

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request**

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The IC Clearance Official, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of the 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 February 13, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Rachel Potter, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10222, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or faxed to (202) 395-6974.

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 IC Clearance Official, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of the 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.

Dated: January 4, 2006.

Angela C. Arrington,

IC Clearance Official, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Federal Student Aid

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Lender's Application Process (LAP).

Frequency: On Occasion.

Affected Public: State, local, or tribal gov't, SEAs or LEAs; Businesses or other for-profit.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 58.

Burden Hours: 9.

Abstract: The Lender's Application Process is submitted by lenders who are eligible for reimbursement of interest and special allowance, as well as Federal Insured Student Loan (FISL) claims payment, under the Federal Family Education Loan Program. The information will be used by ED to update Lender Identification Numbers (LID's) lenders names, addresses with 9 digit zip codes and other pertinent information.

Requests for copies of the information collection submission for OMB review may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 2916. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Potomac Center, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20202-4700. Requests may also be electronically mailed to IC_DocketMgr@ed.gov or faxed to 202-245-6623. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be electronically mailed to IC_DocketMgr@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

[FR Doc. E6-192 Filed 1-11-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA Nos. 84.938B and 84.938C]

**Grants and Cooperative Agreements;
Availability**

AGENCY: Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice announcing availability of funds and application deadline for the Assistance for Homeless Youth program and the Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students program under sections 106 and 107 of the Hurricane Education Recovery Act, Division B, Title IV of Public Law 109-148.

SUMMARY: Under the Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students (Emergency Impact Aid) program (section 107 of the Hurricane Education Recovery Act, Division B, Title IV of Pub. L. 109-148 (the Act)), we will award grants to eligible State educational agencies (SEAs) to enable them to make emergency impact aid payments to eligible local educational agencies (LEAs) and eligible BIA-funded schools for the cost of educating public and nonpublic school students displaced by Hurricanes Katrina or Rita during school year 2005-2006. Under the Assistance for Homeless Youth program (section 106 of the Act), we will award grants to eligible SEAs to enable them to provide financial assistance to LEAs serving homeless children and youth displaced by Hurricanes Katrina or Rita in order to address the educational and related needs of these students in a manner consistent with section 723 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

An SEA will not apply separately for funding under the Emergency Impact Aid and Assistance for Homeless Youth programs. Rather, an SEA will submit a single application that covers both programs. The data that the SEA provides in its application will be used to determine allocations under both the Emergency Impact Aid program and the Assistance for Homeless Youth program. In this notice, we announce the availability of funds under the two programs and establish the deadline for submission of the single SEA grant application.

SEA Application Deadline: February 2, 2006.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: There is available to SEAs under the Emergency Impact Aid program a total of \$645 million and under the Assistance for Homeless Youth program a total of \$5 million. We will use the data on the numbers of displaced public and nonpublic students that the Department is collecting under this application to determine the amount of funding that an SEA receives under the Emergency Impact Aid program.

Under the Assistance for Homeless Youth program, the Department is authorized to disburse funding to SEAs based on demonstrated need, as determined by the Secretary. The Secretary believes that the data that we are collecting under this application provides a reasonable and appropriate basis not only for allocating funds under the Emergency Impact Aid program, but also for determining the relative needs of SEAs for funding for public school students under the Assistance for

Homeless Youth program. Therefore, in order to minimize the burden on SEAs, we will use data on the numbers of displaced public school students that the Department is collecting under this application to make allocations under the Assistance for Homeless Youth program.

Available Funds under the Emergency Impact Aid program: \$645,000,000.

Available Funds under the Assistance for Homeless Youth program: \$5,000,000.

Period of Fund Availability under the Emergency Impact Aid program: SEAs, LEAs, and BIA-funded schools must obligate funds received under section 107 of the Act by July 31, 2006. The SEA must return to the Department any funds that are not obligated by SEAs, LEAs, or BIA-funded schools by this deadline.

Period of Fund Availability under the Assistance for Homeless Youth program: LEAs have until September 30, 2007 to obligate funds received under section 106 of the Act. We strongly encourage SEAs to make these funds available to LEAs at the earliest possible date. Furthermore, we strongly encourage LEAs that receive assistance under this program to obligate the funds in a timely fashion to address the immediate needs of homeless students displaced by Hurricanes Katrina or Rita.

LEA Application Deadline under the Emergency Impact Aid program: For the Emergency Impact Aid program, the Act requires LEAs to apply to their SEAs for funds no later than 14 days after the date of publication of this notice (*i.e.*, no later than January 26, 2006).

