



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

FEB 24 2011

OFFICE OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

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

Dear Mr. Rutledge,

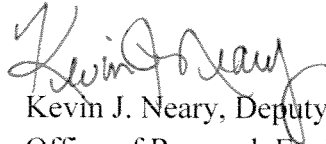
The Department is seeking emergency review of the Paperwork Reduction Act requirements for a new information collection which supports the *Homelessness Prevention Study*. Congress established the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), to provide resources to state and local governments to aid households at risk of homelessness maintain stable housing and to help those currently experiencing homelessness get back into permanent housing quickly. Through this program, HUD allocated \$1.5 billion to 535 government agency grantees to be spent over a three-year period. The *Homelessness Prevention Study*, which was recently funded by HUD, is designed to be an extensive process study of the homelessness prevention programs that have been established by communities using HPRP funds. 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 30 days from the date of this letter. The collection of this information is necessary because following the normal clearance procedures is reasonably likely to prevent or disrupt the collection of information or is reasonably likely to cause a statutory or court ordered deadline to be missed ( 5 CFR 1320.13 (2)(iii)). The ARRA-funded prevention programs that are the focus of this research effort are time-limited grant programs of only three years, and the majority of programs began operations in the late summer of 2009. Therefore, there is a limited window of time to observe and study these programs before they conclude in the summer of 2012. The recently enacted HEARTH Act will provide communities with the opportunity to dedicate more homeless assistance resources than ever before to homelessness prevention through the new Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program beginning in 2011, and the provision of guidance, best practices, and the development of evidence-based programs will be critical to the most efficient and effective use of this new funding stream for homelessness prevention.

The shortened processing period that we are requesting will help ensure that we maximize the opportunity to study the multitude of prevention programs that have been initiated under this unique program.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin J. Neary". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "K".

Kevin J. Neary, Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Office of Research Evaluation and Monitoring