



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION


OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUL 17 2014

TO: Sharon Mar
OMB Desk Officer

THROUGH: Tomakie Washington
Privacy, Information and Records Management Services
Information Collection Clearance Division
U.S. Department of Education

FROM: Alex Goniprow 
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management and Planning
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
U.S. Department of Education

SUBJECT: Emergency OMB Clearance Request for the Preschool Development Programs
Application Packages

Background

The U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Departments) plan to issue notices inviting applications for the new discretionary Preschool Development Grants program authorized under sections 14005 and 14006, of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) (Pub. L. 111-5), as amended by section 1832(b) of Division B of the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (Pub. L. 112-10), the Department of Education Appropriations Act, 2012 (Title III of Division F of Pub. L. 112-74, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012), and the Department of Education Appropriations Act, 2014 (Title III of Division H of Pub. L. 113-76, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014).

Under the Preschool Development Grants competitions, all States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico will be eligible to apply for one of two proposed types of grants: Development Grants and Expansion Grants. States with small or no State-funded preschool programs will be eligible to apply for Development Grants, and states with established preschool programs will be eligible to apply for Expansion Grants.

Emergency Request

The notices inviting applications for these competitions contain collection activities covered under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). The activities consist of new applications States will

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submit to the Departments to apply for FY 2014 funds. Each application requests: (1) narratives to respond to the selection criteria for all selection criteria; (2) specific evidence that will support the narrative for some of the selection criteria; (3) data tables to provide information for some selection criteria; and (4) performance measures including baseline data and annual targets for key outcomes the State will deliver over the term of the grant for several selection criteria. The applications have many common elements, with a few different criteria related to the specific nature of each type of applicant (Development or Expansion).

Pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.13, the Departments are requesting that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) clear the applications on an emergency basis. The funds for this program expire on December 31, 2014; therefore if we followed the standard clearance process there would not be enough time to get approval of the application packages, hold a competition, and make awards.

These application packages do not use the Departments' standard forms so the applications are not eligible to use the streamlined process for discretionary grant applications. Without an emergency request the clearance process would take up to 150 days, causing financial harm to the public and missing the statutory deadline to disperse funds by December 31, 2014. The Departments request that OMB clear these information requests on the same date that OMB gives the Departments approval to publish the notices inviting applications.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of my request. If you have questions, please contact Rebecca Marek of the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education at Rebecca.Marek@ed.gov or 202-260-0968.