

Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Interested members of the public may obtain additional information about the collection, including a copy of the proposed collection and related instructions without charge, by contacting Leneta G. Gregorie, at the address identified above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposal to seek OMB approval for the following new collection of information:

Title: National Survey on Banks' Efforts to Serve the Unbanked and Underbanked.

OMB Number: 3064-NEW.

1. Survey

Frequency of Response: Once.

Affected Public: FDIC-insured depository institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 865.

Estimated Time per Response: 30 minutes per respondent.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 0.5 hours × 865 respondents + 432.5 hours.

2. Case Studies

Frequency of Response: Exploratory interview—once; in-depth interview—once.

Affected Public: 25 to 30 FDIC-insured depository institutions.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 25 to 30 FDIC-insured depository institutions.

Estimated Time per Response: Exploratory interview—1 hour; in-depth interview—2.5 hours.

Estimated Total Burden: 30 hours + 75 hours = 105 hours.

Total burden for this collection: 432.5 hours + 105 hours = 537.5 hours.

General Description of Collection: The FDIC has a number of initiatives underway to encourage practical solutions to ensure that all consumers have reasonable access to full service banking and other financial services. The FDIC believes that insured depositories can provide a path into the financial mainstream for those who need these financial services, and that depository institutions can create an array of affordable lending services to meet the needs of all their customers. Currently a large segment of the population relies on a mix of non-bank financial service providers for their needs. The FDIC is undertaking a series of analyses in this area, including the proposed National Survey of Banks' Efforts to Serve the Unbanked and Underbanked. The survey is mandated by section 7 of the Reform Act, which calls for the FDIC to conduct ongoing surveys "on efforts by insured

depository institutions to bring those individuals and families who have rarely, if ever, held a checking account, a savings account or other type of transaction or check cashing account at an insured depository institution (hereafter in this section referred to as the "unbanked") into the conventional finance system."

In this initial survey effort, the FDIC plans to survey FDIC-insured depository institutions on their efforts to serve underbanked as well as unbanked populations. The survey will consist of two components—a questionnaire survey of a sample of FDIC-insured depository institutions and a limited number of case studies of FDIC-insured depository institutions that are employing innovative methods to serve unbanked and underbanked populations.

The Reform Act mandates that the FDIC consider the following factors and questions in conducting the survey:

"(A) To what extent do insured depository institutions promote financial education and financial literacy outreach?

"(B) Which financial education efforts appear to be the most effective in bringing 'unbanked' individuals and families into the conventional finance system?

"(C) What efforts are insured institutions making at converting 'unbanked' money order, wire transfer, and international remittance customers into conventional account holders?

"(D) What cultural, language and identification issues as well as transaction costs appear to most prevent 'unbanked' individuals from establishing conventional accounts?

"(E) What is a fair estimate of the size and worth of the 'unbanked' market in the United States?"

In addition to these mandated objectives, in its questionnaire survey of a sample of FDIC-insured depository institutions, the FDIC seeks to identify and quantify the extent to which institutions serve the needs of the unbanked and underbanked; identify the characteristics of institutions that are reaching out to and serving the unbanked and underbanked; identify efforts (for example, practices, programs, alliances) of institutions to serve the unbanked and underbanked; and identify potential barriers that affect the ability of institutions to serve the unbanked and underbanked.

The objectives of the case studies are to identify and share "best practice" programs and practices that appear to be the most effective in bringing unbanked and underbanked populations into the financial mainstream, particularly the

federally-insured financial institutions. The case studies will be designed to collect information on the size and scope of programs, the nature of service offerings, program budgets, and results.

Request for Comment

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether these collections of information are necessary for the proper performance of the FDIC's functions, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the estimate of the burden of the information collections, including the validity of the methodology and 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 information collections on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated at Washington, DC, this 19th day of December, 2007.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Valerie J. Best,

Assistant Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. E7-24963 Filed 12-26-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6714-01-P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Change in Bank Control Notices; Acquisition of Shares of Bank or Bank Holding Companies

The notificants listed below have applied under the Change in Bank Control Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(j)) and § 225.41 of the Board's Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.41) to acquire a bank or bank holding company. The factors that are considered in acting on the notices are set forth in paragraph 7 of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(j)(7)).

