

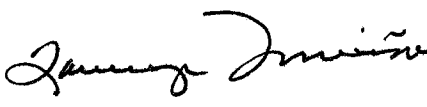


United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development

SEP 01 2009

TO: Nathan Frey
Desk officer
Office of Management and Budget

THROUGH: Charlene Parker
Departmental Clearance Officer
Office of the Chief Information Officer

FROM: Tammye Treviño 
Administrator
Housing and Community Facilities Programs

SUBJECT: Request for Emergency Review and Approval of a New Information
Collection "Consolidated Programs funded by the ARRA for Rural
Housing, Rural Utilities and Rural Business Services"

The Agency is requesting emergency review and approval of a new information collection. The information collection activities associated with this collection are based solely on the additional burden hours generated from funding awarded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act). In addition to the reporting and registration requirements of the Recovery Act, the impacted programs will collect identical information that is currently approved under the programs' information collections.

- a) (OMB No. 0572-0121) Water and Waste Loan and Grant Program
- b) (OMB No. 0570-0022) Rural Business Enterprise Grants and Television Demonstration Grants
- c) (OMB No. 0575-0173) Community Facilities Grant Program
- d) (OMB No. 0575-0015) Community Facilities Loans
- e) (OMB No. 0575-0120) Fire and Rescue Loans
- f) (OMB No. 0575-0172) Direct Single-Family Housing Loan and Grant Programs; and
- g) (OMB No. 0575-0078) Rural Housing Loans

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The request pertains only to the award of Recovery Act funds made available to a) 7 CFR Part 1780, Water and Waste Loan and Grant Program; b) 7 CFR Part 1942-G, Rural Business Enterprise Grants and Television Demonstration Grants; c) 7 CFR 3570-B Community Facilities Grant Program; d) 7 CFR 1942-A, Community Facilities Loans; e) 7 CFR 1942-C, Fire and Rescue Loans; f) 7 CFR Part 3550-HB-1-3550, and HB-2-3550, Direct Single-Family Housing Loan and Grant Programs; and g) 7 CFR Part 1980-D, Rural Housing Loans, and not to loans funded under the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009.

The Agency has determined that the most effective use of these funds is to target them to encourage the creation or retention of quality jobs through the extension of assistance through these programs in those rural areas of greatest need, most difficult to reach, and among those hardest hit by the current economic crisis. Rural Development published a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) in the Federal Register July 23, 2009, which establishes eligibility and application requirements, the review and approval process, and loan/loan guarantee and grant administration procedures for Water and Waste Loans and Grants; Rural Business Enterprise Grants and Television Demonstration Grants; Community Facilities Grants; Community Facilities Loans; Fire and Rescue Loans; Direct Single-Family Housing Loans and Grants; and Rural Housing Loans Recovery Act funds.

Since enactment of the Recovery Act, the Agencies researched, analyzed, and determined certain incentives for generating quality grants, loans, and loan guarantees in these critical rural areas. However, given the limited amount of time available to obligate the associated funding, September 30, 2010, we request approval of the information collection by September 10, 2009, so that the Department can begin accepting applications and making grants, loans and loan guarantees.

In compliance with OMB regulation, 5 C.F.R. part 1320, which implements the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L.104-13), the information collection and recordkeeping requirements that may be imposed by this action are submitted to OMB for emergency review and approval. The additional reporting requirements would not become effective prior to OMB review.