



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20410-5000

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

May 25, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Rutledge:

The Department is urgently seeking emergency review of the Paperwork Reduction Act requirements for an information collection which supports the issuance of approximately \$28 million available through the Community Challenge Planning Grant Program that was part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2011 (Public Law 111-117).

Last year, HUD and DOT decided to issue this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) jointly, but unfortunately DOT was not appropriated funds this fiscal year, therefore HUD will issue the NOFA independently. Consequently, we need to reinstate our compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act as an independent program.

The Notice of Paperwork Submission (enclosed), proposed for immediate *Federal Register* publication, which 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; we also request to be allowed to issue the NOFA with a pending OMB approval number. This request for emergency processing is absolutely essential in order to meet HUD goals and to avoid a negative impact on the communities that will be competing to obtain funding. Because the FY2011 appropriation was not enacted until last month, we could not move forward with the notice any sooner than this time. Nevertheless, corresponding appropriated funding must be completely allocated to the local grantees by the end of the fiscal year 2011. Please heed the urgency of this circumstance.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

Sincerely,

Shelley R. Poticha
Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities