

**Supporting Statement  
Faculty Loan Repayment Program (FLRP) Application  
OMB Control No. 0915-0150 - Revision**

**Terms of Clearance:** None

**A. Justification**

**1. Circumstances of Making the Collection of Information Necessary**

This is a revision request of the Office of Management and Budget for continued approval of the information collection requirements and application form for the FLRP under OMB Control No. 0915-0150 expiring August 30, 2021. Responsibility for the FLRP program resides in the Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The FLRP is governed by section 738(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293b). The purpose of the FLRP is to recruit individuals from an economically and environmentally disadvantaged background who have a health professions degree or certificate to serve as faculty members in eligible, accredited health professions schools by offering to make payments on qualifying education loan(s). The FLRP is administered to those individuals available to serve as full-time or part-time faculty members.

In exchange, the health professional agrees to have an employment commitment with an eligible health professions school to serve as a full-time or part-time faculty member for a minimum of 2 years. Loan repayment agreements are approved by the Secretary for eligible undergraduate and graduate health professional educational loans incurred with government or commercial lending institutions.

All FLRP application information and forms are electronic and are used to determine the applicants' eligibility and the verification of existing undergraduate and/or graduate health professional educational loans.

This collection of information is necessary to enable HRSA to respond to The President's Management Agenda, which calls for government reform that is citizen-centric, results-oriented and market-based and requires agencies to participate in e-Government initiatives that provide high quality customer service, provide citizens with readier access to government services, increase access for persons with disabilities to agency Websites and make government more transparent and accountable (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2002/mgmt.pdf>).

***For this revision request, a Disadvantaged Background (DB) form has been included in the FLRP application. FLRP applicants are required to provide certification from a health professions school previously attended that identifies the individual as coming from an economically or environmentally disadvantaged background. In the past, applicants provided this information in varying formats so the DB form is not requesting new information from FLRP applicants. The form will allow an easier method for applicants to convey their DB***

*status and will standardize the collection of information. The information collected will be used to evaluate applicants' rank and tier in the FLRP award process.*

## **2. Purpose and Use of Information**

The applicant completes and submits an electronic application that identifies for the Secretary that the applicant comes from an economically or environmentally disadvantaged background who has a contract with an eligible health professions school to serve as a full-time or part-time faculty member for a minimum of 2 years and has qualifying outstanding educational loans. In addition, for each undergraduate and/or graduate loan for which repayment is sought, the applicant is required to submit loan documentation verifying the establishment of the educational loan(s) and lender account statements, promissory notes including the original date, and current balance of the outstanding educational loan(s). After a thorough review of all applications, participants are selected.

The information is needed to determine applicants are in compliance with requirements of the FLRP contract and that the evidence submitted is satisfactory to the Secretary before entering into an agreement for repayment of undergraduate and/or graduate health professions loans.

The terms and conditions for participating in the FLRP are set forth in the contract between the individual and the Secretary. In addition, the contract includes the relevant statute authorizing the administration of the FLRP.

## **3. Use of Improved Information Technology**

Currently all FLRP materials are available on the Internet. FLRP Application and Program Guidance and application materials have been integrated into a website for easier access by the public. Program staff members are available to answer inquiries via telephone and e-mail. The website provides the purpose and goal of the program. The program overview, eligibility and employer requirements are featured as well as Frequently Asked Questions. The FLRP materials are easily accessible 24-hours a day. During the application cycle, the application can also be accessed from the website listed below.

FLRP Website: <https://bhw.hrsa.gov/loansscholarships/flrp>

## **4. Efforts to Identify Duplication**

The information requested in the application is specific to the applicant and unique to the FLRP.

## **5. Impact of Small Businesses or Other Small Entities**

No small businesses will be involved in this study.

## **6. Consequences of Collecting the Information Less Frequently**

The FLRP requests the information once from each applicant. Without this information, the Program would be unable to determine the applicant's eligibility. There are no legal obstacles to reduce the burden.

## **7. Special Circumstances Relating to the Guidelines of 5 CFR 1320.5(d)(2)**

This request fully complies with the regulation.

## **8. Comments in Response to the Federal Register Notice/Outside Consultation**

A 60-day Federal Register Notice was published in the *Federal Register* on October 6, 2020, Vol. 85, No. 194; pp. 63120-63121. There were no public comments.

Section 8B:

This program has consulted with five (5) individuals to obtain constructive feedback to improve the application, improve efficiency, and minimize the collection burden. The comments on clarity of the application and forms were positive. The applicants found the application instructions and materials to be clear and straightforward. There were no suggestions for improvement.

## **9. Explanation of Any Payment/Gift to Respondents**

Respondents will not receive any payments or gifts.

