



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

May 12, 2011

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

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

Dear Mr. Rutledge:

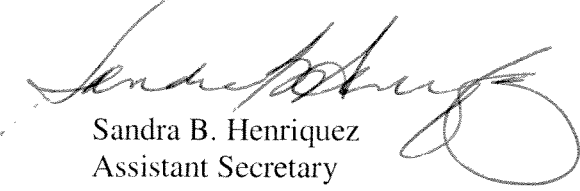
The Department is seeking emergency review of the Paperwork Reduction Act requirements for OMB 2577-0269. The Notice of Paperwork Submission (copy enclosed), explains the burden of the collection requirements.

The Choice Neighborhoods Initiative for FY 2011 is a program under section 24 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1437v), which includes authorization to collect information in order for HUD to award and manage grants. The Choice Neighborhoods initiative will revitalize neighborhoods and public and assisted projects into mixed-income neighborhoods by linking housing improvements with appropriate services. In compliance with the requirements of 5 CFR 1320.13, this letter requests emergency processing within 7 days from the date of this letter. The emergency clearance is needed to allow the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant program to align with the application process and timelines of other federal programs so that an effective place-based strategy can be developed at the State and local levels of government.

Additionally, Congress has indicated that it is unwilling to appropriate additional funds for the program if HUD cannot obligate funds by the end of Fiscal Year 2011. If HUD does not receive additional funds for the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, then HUD will be unable to continue with its mission of "creating strong, sustainable and inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all." The use of the normal clearance procedures is likely to prevent or disrupt the collection of information and is reasonably likely to cause the agency to miss a statutory deadline.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

Sincerely,


Sandra B. Henriquez
Assistant Secretary

Enclosure