



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-0050

APR 14 2011

Mr. Ross A. Rutledge
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 the form HUD-2995, Certification of Consistency and Nexus between Activities Proposed by the Applicant with Livability Principles Advanced in Preferred Sustainability Status Communities. This emergency review is required because without it the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) would be required to place a hold on its FY2011 Funding opportunities for over 20 grant programs.

HUD's funding opportunities encourage applicants to engage with Preferred Sustainable Status Communities agencies and receive bonus points in the competitions by obtaining the certification. Accordingly, HUD requires that eligible applicants submit form HUD-2995, as an attachment to HUD Federal Financial Assistance applications. This form requests applicants to obtain a certification from the Designated Point of Contact for a designated Preferred Sustainability Status Community using form HUD-2995, which verifies that the applicant has met the criteria. The form allows the appointed Preferred Sustainable Status Communities agent to certify the nexus between the proposed activities of the applicant and the Livability Principles as they are being advanced in the Preferred Sustainability Status Communities.

We are asking for the emergency clearance because HUD does not want to deprive agencies eligible to receive HUD funds the ability to apply for and receive these bonus points. HUD's placed-based sustainable communities goal is largely being carried out through the HUD competitive funding process. A delay in issuing HUD's funding notices places many staff at local agencies in jeopardy of having to be laid off, either on a temporary or a permanent basis. A delay in issuing the funding notices, and in the application processing, will also negatively impact the beneficiaries of HUD programs. HUD does not want to see this happen to the current staff, or to the people receiving the benefits from these HUD competitive programs.


The Notice of Paperwork Submission (copy enclosed) proposed for immediate *Federal Register* publication, explains the burden of the collection requirements and invites public comments.

In compliance with the requirements of 5 CFR 1320.13, this letter requests emergency processing within 7 days from the date of publication. This emergency processing is essential for the immediate implementation of Notice of HUD's Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Policy Requirements and General Section to HUD's FY2011 NOFAs for Discretionary Programs.

The emergency review will allow HUD to publish competitive funding notices; allow applicants to start their application development; and allow applicants to immediately request certifications from the Preferred Sustainable Status Communities. The emergency approval will enable HUD to make award announcements in time to meet local needs for timely receipt of funds.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Estelle B. Richman".

Estelle B. Richman
Chief Operating Officer

Enclosures