

regulations are issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed authorization is provided to the public for review.

An incidental take authorization shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth.

NMFS has defined “negligible impact” in 50 CFR 216.103 as an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival.

The MMPA states that the term “take” means to harass, hunt, capture, kill or attempt to harass, hunt, capture, or kill any marine mammal.

Except with respect to certain activities not pertinent here, the MMPA defines “harassment” as: any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance, which (i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (Level A harassment); or (ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (Level B harassment).

### Summary of Request

On September 14, 2022, NMFS received an application from the Navy requesting authorization for take of marine mammals incidental to construction activities related to demolition and construction activities associated with the replacement of the Q8 bulkhead at Naval Station Norfolk. Following NMFS’ review of the application, the Navy provided responses to our questions on December 15, 2023. A revised version of the application was submitted on January 5, 2024 and the application was deemed adequate and complete on February 23, 2024. The requested regulations would be valid for 5-years, from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2029. The Navy plans to conduct necessary work, including vibratory pile driving and removal and impact pile driving to remove aging components of the bulkhead and replacing the tongue and groove sheet piles between Piers 11 and 14 and areas to the north of Pier 14. The proposed action may incidentally expose marine mammals occurring in

the vicinity to elevated levels of underwater sound, potentially resulting in incidental take, by Level B harassment. Therefore, the Navy requests an authorization to incidentally take marine mammals.

### Specified Activities

The Navy is proposing to remove old components of the Q8 bulkhead at Naval Station Norfolk and replace those with new to maintain the use and lifespan of the bulkhead from Pier 11 to the northern jetty just past Pier 14. Work would be conducted over three phases. The entire project scope includes the removal of 378 existing piles from the old bulkhead and installation of 836 piles to construct the new bulkhead structure. The Navy expects construction will require approximately 212 in-water workdays over the 5-year period.

### Information Sought

Interested persons may submit information, suggestions, and comments concerning the Navy’s request (see **ADDRESSES**). NMFS will consider all information, suggestions, and comments related to the request during the development of proposed regulations governing the incidental taking of marine mammals by the Navy, if appropriate.

Dated: March 11, 2024.

**Kimberly Damon-Randall,**

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2024–05465 Filed 3–13–24; 8:45 am]

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## CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU

[Docket No. CFPB–2024–0011]

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) is requesting the revision of the Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB’s) approval for an existing information collection titled, “Regulation F: Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, State Application for Exemption,” approved under OMB Control Number 3170–0056.

**DATES:** Written comments are encouraged and must be received on or

before May 13, 2024 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by the title of the information collection, OMB Control Number (see below), and docket number (see above), by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- *Email:* [PRA\\_Comments@cfpb.gov](mailto:PRA_Comments@cfpb.gov). Include Docket No. CFPB–2024–0011 in the subject line of the email.

- *Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier:* Comment Intake, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (Attention: PRA Office), 1700 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20552. Because paper mail in the Washington, DC area and at the CFPB is subject to delay, commenters are encouraged to submit comments electronically.

Please note that comments submitted after the comment period will not be accepted. In general, all comments received will become public records, including any personal information provided. Sensitive personal information, such as account numbers or Social Security numbers, should not be included.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to Anthony May, PRA Officer, at (202) 435–7278, or email: [CFPB\\_PRA@cfpb.gov](mailto:CFPB_PRA@cfpb.gov). If you require this document in an alternative electronic format, please contact [CFPB\\_Accessibility@cfpb.gov](mailto:CFPB_Accessibility@cfpb.gov). Please do not submit comments to these email boxes.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title of Collection:* Regulation F: Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, State Application for Exemption.

*OMB Control Number:* 3170–0056.

*Type of Review:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Affected Public:* State governments.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 8,730.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden*

*Hours:* 858,345.

*Abstract:* Regulation F implements the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA), 15 U.S.C. 1692 and prescribes Federal rules governing the activities of debt collectors (as that term is defined in the FDCPA). Regulation F addresses communications in connection with debt collection and prohibitions on harassment or abuse, false or misleading representations, and unfair practices in debt collection. Regulation F includes information collections related to information that debt collectors must provide to consumers at various points during the debt collection process (such as at the outset of collections), before

reporting a debt to a consumer reporting agency, and in response to certain consumer requests or actions. Regulation F also includes information collections related to recordkeeping and State applications to the CFPB for an exemption of a class of debt collection practices within the applying State from the provisions of the FDCPA and the corresponding provisions of Regulation F.

*Request for Comments:* Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the CFPB, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) The accuracy of the CFPB's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methods and the assumptions 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 respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB's approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

**Anthony May,**

*Paperwork Reduction Act Officer, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.*

[FR Doc. 2024-05449 Filed 3-13-24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4810-AM-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Applications for New Awards; Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans Program

**AGENCY:** Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Education (Department) is issuing a notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2024 for the Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans (PPOHA) Program, Assistance Listing Number (ALN) 84.031M. This notice relates to the approved information collection under OMB control number 1894-0006.

