

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM**Notice of Proposals to Engage in Permissible Nonbanking Activities or to Acquire Companies that are Engaged in Permissible Nonbanking Activities**

The companies listed in this notice have given notice under section 4 of the Bank Holding Company Act (12 U.S.C. 1843) (BHC Act) and Regulation Y (12 CFR Part 225) to engage *de novo*, or to acquire or control voting securities or assets of a company, including the companies listed below, that engages either directly or through a subsidiary or other company, in a nonbanking activity that is listed in § 225.28 of Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.28) or that the Board has determined by Order to be closely related to banking and permissible for bank holding companies. Unless otherwise noted, these activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Each notice is available for inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The notice also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the question whether the proposal complies with the standards of section 4 of the BHC Act. Additional information on all bank holding companies may be obtained from the National Information Center website at www.ffiec.gov/nic/.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding the applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than February 21, 2006.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (Patrick M. Wilder, Assistant Vice President) 230 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60690-1414:

1. *Marquette National Corporation*, Chicago, Illinois; to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of Hemlock Federal Financial Corporation, Oak Forest, Illinois, and thereby indirectly acquire Hemlock Federal Bank for Savings, Oak Forest, Illinois, and thereby engage in operating a savings association, pursuant to section 225.28(b)(4)(ii) of Regulation Y.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, January 23, 2006.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. E6-957 Filed 1-25-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-S

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**Office of the Secretary****Notice of Interest Rate on Overdue Debts**

Section 30.13 of the Department of Health and Human Services' claims collection regulations (45 CFR part 30) provides that the Secretary shall charge an annual rate of interest as fixed by the Secretary of the Treasury after taking into consideration private consumer rates of interest prevailing on the date that HHS becomes entitled to recovery. The rate generally cannot be lower than the Department of Treasury's current value of funds rate or the applicable rate determined from the "Schedule of Certified Interest Rates with Range of Maturities." This rate may be revised quarterly by the Secretary of the Treasury and shall be published quarterly by the Department of Health and Human Services in the **Federal Register**.

The Secretary of the Treasury has certified a rate of 11⁷/₈% for the quarter ended December 31, 2005. This interest rate will remain in effect until such time as the Secretary of the Treasury notifies HHS of any change.

Dated: January 19, 2006.

Sheila Conley,

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Finance.

[FR Doc. 06-727 Filed 1-25-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4150-04-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**Program Support Center****Use of Federal Real Property To Assist the Homeless**

AGENCY: Program Support Center, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of proposed policy change; request for comments.

SUMMARY: Title V of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 11411 (Title V) authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) to make suitable Federal properties categorized as excess or surplus available to representatives of persons experiencing homelessness as a permissible use in the protection of public health. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is requesting comment on its proposal to revise its current policy under Title V to include permanent supportive housing as an allowable use of surplus real property to assist persons experiencing homelessness. The purpose of this

proposed change is to increase the housing and service opportunities available to communities as they respond to homelessness, and is consistent with efforts within the Federal, state, and local governments, and communities themselves, to end chronic homelessness.

DATES: Submit comments on or before February 27, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to John G. Hicks, Chief, Space Management Branch, Division of Property Management, Administration Operations Service, Program Support Center, Room 5B-41, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857. Comments may also be submitted electronically, either via the Federal rulemaking public portal <http://www.regulations.gov> or by e-mailing comments to rpb@psc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John G. Hicks, Chief, Space Management Branch; Telephone number (301) 443-2001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Background**

The HHS Program Support Center (PSC) administers the Federal Real Property Assistance Program, the program that governs the transfer of surplus Federal real property for public health purposes under Title 40, section 550 of the United States Code, "Public Buildings, Property, and Works," and the transfer of excess and surplus Federal Real Property pursuant to Title V.

Under Title V of the McKinney Act, a representative of persons experiencing homelessness may submit an application to the Secretary of HHS to acquire suitable excess or surplus Federal real property for use in the assistance of persons experiencing homelessness. In 1991, HHS, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the General Services Administration (GSA) jointly published a regulation implementing the provisions of Title V, codified at 45 CFR part 12a (the joint regulation). Title V authorizes the Secretary to make property in these categories available to representatives of persons experiencing homelessness, by lease or deed, as a public health use pursuant to subsections (a) to (d) of section 550 of Title 40, United States Code. In accordance with subsection (d) of Title 40, the Secretary may propose to sell or lease property assigned to the Secretary for use in the protection of the public health, including research. To implement both Title V and section 550 of Title 40, the Secretary determines

whether an applicant's proposed program of utilization is an approvable public health program, and then recommends to the Administrator which excess and surplus real property is needed for that approved program in the protection of the public health. 40 U.S.C. 550(d); 45 CFR 12.3(a).

