



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

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

JUN 17 2015

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

Dear Mr. Nye:

The Department requests an emergency review of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) requirements for the “Department of Justice and Department of Housing and Urban Development Pay for Success Permanent Supportive Housing Demonstration for Individuals Recidivating between Jail and Homelessness Application” (Request). The Notice of Paperwork Submission (copy enclosed), submitted for immediate *Federal Register* publication, explains the burden of the collection requirements and invites public comments. This program is supported by the information collection for the Pay for Success (PFS) Demonstration (OMB control number pending).

The emergency processing is requested to ensure that this innovative PFS Demonstration can proceed on an expedited schedule. The information gathered through the application is essential for the Department to fairly and expeditiously review and score applicants based on their experience, expertise, and proposed PFS activities.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Pub.L. 113-76) and the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Pub. L. 113-235) authorized the Department of Justice (DOJ) to make available \$10,000,000 for PFS programs implementing the Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) model. DOJ and HUD entered into an interagency agreement, which required extensive time and coordination, designating HUD as the agency responsible for implementing the PFS Demonstration.

In 2010, the Obama Administration released *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*¹, in which federal partners set goals to end veteran and chronic homelessness by 2015, and end family and youth homelessness by 2020. On a single night in January 2014, there were 49,993 homeless veterans and 84,291 chronically homeless individuals in the United States². The reality of budget cuts and limited resources pushed back the *Opening Doors* goal of ending chronic homelessness to 2017, stressing communities’ critical need for PSH.

The need for housing and services required to meet the *Opening Doors* goals exceeds the resources available. Therefore, it is essential for communities to immediately secure alternate and innovative funding approaches for interventions that work, such as PSH. The PFS Demonstration will serve two important functions by first, targeting two priority subpopulations: veterans and

¹ United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, June 2010

² The 2014 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, October 2014

individuals experiencing chronic homelessness; and second, providing communities with high rates of chronic homelessness with alternate funding to narrow the gap between need and available resources.

The collection of information necessary to implement the PFS Demonstration is essential to HUD's mission of reducing and ending homelessness as well as furthering priorities of the Obama Administration. In addition to advancing progress towards the goals of *Opening Doors*, the PFS Demonstration is carrying out President Obama's vision for building a smarter, more effective government. PFS is a promising strategy for scaling programs that work and enhancing the return on taxpayer dollars in new, measurable ways. It is one prominent way the Obama Administration is working to build a smarter, more innovative government for the American people. The prioritization of PFS is evidenced by President Obama's FY 2014 and FY 2015 Budgets, in which the President proposed investment in PFS totaling nearly \$500 million and \$382 million, respectively.

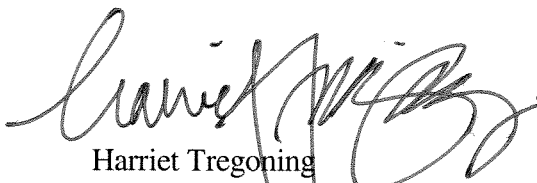
PSH using a Housing First model is an evidenced-based practice known to consistently affect positive outcomes for people with long histories of homelessness and chronic disabilities. When assisted with permanent housing and supportive services, people with the most severe medical and behavioral health problems, including those with long criminal histories, show significant decreases in homelessness, arrests, hospitalization, and emergency room visits. This funding opportunity is President Obama's and Congress' recognition of the significant needs that remain to help break the cycle of homelessness and incarceration by providing permanent supportive housing to those who need it most.

The use of normal clearance procedures is likely to result in significant delays to program implementation, which will result in chronically homeless individuals and families suffering the effects of homelessness when they could otherwise be housed. Because of the critical nature of the PFS Demonstration, the collection of information for this program is needed prior to the expiration of time periods established under 5 CFR Part 1320.

In compliance with the requirements of 5 CFR 1320.13, this letter requests emergency processing within 7 days from the date of the *Federal Register* publication of the Notice of Submission of Proposed Information Collection to OMB. This emergency processing is essential to provide much needed funding for projects serving America's most vulnerable population.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Harriet Tregoning
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Community Planning and Development