## **10. Assurance of Confidentiality Provided to Respondents**

Data will be kept private to the extent allowed by law. The Right to Financial Privacy Act (RFPA), Pub. L. 95-630, regulates any financial institution that provides a Federal agency with access to information contained in the financial records of a customer. Section 1102(a) prohibits government access to financial records unless one of five procedures is used and the records are "reasonably described." The procedure being used by FLRP requires the applicant to submit loan documentation that verifies the establishment of the loan(s) and lender statement(s), which identifies the current loan balance(s), verifies the applicant's address and provides the applicant's Social Security Number. All applicants must comply with this requirement.

A Privacy Act Notification Statement is included on the FLRP website which describes the purpose of the information collection and the potential disclosures. A Privacy Act System of Records, #09-15-0058, have been established for the FLRP, HHS/HRSA/BHW.

## **11. Justification for Sensitive Questions**

Questions regarding race and ethnicity are asked in the online application; however, responses to these questions are optional. The disclosure of the applicant's Social Security Number (SSN) is required by section 4 of the Debt Collection Act of 1982 (26 U.S.C. 6103) and the applicant

provides this information on the lender statement(s). The disclosure of the Social Security Number is required for participation in the program, since the amounts repaid to lenders must be reported to the Internal Revenue Service as "other income" on IRS Form 1099. Safeguards are followed concerning the use of the SSN in the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a note).

## **12. A. Estimates of Annualized Burden Hours**

<b>Type of Respondent</b>	<b>Form Name</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>No. Responses per Respondent</b>	<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>Average Burden per Response (in hours)</b>	<b>Total Burden Hours</b>
<b>Applicant</b>	Eligible Applications	186	1	186	1	186
<b>Institution</b>	Institution/ Loan Repayment Employment Form	186*	1	186	1	186
<b>Applicant</b>	Authorization to Release Information Form	186	1	186	.25	46.5
<b>Institution</b>	Disadvantaged Background Form	186	1	186	.20	37.2
<b>Total</b>		744		744		455.70

\*Respondent for this form is the institution for the applicant.

Burden estimates were derived from information provided by applicants and institutions completing the required application package and forms. The application and employment forms require 1 hour each to complete. Authorization to Release Information required 15 minutes to complete or .25 hour. The Disadvantaged Background Form required 12 minutes to complete or .20 hour. The hour-burden estimates include the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

## **12. B. Estimated Annualized Burden Costs**

<b>Type of Respondent</b>	<b>Total Burden Hours</b>	<b>Hourly Wage Rate**</b>	<b>Total Respondent Costs</b>
<b>***Mid-level administrator</b>	24	\$58.47	\$1403.28
<b>Mid-level Health Care Professional</b>	43	58.47	\$2514.21
<b>Total</b>	67		\$3917.49

\*The Mid-level Health Care Professional total burden hours totals 43 since the same respondent is completing the online application and the authorization to release forms.

\*\*\*Respondent for this form is the institution for the applicant.

\*\* Based on the following: <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes251071.htm>

**13. Estimates of other Total Annual Cost Burden to Respondents or Record Keepers/Capital Costs**

Other than their time, there is no cost to respondents.

**14. Estimates of Annualized Estimates of Annualized Cost to the Government**

Instrument	Base Pay Rate	Project Time per FTE	Number of FTEs	Total Annual Cost
FLRP	\$94,970/ GS-12 Step 4	.15	10	\$142,455.00
FLRP Online Application Contract	\$ 58,917.28	.....	.....	\$ 58,917.28
Total	.....	.....	.....	\$201,372.28

Base Pay Rate based on the Office of Personnel Management Pay Scale: (<https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/salary-tables/pdf/2020/DCB.pdf>)

The annual cost to the government is approximately \$58,917.28 for the contract costs for the online application system and \$142,455.00 for 10 GS-12 Step 4 employees at a .15 FTE rate to process the applications and facilitate team members in the loan repayment process.

**15. Explanation for Program Changes or Adjustments**

The estimated total burden for this activity is approximately 456 hours with the current burden hour inventory being 250. This is due to an increase in estimated responses and the addition of the DB form to this information collection request.

**16. Plans for Tabulation, Publication, and Project Time Schedule**

There are no plans for the tabulation, statistical analysis or publication of the information.

**17. Reason(s) Display of OMB Expiration Date is Inappropriate**

The OMB number and expiration date will be displayed on every page of every form/instrument.

**18. Exceptions to Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions**

This project fully complies with the guidelines set forth in 5 CFR 1320.9. The required certifications are included in this package.

**List of Instruments**

FLRP Online Application User Guide

Authorization to Release Information Form

Institution Employment/Loan Repayment Verification Form

Disadvantaged Background Form

**List of Attachments**

Attachment A: Authorizing Legislation and Regulations

Attachment B: Application and Program Guidance

Attachment C: FLRP Contract Form