The notices are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The notices also will be available for inspection at the office of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing to the Reserve Bank indicated for that notice or to the offices of the Board of Governors. Comments must be received not later than January 9, 2008.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland (Douglas A. Banks, Vice President) 1455 East Sixth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44101-2566:

1. *Robert Duane Hord, Inez Hord, Hord Livestock, Patrick Hord and Janel Hord;* to acquire voting shares of FC Banc Corp., and thereby indirectly

acquire voting shares of Farmers Citizens Bank, all of Bucyrus, Ohio.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, December 20, 2007.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. E7-25016 Filed 12-26-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-S

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841 *et seq.*) (BHC Act), Regulation Y (12 CFR Part 225), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The application also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)). If the proposal also involves the acquisition of a nonbanking company, the review also includes whether the acquisition of the nonbanking company complies with the standards in section 4 of the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1843). Unless otherwise noted, nonbanking activities will be conducted throughout the United States. 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 each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than January 18, 2008.

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

1. *Capitol Bancorp Ltd., and Capitol Development Bancorp Limited VII*, both of Lansing, Michigan; to acquire 51 percent of the voting shares of Mountain View Bank of Commerce (in organization), Westminster, Colorado.

In connection with this application, Capitol Bancorp Colorado Ltd. III,

Lansing, Michigan; has applied to become a bank holding company by acquiring 51 percent of the voting shares of Mountain View Bank of Commerce (in organization), Westminster, Colorado.

2. *Kerndt Bank Services, Inc.*, Lansing, Iowa; to acquire 100 percent of Family Merchants Bancorporation, Inc., and thereby indirectly acquire voting shares of Family Merchants Bank, both of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, December 20, 2007.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. E7-25015 Filed 12-26-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-S

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-4134-N]

Medicare Program; Medicare Appeals; Adjustment to the Amount in Controversy Threshold Amounts for Calendar Year 2008

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the annual adjustment in the amount in controversy (AIC) threshold amounts for administrative law judge (ALJ) hearings and judicial review under the Medicare appeals process. The adjustment to the AIC threshold amounts will be effective for requests for ALJ hearings and judicial review filed on or after January 1, 2008. The 2008 AIC threshold amounts are \$120 for ALJ hearings and \$1,180 for judicial review.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This notice is effective on January 1, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Arrah Tabe-Bedward, (410) 786-7129; Katherine Hosna, (410) 786-4993.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 1869(b)(1)(E) of the Social Security Act (the Act), as amended by Section 521 of the Medicare, Medicaid and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000 (BIPA), established the AIC threshold amounts for ALJ hearing requests and judicial review at \$100 and \$1000, respectively, for Medicare Part A and Part B appeals. Section 940 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (Medicare

Modernization Act "MMA"), amended section 1869(b)(1)(E) of the Act to require the AIC threshold amounts for ALJ hearings and judicial review be adjusted annually. The AIC threshold amounts are to be adjusted, as of January 2005, by the percentage increase in the medical care component of the consumer price index for all urban consumers (U.S. city average) for July 2003 to July of the year preceding the year involved and rounded to the nearest multiple of \$10. Section 940(b)(2) of the MMA provided conforming amendments to apply the AIC adjustment requirement to Medicare Part C (Medicare Advantage "MA") appeals and certain health maintenance organization and competitive health plan appeals. Health care prepayment plans are also subject to MA appeals rules, including the AIC adjustment requirement. Section 101 of the MMA provides for the application of the AIC adjustment requirement to Medicare Part D appeals.

A. Medicare Part A and Part B Appeals

The statutory formula for the annual adjustment to the AIC threshold amounts for ALJ hearings and judicial review of Medicare Part A and Part B appeals, set forth at section 1869(b)(1)(E) of the Act, is included in the applicable implementing regulations, 42 CFR part 405, Subpart I, at § 405.1006(b). The regulations require the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) to publish changes to the AIC threshold amounts in the **Federal Register** (§ 405.1006(b)(2)). In order to be entitled to a hearing before an ALJ, a party to a proceeding must meet the AIC requirements at § 405.1006(c). Similarly, a party must meet the AIC requirement at the time judicial review is requested for the court to have jurisdiction over the appeal (§ 405.1136(a)).

B. Medicare Part C (Medicare Advantage) Appeals

Section 940(b)(2) of the MMA applies the AIC adjustment requirement to Part C (MA) appeals by amending section 1852(g)(5) of the Act. The implementing regulations for Medicare Part C appeals are found at 42 CFR part 422, Subpart M. Specifically, § 422.600 and § 422.612 discuss the AIC threshold amounts for ALJ hearings and judicial review.

Section 422.600 grants any party, except the MA organization, a right to an ALJ hearing as long as the amount remaining in controversy after reconsideration meets the threshold requirement established annually by the Secretary. Section 422.612 states that