



Rural Development

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Rural Housing Service

SUBJECT: Request for Emergency Approval of a New Information Collection
Request for Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training
Grant Rule

Rural Development (RD) is requesting emergency review and approval of a new information collection including approval to use a new form, RD 3570-4 to collect this information. This new information collection addresses application and reporting requirements for the Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant rule published on January 14, 2016. This rule implements a new grant program, authorized under Section 6006 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill), for projects that support providing technical assistance in developing essential community facility projects.

We are requesting emergency approval because RD will not be able to implement this new grant program including the associated notice of solicitation of applications in Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, as the use of normal clearance procedures is likely to prevent or disrupt the collection of information from applicants to submit the new form with their application prior to the obligation deadline of June 30, 2016. In order to obligate new grants prior to June 30th, the collection of new information along with the new form must be submitted to the RD by May 15, 2016. The 60 day notice for comments is embedded in the rule. Due to the need to consider comments received and then issue another notice for the Federal Register for an additional thirty days of comment, RD would not be able to complete the information collection process before the deadline for applicants to participate in the new grant program in FY 2016.

RD considers it imperative to begin processing applications this fiscal year for projects that support technical assistance and training projects. The Technical Assistance and Training Grant program being implemented through the new rule is an important priority to this Administration and the Secretary of Agriculture.

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To effectively implement the Technical Assistance and Training Grant rule in FY 2016, RD is requesting OMB approve this information collection, including the use of the new form, by February 15, 2016. Please note that after the 60 day comment period closes we will submit the collection package for a 3 year approval addressing any comments received.

In compliance with OMB regulations (5 CFR Part 1320), which implements the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), the information collection and recordkeeping requirements that may be imposed by this section are submitted to OMB for emergency review and approval.

Attached are the Supporting Statement and spreadsheet, as well as the new form, RD Form 3570-4, Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant Agreement.