

Many discretionary grant programs in ED use the generic application package (OMB #1894-0006) which allows programs to pick and choose the selection criteria for their grant competitions from among the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) selection criteria shown at 34 CFR 75.210.

The rest of the discretionary grant programs use program-specific application packages, cleared by OMB on a case-by-case basis, that require applicants to address specific selection criteria unique to the program, usually derived from program legislation or regulation. During the three-year period for which its specific application package is cleared, a program might need to substitute one or more of the EDGAR generic selection criteria, mentioned above, for one or more of the program-specific criteria contained in the package originally cleared by OMB.

These substitutions generally result in minor alteration in the burden hours imposed by the collection. But, having to re-clear an already approved application package for such actions would be unnecessarily time-consuming and counter-productive to the goal of administering application competitions in a timely and efficient manner.

This information clearance action seeks renewal of approval for an established expedited process to permit programs to make these criteria substitutions without having to submit a previously cleared application package for another review. It establishes a process for programs to submit an abbreviated list of items for an expedited 10-day review/approval process by OMB, without the need for a public comment period.

Although the process is used only used on an infrequent basis, it is an important tool for programs to have at hand for administering their grant competitions, should the need arise.