

30 days from the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**. In order to ensure the appropriate consideration, comments should reference the OMB Control Number (see below).

The OMB is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate 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;
- Evaluate 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;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- 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, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

*Agency:* Employment and Training Administration.

*Type of Review:* New collection (Request for a new OMB Control Number).

*Title:* Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) Initiative Evaluation.

*OMB Control Number:* 1205-0NEW.

*Form Number:* None.

*Affected Public:* State, Local, and Tribal Governments and Private Sector.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,600.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 1,200.

*Estimated Total Annual Costs Burden:* \$0.

*Description:* This data collection covers qualitative information to be obtained through on-site, unstructured interviews with representatives in each of the 13 regions awarded WIRED funding. Data to be collected includes information regarding the regional context, goals, planning, structure, partnerships, collaboration, activities, funding, challenges, innovations, approaches for measuring success, and sustainability. For additional information, see related notice published at 73 FR 16912 on March 31, 2008.

**Darrin A. King,**

*Acting Departmental Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. E8-17006 Filed 7-24-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4510-FN-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management; Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Applicant Background Questionnaire

**AGENCY:** Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management (OASAM), Department of Labor.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) [44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)]. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Department of Labor is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of the Applicant Background Questionnaire.

A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the addressee section of this notice.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addressee section below on or before September 23, 2008.

**ADDRESSEE:** William Glasgow, U.S. Department of Labor, Human Resources Center, 200 Constitution Ave. NW., Room N-5464, Washington, DC 20210; Phone: (202)693-7738; Written comments limited to 10 pages or fewer may also be transmitted by facsimile to: (202)693-7814; Internet: [glasgow.william@dol.gov](mailto:glasgow.william@dol.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. *Background:* The Department of Labor, as part of its obligation to provide equal employment opportunities, is charged with ensuring that qualified individuals in groups that are under-represented in various occupations are included in applicant pools for the Department's positions. See 5 U.S.C. 7201(c); 29 U.S.C. 791; 29 U.S.C. 2000e-16; 5 CFR 720.204; 29 CFR 1614.101(a). To achieve this goal, DOL employment offices have conducted targeted

outreach to a variety of sources, including educational institutions, professional organizations, newspapers, and magazines. DOL has also participated in career fairs and conferences that reach high concentrations of Hispanics, African Americans, Native Americans, Asians, and persons with disabilities.

Without the data provided by this collection, DOL does not have the ability to evaluate the effectiveness of any of these targeted recruiting strategies because collection of racial and national origin information only occurs at the point of hiring. DOL needs to collect data on the pools of applicants which result from the various targeted recruitment strategies listed above. After the certification and selection process has been completed, it is necessary to cross-reference the data collected with the outcome of the qualifications review in order to evaluate the quality of applicants from various recruitment sources. With the information from this collection, DOL can adjust and redirect its targeted recruitment to achieve the best result. DOL will also be able to respond to requests for information received from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in the course of OPM evaluation and oversight activities.

II. *Desired Focus of Comments:* The Department of Labor is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate 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;
- Evaluate 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;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, for example, through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

III. *Current Actions:* This notice requests an extension of the current Office of Management and Budget approval of the Applicant Background Questionnaire. Extension is necessary to continue to evaluate the effectiveness of agency recruitment programs in attracting applicants from under-represented sectors of the population.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Agency:* U.S. Department of Labor.

*Title:* Applicant Background Questionnaire.

*OMB Number:* 1225-0072.

*Affected Public:* Applicants for positions recruited in the Department of Labor. Other Federal agencies have requested to use the DOL form. We are including the Department of Agriculture, ARS as an agency that wishes to use the form for their recruitment program. Their burden numbers are also included below.

Total Respondents:

Department of Labor—3,000

USDA, ARS—17,800

Total—20,800

*Frequency:* One time per respondent.

*Total Responses:* 20,800.

*Average Time per Response:* 3 minutes for on-line applicants (DOL). 5 minutes for paper applications (USDA).

Estimated Total Burden Hours:

DOL—150 hours

USDA—1,458 hours, 20 min

Total—1,608 hours, 20 min

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): \$0

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintaining):

DOL—\$87.46

USDA—\$1,049.52

Total—\$1,136.98

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: July 18, 2008.

