

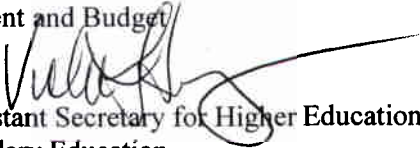



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

DATE: July 3, 2008

TO: Desk Officer
Office of Management and Budget

THROUGH: Vickie L. Schray 
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Higher Education Programs
Office of Postsecondary Education

FROM: Archie P. Cubarrubia 
Office of the Under Secretary

SUBJECT: Emergency Clearance Request

We respectfully request emergency approval of the Information Collection Request (ICR), **Study of Pell Grant Recipients Who Transfer Among Eligible Institutions**. This study is designed to determine the satisfaction of Pell Grant recipients with the financial aid process and to identify and describe problems that they may encounter when attempting to transfer credits/courses from one institution to another. We respectfully request OMB approval by July 17, 2008.

Emergency review of this request is necessary due to circumstances and events occurring beyond the control of the Department. This study is particularly relevant, given the timing of the following factors:

First, the Congress is currently working on reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. Reauthorization will likely include new requirements for disclosing institutions' transfer of credit policies. Implementation of these requirements by the Department would be best informed by the results of this study.

Second, the Department of Education currently has the best sample with the most recent contact information for the population of interest. Given that this population is particularly difficult to reach, there is significant risk that our sample may degrade if we delay data collection further.

Finally, the information obtained from this study will assist in improving the Department's customer service functions for students who receive federal student aid for the 2009-10 school year. Data from this study will inform messaging to federal student aid applicants who appear to transfer to ensure that the credits that they have earned are considered by their receiving institution. Delays in conducting this study would prevent the Department from providing this service to federal student aid applicants.

We appreciate your consideration of this request. I am available by phone at (202) 260-5548 or by e-mail at Archie.Cubarrubia@ed.gov if you need additional information.

400 MARYLAND AVE., S.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202