



1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 2055-S, STOP 0201
Washington, D.C. 20250-0201

TO: Elyse Greenwald
Desk Officer
Office of Management and Budget

THROUGH: Levi S. Harrell
Departmental Clearance Officer
Office of the Chief Information Officer

FROM: Erin Morris
Associate Administrator

SUBJECT: Request for Emergency Review and Approval for a New Information Collection Request

We are requesting emergency review and approval of an information collection package for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to administer a new competitive grant program, titled the Meat and Poultry Interstate Shipment and Inspection Readiness Program (ISIRP), authorized and funded under section 764 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA) (Pub. L. 116-260) in response to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The agency cannot reasonably comply with the normal clearance procedures under the PRA due to the public harm that is reasonably likely to result due to the supply chain risks in meat and poultry processing systems in the United States caused by the unanticipated COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has created a new level of demand on the local meat industry stressing businesses to tradeoff between profits and costly measures to manage public health risks. ISIRP is intended to provide Federal assistance in response to this urgent need. This new grant program will help bolster meat processing capacity across the country and support small to mid-size businesses increase their capability to process backlogged livestock, while maintaining the stringent food safety standards consumers expect in response to COVID-19.

The CAA authorized the appropriation of \$60 million in fiscal year (FY) 2021 through 2023, until expended. It directs the Secretary of Agriculture “to competitively awards funds to meat and poultry slaughter and processing facilities to assist such facilities with respect to costs incurred in making improvements to such facilities and carrying out other planning activities necessary to obtain Federal inspection and allow for interstate shipment.” Grants will be awarded in the amount of \$200,000 dollars and award recipients are required to provide non-Federal matching funds in an amount equal to the amount of the grant (i.e., \$1:\$1). However, the statute stipulates that a recipient who is awarded a grant in fiscal year 2021 is exempt from providing matching funds. Thus, we are also requesting emergency processing of this collection because the use of normal clearance procedures is reasonable likely to cause AMS to miss the statutory deadline to waive the matching requirement (i.e., September 30, 2021). It is our intent to align with the legislation and waive the FY 2021 match requirement for ISIRP grant awards, which

will minimize the burden on small and mid-size businesses that have been hit especially hard during the pandemic.

ISIRP is voluntary and respondents will either request or apply for this specific competitive grant program. In doing so, they provide information, and AMS is the primary user of the information. The information collected is needed to certify that grant participants are complying with applicable program regulations in section 764 of the CAA and in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Guidance on Grants and Agreements (2 CFR part 200). The data collected is the minimum information necessary for AMS to effectively carry out the program requirements and to provide the respondents the type of service they request to address supply chain resiliency and efficiency affected by the pandemic.

In compliance with OMB regulations (5 C.F.R. Part 1320) which implement the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), the information collection and recordkeeping requirements that may be imposed by this action are submitted to OMB for emergency review and approval. The additional reporting requirements would not become effective prior to OMB review. Once approved the collection will be merged with OMB No. 0581-0240, AMS Grant Programs.

Attached are the OMB 83-I, the Supporting Statement, and AMS-71 spreadsheet.