NACTEP notice has undergone several revisions as a result of coordination with the OVAE policy office and the Office of the General Counsel (OGC). Based on coordination efforts, it is necessary to revise several components of the application package.

The revisions do not affect the number of respondents or public burden hours. However, several changes that affect the program also impact the application package. The substantive changes include the following:

- Additional selection criteria including:
 - Need for project – criterion is program specific
 - Significance – criteria are similar to EDGAR
 - Quality of Project Services – criteria are similar to EDGAR
- The number of days for application submission changed from 30 days to 45 days
- A program specific component, "Additional Factors," was deleted from the application package
- GPRA performance measures were revised to provide a closer link to program specific requirements

The NACTEP is subject to an appeals provision that allows unfunded applicants to make a written request to the Secretary of Education for a hearing to review the Secretary's funding decision. Accordingly, the program is extremely time sensitive. Therefore, OVAE is requesting the assistance of OMB to expedite the approval of the IC package in order to ensure the timely obligation of the \$14,779,846 appropriation.

We regret any inconvenience that these changes may cause OMB. The changes that were made to the program, and subsequently to the application package, offer applicants additional time to complete and submit quality applications, and provide clearer program guidance.

If OMB would like to discuss this matter further, the Department is available for a meeting or conference call at OMB's convenience. Please feel free to contact Gwen Washington on (202) 245-7790 or by email at gwen.washington@ed.gov to discuss this information collection.