

(202) 720-9639. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Karama Neal,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

[Docket No. RHS-22-SFH-0009]

Notice of Request for Revision of Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, Department of Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the USDA Rural Housing Service (RHS) invites comments on this information collection for the Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) Program, which approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will be requested.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by July 15, 2022.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pamela Bennett, Regulations Management Division, Innovation Center, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Email: pamela.bennett@usda.gov. Telephone: (202) 720-9639.

For program inquires, contact Mandy Couture, Finance and Loan Analyst, Single Family Housing Direct Loan Division, Special Programs and Initiatives Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Email: mandy.couture@usda.gov. Telephone (515) 418-2188.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget's regulation (5 CFR 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) requires that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice identifies an information collection that the Agency is submitting to OMB for revision.

Comments are invited on (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including

the validity of the methodology and assumption used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques on other forms and information technology.

Comments may be sent by the Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and, in the "Search" box, type in the Docket No. RHS-22-SFH-0009. A link to the Notice will appear. You may submit a comment here by selecting the "Comment" button or you can access the "Docket" tab, select the "Notice," and go to the "Browse & Comment on Documents" tab. Here you may view comments that have been submitted as well as submit a comment. To submit a comment, select the "Comment" button, complete the required information, and select the "Submit Comment" button at the bottom. Information on using *Regulations.gov*, including instructions for accessing documents, submitting comments, and viewing the docket after the close of the comment period, is available through the site's "FAQ" link at the bottom.

Title: 7 CFR Part 1944-N Housing Preservation Grants.

OMB Control Number: 0575-0115.

Expiration Date of Approval: November 30, 2022.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The primary purpose of the HPG Program is to repair or rehabilitate individual housing, rental properties, or co-ops owned or occupied by very low- and low-income rural persons. Grantees will provide eligible homeowners, owners of rental properties and owners of co-ops with financial assistance through loans, grants, interest reduction payments or other comparable financial assistance for necessary repairs and rehabilitation of dwellings to bring them up to code or minimum property standards. Where repair and rehabilitation assistance are not economically feasible or practical the replacement of existing, individual owner-occupied housing is available.

The Rural Housing Amendments of 1983 amended the Housing Act of 1949 by adding Section 533 (12 U.S.C. 1490m). The program is implemented at 7 CFR part 1944, subpart N. In addition, the Secretary of Agriculture has authority to prescribe rules and regulations to implement the HPG and other programs under 42 U.S.C. S 1480G. Section 533(d) is prescriptive

about the information applicants are to submit to RHS as part of their application and in the assessments and criteria RHS is to use in selecting grantees. An applicant is to submit a "statement of activity" describing its proposed program, including the specific activities it will undertake, and its schedule. RHS is required in turn to evaluate proposals on a set of prescribed criteria, for which the applicant will also have to provide information, such as: (1) Very low- and low-income persons proposed to be served by the repair and rehabilitation activities; (2) participation by other public and private organizations to leverage funds and lower the cost to the HPG program; (3) the areas to be served in terms of population and need; (4) Cost data to assure greatest degree of assistance at lowest cost; (5) administrative capacity of the applicant to carry out the program. The information collected will be the minimum required by law and by necessity for RHS to assure that it funds responsible grantees proposing feasible projects in areas of greatest need. Most data are taken from a localized area, although some are derived from census reports of city, county and Federal governments showing population and housing characteristics.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .85 hours per response.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 11,045 hours.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,083.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 6.21.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Pamela Bennett, Rural Development Innovation Center, Regulations Management Division, at (202) 720-9639. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

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Joaquin Altoro,

Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

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