**Suzu Barker,**

*Director of Human Resources.*

[FR Doc. E8-17078 Filed 7-24-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-23-P

## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Invitation To Submit White Papers To Inform the Five-Year Strategic Plan for the Federal Networking and Information Technology Research & Development Program

**AGENCY:** The National Coordination Office (NCO) for Networking and Information Technology Research and Development (NITRD).

**ACTION:** Request for Input (RFI).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Detrice M. Wallace at (703) 292-4873.

**DATES:** To be considered, submissions must be received by August 25, 2008.

**SUMMARY:** This plan will focus on goals and capabilities that can only be achieved through interagency

cooperation and coordination, and will complement and support the strategic plans of the individual agencies. It will encompass vision-driven themes in multiple dimensions to show research & development capabilities and challenges by using scenarios that demonstrate societal and economic impact.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. *Overview:* The Subcommittee on Networking and Information Technology Research and Development (NITRD) is soliciting input from government, academia, and industry in the U.S. and abroad to assist in the development of a Five-Year Strategic Plan for the NITRD Program.

The strategic plan will focus primarily on R&D goals that require interagency coordination, including multi-agency investments and joint programs, and respond to the priorities of the Federal government as a whole. This plan will complement and support each participating agency's strategic plan.

This Request for Input is not a funding opportunity or a solicitation for proposals. Anonymized versions of some responses will be made publicly available to promote further discussion.

2. *Focus of the Strategic Plan:* The NITRD five-year strategic plan will guide the coordinated R&D efforts of the Federal agencies in the NITRD Program (see <http://www.nitrd.gov> for a description of the program and a listing of participating agencies). The strategic plan will:

- Define a vision for the NITRD Program and identify desired, future networking and information technologies (NIT) capabilities.
- Provide a five-year framework for prioritizing fundamental research to attain major advances in the desired capabilities within ten years.
- Ensure collaboration across agencies, academia, industry, and other domains to solve challenges that cannot be met by any agency acting alone.
- Illustrate potential societal and economic positive impact on national-level and multi-disciplinary challenges (e.g., cybersecurity, healthcare, renewable energy, and environment).

3. *Description of Information Sought:* The NITRD Subcommittee seeks input from a range of stakeholders with the goal of developing an effective strategic plan for R&D to yield high-payoff scientific and engineering capabilities in NIT. The submissions should seek to answer the following questions:

- What do you imagine as the future in terms of desired NIT capabilities?
- What roles do you imagine for the NITRD Program and for the academic, commercial, international, and other domains in achieving that future?

In addressing these questions, submitters are challenged to present views and input on one or more of the following subjects, in relation to NIT:

- Development and execution of multi-agency and multi-disciplinary programs.
- Determination of strategic goals, key challenges, opportunities, and research priorities.
- Examples that illustrate the impact of realizing the vision, achieving the proposed goals, and meeting the identified challenges.
- Transition of R&D results into practice.
- Role of the U.S. in the international NIT arena.
- Interactions among government, commercial, academic, and international sectors.

4. *Background:* A unique collaboration of 13 Federal agencies, the NITRD Program's mission is to formulate Federal NIT R&D to meet the following national goals:

- Assure continued U.S. leadership in NIT to meet Federal goals and support U.S. 21st century government, academic, and industrial interests.
- Accelerate deployment of advanced and experimental NIT to enhance national and homeland security; maintain world leadership in science, engineering, and mathematics; improve the quality of life; promote long-term economic growth; increase lifelong learning; and protect the environment.
- Advance U.S. productivity and competitiveness through long-term scientific and engineering research in NIT.

Currently there are two documents available for gathering background information. The first is the August 2007 publication, *Leadership Under Challenge: Information Technology R&D in a Competitive World*, an assessment of the NITRD Program by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST). A central recommendation in this assessment is the development, implementation, and maintenance of a cohesive strategic plan for the NITRD Program. The second document is the NITRD Program's previous internal Strategic Plan. The documents are available at: <http://www.nitrd.gov/pubs/index.htm>

5. *Submission Information:* To be considered, submissions must be received by August 25, 2008. Submitters of the white papers should:

- Focus on interagency coordination of major NIT research directions and the proposed priorities of the Federal government as a whole.