



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

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT

October 30, 2013

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

Dear Patrick:

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

Under the Promise Zone initiative, multiple federal agencies will partner with high-poverty urban, rural, and tribal communities to create jobs, increase economic activity, improve educational opportunities, leverage private investment, and reduce violent crime. No funding will be conferred directly to a community with the designation. Rather, preference points under federal funding competitions for relevant programs and technical assistance will come with designations. Tax incentives for employers investing near Promise Zones and hiring Zone residents are proposed, but not yet enacted by Congress.

The selection of communities to be designated as Promise Zones in 2013 is being conducted as a demonstration pursuant to section 7(d) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act, and following a process meeting the requirements of Section 470(a) of the Housing and Urban-Rural Recovery Act of 1983 (42 U.S.C. 3542).

In compliance with the requirements of 5 CFR 1320.13, the Department requests emergency clearance procedures due to the unexpected event of the partial government shut-down, which prevented the publication of the second Federal Register notice and consideration of comment during the period beginning October 1 and ending October 16, 2013. The initial publication and almost all of the 60-day comment period were completed by October 1. The Department requests that the second Federal Register notice and 30-day comment period be waived as part of emergency processing. This action will enable the Department to provide prospective applicants with final application materials within a reasonable amount of time before the application deadline. The use of the normal clearance procedures will require an applicant response time of less than the Department's minimum standard of 30 days, or cause the Department to miss committed milestones for the Promise Zone initiative. A shorter applicant response time could increase the burden or decrease the quality of applications, and missed milestones could negatively affect the evaluation of the initiative for future years.

The Department has committed to continual public outreach to respond to any questions with the application, has established a dedicated e-mail address for receiving public comment (~~promisezone@hud.gov~~), and has responded to specific public comments both by responding to the individual and by updating a Frequently Asked Questions document on the HUD website.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Valerie Piper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Valerie Piper
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Development

cc: Carol Galante
Assistant Secretary
Office of Housing Commissioner, Federal Housing Administration

Sandra B. Henriquez
Assistant Secretary, Public and Indian Housing

Enclosure