

Supporting Statement
Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP) – Program Specific Data Form

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Circumstances of Information Collection

This is a request for OMB approval of a new form, the Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP) Program Specific Data Form, used to collect information from schools of nursing to apply for a student loan fund. The program is operated out of the Bureau of Health Professions in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). This form has been in use without approval. The program was unaware that the information collection requirements necessitated OMB approval. In the process of moving from a paper to an online submission the violation was discovered and the program immediately began the process for OMB submission.

Legislative Purpose

The HRSA estimates that by 2020, the demand for nurses will exceed the supply by 1,016,900 million to meet the health care needs of our society (HRSA, *What is Behind HRSA's Projected Supply, Demand, and Shortage of Registered Nurses?*, 2006). The inability of schools of nursing to recruit and retain qualified nursing faculty has directly impacted the nursing shortage in the U.S. Without enough educators, nursing programs are forced to turn away qualified and interested candidates. The National League for Nursing's (NLN) 2006 Faculty Census Survey shows an increased vacancy rate. The estimated number of budgeted unfilled, full-time positions in 2006 is 1,390. This represents a 7.9 percent vacancy rate for baccalaureate and higher degree programs, an increase of 32 percent since 2002. There is a 5.6 percent vacancy rate for associate degree programs, an increase of 10 percent since 2002 (NLN, *Nurse Educators 2006*). In effect, a serious lack of institutional faculty capacity is limiting how many new nurses will emerge from the pipeline.

The Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP) is authorized under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act, Section 846A, as amended by the Nurse Reinvestment Act, Public Law 107-205 to increase the number of qualified nurse faculty. The HHS, acting through HRSA, may enter into an agreement with schools of nursing and make an award to establish and operate a distinct NFLP loan fund. The NFLP loan fund is used by the applicant school of nursing to make loans to eligible students pursuing an advanced nursing degree program that will prepare the student to become qualified as a nursing faculty. Applications to this program were first accepted for the 2003-2004 academic year. In fiscal year 2007, the NFLP was allotted \$4.6 million by HRSA. Funding for this program is expected to continue under future appropriations.

Under the NFLP, HHS makes an award to the institution in the form of a Federal Capital Contribution (FCC). The institution uses the FCC to establish a distinct account called the NFLP fund. The School must contribute an Institutional Capital Contribution (ICC) to the NFLP fund equal to at least one-ninth (minimum) of the FCC award. The School has the option of contributing a larger share to the NFLP fund.

2. Purpose and Use of Information

The information collected from NFLP applicant schools is used for the purpose of making award determinations. The data are used to ensure programmatic compliance with the legislative authority and program guidance in the determination of awards to the schools.

The NFLP-Program Specific Data Form captures program-related information provided by the applicant. The form provides the Federal Government with specific data from the applicant which include: (1) the amount of the Federal funds requested by the applicant, (2) the expected contribution from the applicant, (3) the student enrollment and graduation data based on current and prospective NFLP loan recipients, (4) the graduate nursing education programs supported under NFLP, (5) the program accreditation status, (6) the current tuition and fee information for graduate nursing education programs, and (7) the projected NFLP loan fund balance that may be considered as part of the award determination. The data provided in the NFLP-Program Specific Data Form are essential for the formula-based criteria used to determine the award amount to the applicant schools.

3. Use of Improved Information Technology

NFLP applicants will be able access and submit an electronic copy of the NFLP-Program Specific Data Form on the HRSA web site

4. Efforts to Identify Duplication

The information requested in this form is specific to the NFLP applicant and unique to this program. The information requested is not available from any other source.

5. Involvement of Small Entities

The data collection does not have a significant impact on small businesses or other small entities.

6. Consequences if Information is Collected Less Frequently

The process for making NFLP awards occurs annually, prior to the academic school year. In the absence of collecting these data, the review, selection and approval of funding for qualified applicants cannot be carried out.

7. Consistency with the Guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.5(d)(2)

This information collection is consistent with 5 CFR 1320.5(d)(2).

8. Consultation Outside the Agency

The notice required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d) was published in the *Federal Register* on March 27, 2008 (Vol. 73, No. 60, pages 16316-16317). No comments were received. Consultation and review of the form was conducted outside of the agency with the following NFLP schools:

- Dick Simmons

Accounting and Student Fiscal Services
University of Washington
Telephone: (206) 221-2610

- Sharon Cameron
Campus Partners
Audit and Compliance Specialist
Telephone: (800) 458-4492 X2060
(Service agency for multiple NFLP schools)

9. Remuneration of Respondents

Respondents will not receive any remuneration.

10. Assurance of Confidentiality

The Program Specific Data form does not collect personally identifiable information on individuals. The information requested on the form is aggregate level data only and does not collect individual-level information.

11. Questions of a Sensitive Nature

The data collection does not request sensitive information from the applicant.

12. Estimates of Annualized Hour Burden

Estimates of respondent burden are as follows:

| FORM | Number Of Respondents | Responses Per Respondent | Total Responses | Hours per Response | Total Burden Hours |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| NFLP-Program Specific Data From | 150 | 1 | 150 | 8 hours | 1200 hours |
| Total Burden | 150 | 1 | 150 | 8 hours | 1200 hours |

The information requested from the applicant schools is estimated to average approximately 8 hours per respondent.

13. Estimates of Annualized Cost Burden to Respondents

There are no capital, start up, or maintenance costs for the respondents.

14. Estimates of Annualized Cost to the Government

The annualized cost to the government is for staff time to review the information submitted by the schools, estimated at approximately 15% time for one FTE at a GS 13 level \$12,444.

15. Changes in Burden

This is a new activity.

16. Time Schedule, Publication, and Analysis Plan

There are no plans for statistical analysis of the information or for publication of the data. The deadline for submission of the application is expected to be the first week in February, 2009. The awards are finalized by July 1st each year. The information is used for determination of awards to applicants and for monitoring program activity.

17. Exemption for Display of Expiration Date

The expiration date will be displayed. No exemption is being requested.

18. Certifications

This information fully complies with the guidelines set forth in 5 CFR 1320.9. The required certifications are included in the package.