Title V of the McKinney Act, which was enacted in 1987, directs HHS to include, as a permissible use in the protection of public health, the furnishing of surplus real property to assist homeless individuals and families. Title V does not prescribe appropriate homeless assistance programs.

HHS concluded in 1992 that long-term housing did not constitute an appropriate public health use of surplus real property under Title V. HHS subsequently adopted the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) standard, limiting occupancy in Title V's transitional housing programs to 24 months. Until now, HHS has not considered whether the provision of long-term, community-based housing linked with supportive services for persons experiencing homelessness was a permissible public health use.

The Secretary exercises the authority to approve permanent supportive housing programs for Title V, consistent with HHS' mission to protect the public health. There are several critical distinctions between the policy decision in 1992 regarding the use of surplus real property for low-income housing and the current proposal to allow surplus real property to be used for permanent supportive housing. Low-income housing is defined as subsidized housing opportunities for individuals with low incomes. The provision of low-income housing (i.e. the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program) is under the purview of HUD. HHS, as the nation's public health agency, does not operate low-income housing programs, and does not possess the experience or expertise to complement HUD's mission. The proposed policy revision is intended to reaffirm HHS' 1992 determination that the provision of low-income housing does not constitute an appropriate public health use of surplus real property under Title V. In contrast, we are proposing a permanent supportive housing program that is long-term, community-based, and linked to supportive services for homeless persons with disabilities.

II. Proposed Policy Revision

HHS has historically been involved in the provision of permanent supportive housing, such as through the Projects for Assistance in Transition from

Homelessness (PATH) program that is operated in SAMHSA. Given HHS' history of involvement in the health service component of supportive housing programs, there is precedent to suggest that this would be an appropriate public health use of surplus real property under Title V.

Permanent supportive housing is a service model that links housing and services together, without the 24-month time limit traditionally imposed by a transitional housing program. Initial research thus far suggests the effectiveness of permanent supportive housing for individuals with disabilities and those who are chronically homeless. In several studies, this model has been successful at achieving housing stability. For example, placement of homeless people with severe mental illness in permanent supportive housing is associated with reductions in subsequent use of shelters, hospitalizations, and incarcerations (Culhane et al., 2001). Early outcomes in a study of supportive housing with integrated services suggest that these services reduced the use of emergency health care rooms, psychiatric and detoxification programs as well as inpatient care (Corporation for Supportive Housing, 2000). Experimental studies comparing the relative impact of case management and housing resources suggest that long-term housing resources are distinctively effective in reducing homelessness (Rosenheck, 2003).

The proposed policy revision would allow property acquired through the Title V process to be utilized for the development of permanent supportive housing programs that provide permanent housing along with supportive services to homeless people in need of public health assistance and/or services (e.g., substance abuse, mental health, case management, and disabled and frail elderly homeless services). This change would not preclude communities from using surplus property to develop transitional housing programs, emergency shelter programs, or any other homeless assistance program currently approvable by HHS, but simply expands the options available under Title V.

For the purpose of the Title V program, permanent supportive housing means programs that provide long-term, community-based housing that is linked to appropriate supportive health and social services (e.g., substance abuse, mental health, case management, and disabled and frail elderly services) that enable homeless individuals and homeless families with disabilities to maintain housing. Eligible populations

for this program include homeless individuals with disabilities, homeless families with a disabled family member (either parent or child), and homeless frail elderly populations.

The same evaluation criteria outlined in the joint regulation will continue to apply to all applications received for consideration under Title V, including those requesting property to be used for permanent supportive housing. Applicants must fully describe the proposed program, demonstrate how the services to be provided will address the needs of the homeless population to be served, and otherwise comply with the requirements of Title V and the joint agency regulation.

We invite public comment on all aspects of the proposed policy change, particularly on the proposed definition of permanent supportive housing.

Dated: December 19, 2005.

J. Philip VanLandingham,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Support.

[FR Doc. E6-1016 Filed 1-25-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

In compliance with section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 concerning opportunity for public comment on proposed collections of information, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects. To request more information on the proposed projects or to obtain a copy of the information collection plans, call the SAMHSA Reports Clearance Officer on (240) 276-1243.

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