**DATES:**

*Applications Available:* March 14, 2024.

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* May 13, 2024.

*Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:* July 12, 2024.

*Deadline for Optional Notice of Intent to Apply:* May 3, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** For the addresses for obtaining and submitting an application, please refer to our Common Instructions for Applicants to Department of Education Discretionary Grant Programs, published in the **Federal Register** on December 7, 2022 (87 FR 75045) and available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/12/07/2022-26554/common-instructions-for-applicants-to-department-of-education-discretionary-grant-programs>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Margarita L. Meléndez, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 5C125, Washington, DC 20202-4260. Telephone: (202) 987-0408. Email: [Margarita.Melendez@ed.gov](mailto:Margarita.Melendez@ed.gov).

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability and wish to access telecommunications relay services, please dial 7-1-1.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Full Text of Announcement**

**I. Funding Opportunity Description**

*Purpose of Program:* The purposes of the PPOHA Program are to: (1) expand postbaccalaureate educational opportunities for, and improve the academic attainment of, Hispanic students; and (2) expand the postbaccalaureate academic offerings, as well as enhance the program quality, at the institutions of higher education (IHEs) that are educating the majority of Hispanic college students and helping large numbers of Hispanic and low-income students complete postsecondary degrees.

*Background:* In the fall of 2021, there were approximately 2.8 million U.S. resident students enrolled at the postbaccalaureate level in degree-granting institutions.<sup>1</sup> Of those students, 60 percent were White and only 13 percent were Hispanic.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, in 2021, White students received 62.4 percent and 63.4 percent of master's and doctoral degrees, respectively, and Hispanic students received 12.7 percent and 9.7 percent of master's and doctoral degrees, respectively.<sup>3</sup>

Hispanic students who enroll and attain credentials beyond a bachelor's

<sup>1</sup> National Center for Education Statistics. (2023). Postbaccalaureate Enrollment. *Condition of Education*. U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> National Center for Education Statistics (2023). Fast Facts: Degrees conferred by race/ethnicity and sex. U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Statistics.

degree have increased employment options, which provides the potential for greater financial returns.<sup>4</sup> In 2021, for example, 49% advanced degree holders earned \$100,000 or more, as compared to 7 percent of high school graduates and 35 percent of those whose highest attainment was a bachelor's degree.<sup>5</sup>

A critical component of student success and college completion for Hispanic students is engagement with diverse faculty members who can serve as mentors.<sup>6</sup> The impact of the characteristics, insights, and perspectives of diverse faculty has been shown to enhance the teaching, research, and service missions of institutions of higher education.<sup>7</sup> Diverse faculty increase opportunities for students to encounter readings and research relevant to underrepresented groups.<sup>8</sup> Increasing Latino faculty has been found to play a critical role in Latino student retention and climate.<sup>9</sup> In addition, the presence of diverse faculty enhances the college experience by providing a more enriching college experience and a more supportive racial climate to ensure student success.<sup>10</sup> Despite the many benefits of faculty diversity, in the fall of 2021, only six percent of full-time faculty at degree-granting postsecondary institutions were Hispanic,<sup>11</sup> while the enrollment rate of Hispanic undergraduate and graduate students was 33 percent.<sup>12</sup>

Hispanic adults are also currently underrepresented in the STEM workforce. Hispanic or Latino workers represented 15 percent of the total STEM workforce in 2021,<sup>13</sup> compared to

<sup>4</sup> Schak, J.O. and Nichols, A.H. (2017). Education Trust. Degree Attainment for Latino Adults: National and State Trends.

<sup>5</sup> Ma, J. and Pender, M. (2023). College Board. "Education Pays 2023: The Benefits of Higher Education for Individuals and Society."

<sup>6</sup> Contreras, F., and Contreras, J.G. (2015). Journal of Hispanic Higher Education. "Raising the Bar for Hispanic Serving Institutions: An Analysis of College Completion and Success Rates."

<sup>7</sup> Milem, J.F. (2003). Compelling Interest. "The Educational Benefits of Diversity: Evidence from Multiple Sectors."

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Contreras, F., and Contreras, J.G. (2015). Journal of Hispanic Higher Education. "Raising the Bar for Hispanic Serving Institutions: An Analysis of College Completion and Success Rates."

<sup>10</sup> Milem, J.F. (2003). Compelling Interest. "The Educational Benefits of Diversity: Evidence from Multiple Sectors."

<sup>11</sup> Fast Facts (2023): Race/ethnicity of college faculty ([ed.gov](https://www.ed.gov)).

<sup>12</sup> National Center for Education Statistics. (2023). College Enrollment Rates. *Condition of Education*. U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences.

<sup>13</sup> Diversity and STEM: Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities (2023). National Science Foundation.