

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT
FOR PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION**

A. Justification

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Attach a copy of each statute and regulation mandating or authorizing the collection of information.

The College Access Challenge Grant Program (CACG) is authorized under Section 781 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. A copy of the authorizing statute is attached. CACG is a formula grant program that is designed to foster partnerships among Federal, State and local government and philanthropic organizations to increase access and completion of postsecondary education for low-income students.

Fifty states, five territories, Palau and the District of Columbia are eligible to receive funding under the CACG program. State agencies that are designated by the governor or chief executive of the state must submit an application each year funding is available under CACG. Applicants are required by statute to include information in the application, such as a description of the applicant's capacity to administer the grant, a plan for using grant funds, and proposed matching contributions. States must submit a viable plan to increase college access and completion for low-income students and a comprehensive outline of proposed expenditures.

This information collection is an extension of a currently approved application package for the CACG Program.

2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) will use applications submitted by agencies to determine if States are capable of implementing quality CACG grant projects, in accordance with statutory and regulatory requirements and if proposed budgets are allowable, allocable, and reasonable. Applications are also used as a basis for monitoring performance, assessing if substantial progress is being made in accomplishing goals and objectives of grant.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision of adopting this means of collection. Also describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden.

The CACG program will require applicants to submit applications electronically to an e-mail mailbox to minimize burden and costs associated with submission. This method of submission will allow ED staff to efficiently and expeditiously review applications to assess the quality of

programmatic and budgetary information. If an applicant cannot submit an application electronically, the applicant may seek a waiver in advance to submit the application by mail.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use of the purposes described in Item 2 above.

This information does not duplicate any other information collection effort. The information collection is relevant only to grant applications under the CACG program, which is a formula grant program. There is no similar information available in other forms or as the result of other information collections.

5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden.

The information collection does not affect small businesses or other small entities.

6. Describe the consequences to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.

Without the data collection, ED could not comply with the statutory requirements of the CACG program since it specifically requires States to submit a plan each year in order to receive funding. Data collection is conducted as infrequently as possible. Data is collected only when there are funds available to award.

7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner:

- Requiring respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly
- Requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it
- Requiring respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document
- Requiring respondents to retain records for more than three years
- In connection with a statistical survey, that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study
- Requiring use of a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB
- That includes a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge
- Requiring respondents to submit proprietary trade secrets, or other confidential information unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.

No special circumstances exist for the CACG program. Information collection will be conducted in a manner consistent with established guidelines.

8. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the agencies notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe any actions taken by the agency in response to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden. We will

ED will publish a Federal Register notice for which the general public will have 30- and 60-day periods to provide comments. ED will assess the validity of all comments and implement suggestions/ideas that enhance the quality of the application package.

9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

No payments or gifts to respondents have been made and none are planned or contemplated.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

There are no assurances of confidentiality.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. The justification should include the reasons why the agency considers these questions necessary; the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.

The data collection contains no questions of a sensitive nature.

12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information. The statement should:

- Indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated. Unless directed to do so, agencies should not conduct special surveys to obtain information on which to base hour burden estimates. Consultation with a sample (fewer than 10) of potential respondents is desirable. If the hour burden on respondents is expected to vary widely because of differences in activity, size or complexity, show the range of estimated hour burden, and explain the reasons for the variance. Generally, estimates should not include burden hours of customary and usual business practices.
- If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burdens in item 13 of OMB Form 83-1.
- Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents of the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories. The cost of

contracting out or paying outside parties for information collection activities should not be included here. Instead, this cost should be included in Item 14.

State Agencies:

Number of Respondents	Frequency of Response	Annual Hour Burden	Total Burden Hours	Wage Rate	Total Cost
57	Once a year	40	2,280	\$30/hour	\$68,400

Explanation:

Since fifty states, five territories, Palau and the District of Columbia are eligible to receive CACG funding and applied in 2010, ED estimates that 57 applicants will continue to apply for funding in subsequent years. The data collection occurs only in years in which funding is available to make new awards. The total burden hours for this year are 2,280. Fifty-seven applications x 40 hours to prepare application x \$30 per hour = \$68,400.

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers resulting from the collection of information. (Do not include the cost of any hour burden shown in Items 12 and 14.)

- The cost estimate should be split into two components: (a) a total capital and start-up cost component (annualized over its expected useful life); and (b) a total operation and maintenance and purchase of services component. The estimates should take into account costs associated with generating, maintaining, and disclosing or providing the information. Include descriptions of methods used to estimate major cost factors including system and technology acquisition, expected useful life of capital equipment, the discount rate(s), and the time period over which costs will be incurred. Capital and start-up costs include, among other items, preparations for collecting information such as purchasing computers and software; monitoring, sampling, drilling and testing equipment; and record storage facilities.
- If cost estimates are expected to vary widely, agencies should present ranges of cost burdens and explain the reasons for the variance. The cost of contracting our information collection services should be a part of this cost burden estimate. In developing cost burden estimates, agencies may consult with a sample of respondents (fewer than 10), utilize the 60-day pre-OMB submission public comment process and use existing economic or regulatory impact analysis associated with the rulemaking containing the information collection, as appropriate.
- Generally, estimates should not include purchases of equipment or services, or portions thereof, made (1) prior to October 1, 1995, (2) to achieve regulatory compliance with requirements not associated with the information collection, (3) for reasons other than to provide information or keep records for the government, or (4) as part of customary and usual business or private practices.

ED estimates that the total annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers resulting from the collection of information as follows:

There are no start-up costs involved with the CACG program.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government. Also, provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and support staff), and any other expense that would not have been incurred without the collection of information. Agencies also may aggregate cost estimates from Items 12, 13, and 14 in a single table.

ED estimates that the cost to the Federal government is as follows:

Operational Activities	Costs	Hours	Staff	Total Costs
Update application package	\$45	40	1	\$1,800
Prepare forms for OMB clearance	\$45	5	1	\$225
Provide technical assistance to prospective applicants	\$45	90	1	\$4,050
Review of applications	\$45	80	1	\$3,600
Process successful applications	\$45	40	1	\$1,800
				\$11,475

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB Form 83-1.

The new version of the information collection represents an adjustment of 40 burden hours since the number of respondents changed from 58 to 57.

This information collection is an extension of a currently approved application package for the CACG Program.

16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time

schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.

There are no plans for publication of this information.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.

ED plans to display the expiration date of the OMB approval of the information collection.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 20, "Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions", of OMB Form 83-1.

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.