



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION


OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 29, 2013

TO: Sharon Mar
OMB Desk Officer

THROUGH: Kathy Axt, ICCD

FROM: Alex Goniprow 
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management and Planning

SUBJECT: Impact Aid, Section 8002 Grant Application – Request for Emergency Clearance

Section 8002 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act authorizes a formula grant program designed to assist local educational agencies (LEAs) that have lost a portion of their local tax base used to fund schools due to Federal ownership of property. This request for an emergency clearance is for a revised grant application to collect data from all of the approximately 240 LEAs eligible to receive Section 8002 assistance. The full application package includes Tables 1 through 4, and will be used to collect data for applicants for fiscal year (FY) 2014 funds and subsequent years of funding. Applicants for FYs 2010 through 2013 funding will need to submit data on Tables 3 and 4 only in order for the Impact Aid Program (IAP) to calculate final payments for those years. We request approval of this information collection by April 5, 2013.

Background

The need for this expedited collection is a direct result of a statutory change included in Section 563 of the National Defense Appropriation Act of FY 2013 (P.L. 112-239, January 2, 2013). The revised statute alters the formula used to calculate payments under Section 8002 and thus reduces the information collection burden on applicants, with the goal of enabling the Department to make payments to LEAs more quickly. Previously, the formula took into consideration the “aggregate assessed value” of eligible federal property; the new formula takes into consideration the “estimated taxable value.”

Because the statutory change is retroactive for payments made in FY 2010 and after, the Impact Aid Program (IAP) must recalculate its payments to all eligible LEAs for FYs 2010-2013. The applications submitted for those years contain only part of the data required under the new formula. The previously-approved grant application asked for data regarding specific taxable

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parcels within the school district on Table 1, to calculate the aggregate assessed value of the eligible Federal property in accordance with the program regulations at 34 CFR § 222.23. P.L. 112-239 requires the IAP to calculate the estimated taxable value of the Federal property, which requires the total taxable value of lands within the boundaries of the LEA, the size of the LEA in acres, and a single tax rate, as opposed to multiple tax rates for different types of property.

In order to collect the data that the new formula requires, we request approval for an updated FY 2014 grant application for awards to be made in fall 2013. In the FY 2014 application, we have revised Tables 3 and 4, streamlined Table 1 to remove unnecessary data elements, and made minor clarifying changes to Table 2. In addition, IAP requests to use the revised Tables 3 and 4 to collect data from FYs 2010 through 2013 applicants as soon as possible.

Time-Sensitivity of Request

Because the statutory changes are retroactive, IAP must recalculate and distribute payments quickly. For FY 2013 and FY 2014 funds, LEAs rely on receiving timely payments in order to meet budgetary obligations, as Impact Aid is not a forward-funded program. Thus it is particularly time-sensitive that these data are collected quickly so that we can send out payments to LEAs. Additionally, many of the LEAs eligible for Section 8002 assistance are small, rural school districts with vacation days and limited office hours during the summer months, so it is important that we request and collect the data during spring 2013. We would like to collect data on Tables 3 and 4 for FYs 2010 through 2013 by opening data collection for 30 days, ending no later than May 15, 2013, so that these small LEAs will be able to respond. We therefore seek emergency clearance in order to be able to publish the revised tables in the first weeks of April. We plan to make the full, revised FY 2014 application package available through the Department's G5 website in August and September, when school district offices resume normal working hours. This will enable the Department to start making FY 2014 payments as soon as possible after funds are allocated.

The Department has received several letters from members of Congress identifying the timely processing of Section 8002 payments as a priority for their LEA constituents. Due to the urgency of distributing this application form and collecting the required information to make payments dating back to FY 2010, we are requesting an OMB emergency clearance of the revised Section 8002 application. Thank you for your consideration and support of this initiative. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Marilyn Hall at 202-260-3858.