



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-6000

OFFICE OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT
AND RESEARCH

November 19, 2010

Mr. Ross Rutledge
OMB Desk Officer
Office of Management and Budget
New Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Rutledge:

The Department is seeking emergency review of the Paperwork Reduction Act requirements for a new information collection which supports the Transformation Initiative: Homeless Families Demonstration Small Grant Research Program grant program, which was Authorized in the Appropriations Act, 2010 (Pub. L. 111-117 approved December 16, 2009).

The Notice of Paperwork Submission (copy enclosed), proposed for immediate Federal Register publication, explains the burden of the collection requirements and invites public comments on them.

In compliance with the requirements of 5 CFR 1320.13, this letter requests emergency processing within 14 days from the date of this letter. The collection of this information is necessary because following the normal clearance procedures is reasonably likely to result in public harm if normal clearance procedures are followed. Such harm will accrue to the Government and, in the longer term, to homeless families, because all research conducted under the grants would become invalid for lack of baseline data. The underlying separately funded demonstration randomly assigns homeless families to one of four different types of housing treatment, to better understand which treatments have greatest positive impact on families and have the best relationship of benefit to cost for the Government. The demonstration is Congressionally mandated precisely because Congress lacks this information.

Recruitment into the demonstration is already under way. Delay in publication of the grants means recipients would be unable to collect data on families at baseline and unable to observe families' interaction with support agencies and housing providers at the most relevant periods. The shortened processing period that we are requesting will ensure that these research grants are not wasted.

Sincerely,

Kevin J. Neary

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research, Evaluation, and Monitoring