



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-8000

Ms. Rita Young
OMB Desk Officer
Office of Management and Budget
New Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Ms. Young:

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is seeking an emergency review of the Paperwork Reduction Act requirements for the Housing Counseling Program. The Notices of Paperwork Submission (copies enclosed), proposed for immediate *Federal Register* publication, explains the burden of the collection requirements and invites public comment on them. This is a new information collection.

In compliance with the requirements of 5 CFR 1320.13, this letter requests emergency processing within 14 days from the date of publication. HUD has historically been required to obligate housing counseling grants within 180 days of Congress's enactment of appropriation act; and due to unforeseen administrative delays, this emergency review is needed to fulfill Congress's intent for the Housing Counseling Program to expeditiously provide housing counseling grant funds to support delivery of housing counseling services. This emergency review is necessary because the use of normal clearance procedures is reasonably likely to prevent or disrupt the collection of information that is needed to ensure proper collection of data in response to our FY 2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) that is currently progressing through departmental clearance and will be published within the next 30 days or less. The emergency review is also necessary so that HUD-participating agencies may continue to provide housing counseling services to families facing financial hardship including those seeking assistance in preventing rental eviction or mortgage default as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

Sincerely,

David Berenbaum

David L. Berenbaum
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Housing Counseling

Enclosures

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