



United States Department of Agriculture

May 17, 2021

TO: Austin Mudd
Senior Desk Officer
Office of Management and Budget

THROUGH: Levi Harrell
USDA Information Collection Officer

FROM: Michele Brooks
Director, Regulations Management Division
Innovation Center, Rural Development, USDA

SUBJECT: Request for Emergency Approval of a New Information Collection Request for the Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) grant program

The Rural Business-Cooperative Service of the Rural Development (RD) Mission Area (Agency) within the United States Department of Agriculture, is requesting emergency review and approval of a new information collection for the Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) final rule with comment. The Agency is requesting emergency approval by May 28, 2021.

The rule will become effective upon publication in the Federal Register and allow the Agency to implement the RISE program as authorized by Section 6424 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-34). Therefore, in order to ensure that any Information Collection and Recordkeeping activities are approved on the effective date, RD is requesting emergency approval of the new information collection in coordination with OMB clearance of the associated rulemaking. Use of the normal clearance procedures is likely to prevent or disrupt the collection of information from borrowers and proper servicing of borrowers. Appropriated funding for the program will expire on September 30, 2021. In order to announce funding and review applications to obligated funds by September 30, the agency must publish the rule in early June 2021.

The 60-day notice for comments is included in the final rule and comments on the RISE information collection request is requested in order to submit the regular request to obtain a 3-year approval from OMB after receiving the 6-month OMB emergency approval. Due to the need to consider comments received and then issue another notice for the *Federal Register* for an additional thirty days of comment, the Agencies would not be able to complete the information collection process before the regulation will go into effect, which would hinder the program

processing and servicing. Please note that after the 60-day comment period closes, the Agencies 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 for the regulation.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Michele Brooks, Director, Regulations Management Division, Innovation Center, Rural Development by telephone at (202) 690-1078 or by email at Michele.Brooks@usda.gov or Lauren Cusick, Branch Chief, Regulations Management Division, Innovation Center, Rural Development by telephone at (202) 720-1414 or by email at Lauren.Cusick@usda.gov.

Thank you in advance for your quick review and response to us.

Attachments