

In addition to comments on the proposed 2000–2001 FAFSA, the Secretary also requests comments on the following changes under consideration to the 2001–2002 FAFSA. References to the current FAFSA are to the 1999–2000 FAFSA.

Addition of Parent Identifying Information

The Secretary is considering collecting the following parental data: names, Social Security Numbers, dates of birth, citizenship, and Alien Registration Number. Also under consideration are parents' driver's license number and state, and permanent phone number. The purpose of adding this information is to facilitate using the FAFSA as a Plus loan application or an IRS match, as described below.

The FAFSA as PLUS Loan Application

One possible use of parent identifying information (described above) is to make the FAFSA the PLUS loan application. The Secretary is considering implementing this in 2001–2002.

IRS Match

Another possible use of parent identifying information (described above) is to conduct a computer match to confirm student and parent income information with the IRS. The Secretary is considering implementing this in 2001–2002.

Reduction of Number of Schools on the FAFSA

The current FAFSA allows students to select up to six schools to receive their application information. Applicant data show, however, that the vast majority of students list only three or fewer schools. In addition, improved information technology has made it easier for students to add more schools after submitting their initial application. As such, the Secretary is considering reducing the number of schools students can list on the FAFSA.

Elimination of FAFSA Express

The success of FAFSA on the Web and the increasing availability of Internet access lead the Secretary to consider consolidating student electronic application options by eliminating the PC software program FAFSA Express in the 2001–2002 award year.

Addition of E-mail Address

E-mail is becoming an increasingly viable means of communication between students and various agencies

and organizations that administer student financial aid. As such, the Secretary is considering collecting student (and parent) e-mail addresses on the 2001–2002 paper FAFSA. In addition, the Secretary is considering adding student e-mail address to FAFSA on the Web for 2000–2001 for the purpose of an e-mail notification to the student that his or her application has been processed.

The Secretary is publishing this request for comment under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.* Under that Act, ED must obtain the review and approval of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) before it may use a form to collect information. However, under procedure for obtaining approval from OMB, ED must first obtain public comment of the proposed form, and to obtain that comment, ED must publish this notice in the **Federal Register**.

In addition to comments requested above, to accommodate the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, the Secretary is interested in receiving comments with regard to the following matters: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department, (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner, (3) is the estimate of burden accurate, (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected, and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: November 23, 1998.

Kent H. Hannaman,

*Leader, Information Management Group,
Office of the Chief Financial and Chief
Information Officer.*

Office of Postsecondary Education

Type of Review: Revision.

Title: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: Individuals and families.

Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 10,254,697

Burden Hours: 6,589,649

Abstract: The FAFSA collects identifying and financial information about a student who applies for Title IV, Higher Education Act (HEA) Program funds. This information is used to calculate the student's expected family contribution, which is used to determine a student's financial need.

The information is also used to determine the student's eligibility for grants and loans under the Title IV, HEA Programs. It is further used for determining a student's eligibility for State and institutional financial aid programs.

[FR Doc. 98–31720 Filed 11–27–98; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4000–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Financial and Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the submission for OMB review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before December 30, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Danny Werfel, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or should be electronically mailed to the internet address *Werfel@d@al.eop.gov*. Requests for copies of the proposed information collection requests should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202–4651, or should be electronically mailed to the internet address *PatSherrill@ed.gov*, or should be faxed to 202–708–9346.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patrick J. Sherrill (202) 708–8196.

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere

with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Financial and Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g., new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment at the address specified above. Copies of the requests are available from Patrick J. Sherrill at the address specified above.

Dated: November 23, 1998.

Kent H. Hannaman,

Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Financial and Chief Information Officer.

Office of Postsecondary Education

Type of Review: New.

Title: Application for Technological Innovation and Cooperation for Foreign Information Access Program.

Frequency: Every 3 Years.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden: Responses: 50. Burden Hours: 800.

Abstract: Collect program and budget information to make grants to institutions of higher education and/or libraries. This information collection is being submitted under the Streamlined Clearance Process for Discretionary Grant Information Collections (1890-0001). Therefore, this 30-day public comment period notice will be the only public comment notice published for this information collection.

[FR Doc. 98-31719 Filed 11-27-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Solicitation for Financial Assistance Applications; Northeast Regional Biomass Energy Program Management Project

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of solicitation for financial assistance applications number DE-PS36-99GO10385.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), pursuant to the DOE

Financial Assistance Rules, 10 CFR 600.8, is announcing its intention to solicit applications for the Northeast Regional Biomass Program (NERBEP) Management Project. The selected applicant will receive financial assistance to manage NERBEP under a financial assistance agreement with DOE.

DATES: The solicitation will be issued on or about November 30, 1998.

AVAILABILITY: To obtain a copy of the Solicitation once it is issued, interested parties must access the Golden Field Office Application, Award and Solicitation page at <http://www.eren.doe.gov/golden/solicit.htm>, click on "solicitations" and then locate the solicitation number identified above. DOE does not intend to issue written copies of the solicitation.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The major goals of the DOE NERBEP are: to promote biomass energy by creating awareness, a positive image, and confidence in biomass energy technologies within the region; to develop a climate supportive of biomass energy among the general public and relevant government agencies; to assist both the public and private sectors in the responsible development, commercialization, and utilization of biomass energy technologies so that the region achieves full realization of associated energy, economic, and environmental benefits; and to select and perform activities that provide for responsible development of biomass energy within the region. The Northeast Region includes the following states: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont.

Applications must address each of the following activities in order to be considered for award. The activities are (1) management and planning, (2) information and outreach, and (3) project oversight and evaluation.

1. Management and Planning includes a plan for the overall management of the project at the state level, including coordination with the DOE Boston Regional Support Office (BRSO) and NERBEP ad hoc steering committees. The responsibility also includes development of resource plans and the provision of technical input to DOE for development of annual operating plans for the NERBEP.

The NERBEP Annual Operating Plan (AOP) is a document which will be prepared each year by the BRSO, with appropriate committee input, which

provides guidance and direction to the program for the following Fiscal Year.

The draft FY '99 AOP will be made an attachment to the solicitation. It will be the responsibility of the recipient to guide the Program in meeting AOP objectives, recommend and implement changes to the AOP as necessary, and assist the BRSO in the preparation and completion of future AOP's.

2. Information and Outreach includes responding to inquiries about the program from interested parties, developing biotech briefs, collecting and contributing articles to support dialogue, and preparing regional biomass energy program reports. The recipient also will coordinate and publish a regional newsletter at least quarterly and will establish and maintain a NERBEP Internet site which provides relevant biomass program information and project summaries.

3. Project Oversight and Evaluation includes the award and administration of subgrants to organizations in the region. The recipient will solicit applications for projects in support of program objectives through a competitive solicitation. Administration of the individual subgrants, including financial commitments, performance tracking, and the provision of periodic reports to DOE, will be the responsibility of the recipient with appropriate oversight from the BRSO.

In response to this solicitation, DOE expects to make a single award. Solicitation number DE-PS36-99GO10385 will include complete information on the program including technical aspects, funding, application preparation instructions, application evaluation criteria, and other factors that will be considered when selecting projects for funding. No pre-application conference is planned. Issuance of the solicitation is planned on or about November 30, 1998, with responses due on January 20, 1999.

Issued in Golden, Colorado, on November 8, 1998.

John W. Meeker,

Chief, Procurement, GO.

[FR Doc. 98-31809 Filed 11-27-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Rocky Flats

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law No. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770)