



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-7000

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

FEB 15 2013

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

Dear Mr. Fuchs:

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is seeking emergency review of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) requirements contained in the forthcoming *Federal Register* Notice "Allocations, Common Application, Waivers, and Alternative Requirements for Grantees receiving Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Disaster Recovery funds in response to Hurricane Sandy." 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 accordance with the Department's requirements, recipients of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds are required to submit a published Action Plan that describes how CDBG-DR funds will be used to meet their disaster recovery needs. Recipients are also required to submit an electronic Action Plan in the Disaster Recovery Grant Reporting (DRGR) system, which enables HUD staff to review proposed budgets, accomplishments and allows grantees to draw grant funds from the Treasury. The Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013, requires the Secretary to issue within 45 days of enactment a Notice to govern the CDBG-DR funds and to allocate at least one-third of the \$16 billion in appropriated funds within 60 days of enactment. Due to the urgency related to the Hurricane Sandy recovery, the Secretary has directed that grantees undertake an expedited grant application and DRGR setup process with a requirement that Action Plans be submitted no later than 90 days from the date of the publication of the Notice.


The Department anticipates the Notice will be published as early as February 15, 2013, thus rendering it impossible to comply with the standard PRA Collection review timeline. This emergency processing is requested to ensure the Department can implement the pre-award and funding process quickly, so that grantees can initiate their recovery activities in compliance with the shortened timeline directed by the Secretary. Recurring quarterly reporting and voucher submissions will be included as part of a revision to the existing DRGR PRA Collection (OMB # 2506-0165).



In compliance with the requirements of 5 CFR 1320.13, this letter requests emergency processing within 14 days from the date of the *Federal Register* publication of the Notice of Submission of Proposed Information Collection to OMB.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,


Mark Johnston
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Special Needs Programs

Enclosures

