



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

February 19, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Lindsay Abate
Office of Management and Budget Desk Officer

FROM: Michelle Asha Cooper, Ph.D.
Acting Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education

RE: Change Request for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) (a)(2) Certification and Agreement (1840-0843)

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) (P.L. 116-260), enacted on December 27, 2020, provided \$22.7 billion for assistance to institutions of higher education (IHEs) under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). Section 314(a)(2) of CRRSAA authorizes the Secretary to make additional awards under parts A and B of title III, parts A and B of title V, and subpart 4 of part A of title VII of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (“HEA”), to address needs directly related to the coronavirus. In order for the U.S. Department of Education (Department) to award these funds, the Department is requesting that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) consider a change request to the approved HEERF (a)(2) certification and agreement (1840-0843). If this request is not approved, the Department will not be able to award these funds as required by CRRSAA.

On April 30, 2020, under procedures established by 5 CFR 1320, OMB granted the Department emergency approval of a HEERF (a)(2) certification and agreement in order to process awards authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Since that time, ED has published 60-day and 30-day notices seeking public comment on the collection. On December 8, 2020, OMB approved this collection for use through December 2023.

The changes proposed by the Department will modify the approved certification to meet the requirements of Section 314(a)(2) of CRRSAA. The revised certification will be used only by IHEs that did not receive funding under Section 18004(a)(2) of the CARES Act to request such funding under Section 314(a)(2) of CRRSAA, estimated to be 63 institutions. (IHEs that received such funding under the CARES Act will receive CRRSAA funding as supplements and will not be required to provide any additional information to the Department beyond that which is already on file.) In order to account for the certification, as well as subsequent reporting required by CRRSAA (similar to that required by the CARES Act), the Department has estimated five burden hours per respondent.

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If this change request is not approved, these emergency funds would be delayed. Therefore, the Department is requesting approval of this change request no later than February 26, 2021 in order to issue the notice inviting applications and process awards in a timely manner.