LEA Application Deadline under the Assistance for Homeless Youth program: There is no statutory deadline for LEA applications under this program. Rather, each SEA that receives funding under the Assistance for Homeless Youth program will set a reasonable deadline for the submission of LEA applications. The SEA will distribute funds to LEAs based on demonstrated need, for the purposes of carrying out section 723 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

Student Enrollment Data: In the application for SEA funding, we request quarterly data on the numbers of displaced students enrolled in public, nonpublic, and BIA-funded schools as of four different count dates. SEAs will report separate counts of students without disabilities and students with disabilities. SEAs are required to submit data for the first quarterly count in the initial applications. The Department encourages SEAs to provide enrollment data for the first two quarters of the

2005–2006 school year (*i.e.*, the two quarters that will have passed as of the date the SEA applications are due) in the initial applications. SEAs and LEAs that meet the initial deadlines may provide enrollment data for the subsequent quarters of the 2005–2006 school year at later dates.

We will use the enrollment data that are included in the SEA application to make initial payments under the Emergency Impact Aid program. In addition, we intend to use a portion of this data to make allocations under the Assistance for Homeless Youth program. Specifically, we intend to use the data on displaced public school students during the first two quarters, as reported in the SEA applications, to make final allocations under the Assistance for Homeless Youth program.

We also are aware that it may take some time for SEAs and LEAs to count, retroactively for the first and second quarters of the 2005–2006 school year, all students who may have now moved to other States or districts. Therefore, SEAs and LEAs that meet these specified timelines may make upward or downward revisions to their initial child counts in the event that they collect more satisfactory data that were not available at the time of their initial application submission. If the Secretary determines that an SEA has received an initial payment that is less than or in excess of what it should have received under the Emergency Impact Aid program for any quarter, the Secretary will make appropriate upward or downward revisions to subsequent payments that the SEA is eligible to receive this year. If the SEA is not eligible for subsequent payments, the SEA must promptly refund the amount of any overpayment to the Secretary. SEAs must submit any application amendments affecting allocations under the Emergency Impact Aid program to the Department no later than April 30, 2006.

Given the much lower funding level under the Assistance to Homeless Youth program, however, we do not intend to make multiple payments under that program or to use revised data to make adjustments to allocations under the program.

Other Requirements: LEAs must make Emergency Impact Aid payments to accounts on behalf of displaced nonpublic school students within 14 calendar days of receiving payments from the SEAs.

The Secretary may solicit from any applicant at any time during the respective periods of availability additional information needed to process an application for either

program. In addition, all displaced public school students included in the counts in the SEA application must participate in State accountability systems consistent with the guidance letter to States from Secretary Margaret Spellings on September 29, 2005. (<http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/secletter/050929.html>)

Waiver of Proposed Rulemaking: Under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (5 U.S.C. 553), the Department generally offers interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed program requirements. Section 437(d)(2) of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232(d)(2)), however, allows the Secretary to exempt from rulemaking requirements regulations where the Secretary determines that conducting rulemaking will cause extreme hardship to the intended beneficiaries of the program or programs affected by the regulations.

The Secretary has determined that conducting rulemaking for the Assistance for Homeless Youth and Emergency Impact Aid programs, including the procedures permitting SEAs and LEAs to amend their applications to submit revised student count data and allowing for upward or downward adjustment of subsequent payments under the Emergency Impact Aid program and the procedures for awarding funds under the Assistance for Homeless Youth program, would cause extreme hardship to the beneficiaries of these programs for several significant reasons. The Act was signed into law on December 30, 2005, and specifies very tight timelines that SEAs and LEAs must meet to receive assistance under the Emergency Impact Aid program. Specifically, the Act requires the collection and submission of extremely time-critical student data and related information in applications from SEAs that will reflect data from LEAs, BIA-funded schools, and parents of displaced nonpublic school children. The Emergency Impact Aid program's purpose is to provide immediate aid for the costs related to the education of these displaced students for the 2005–2006 school year, and the Act further requires that the recipients obligate all funds by the end of 2005–2006 school year.

Furthermore, SEAs and LEAs throughout the country have tremendous needs and expenses related to educating homeless students displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. It is essential, therefore, that the Department also award funding under the Assistance for Homeless Youth program at the earliest possible date. Therefore, in order to avoid further

harm and hardship to applicants under either program and make timely grant awards, the Secretary is waiving rulemaking for these one-time programs under the Act.

Electronic Submission of Applications: An eligible SEA that seeks funding under the Assistance for Homeless Youth program and the Emergency Impact Aid program, as authorized under sections 106 and 107 of the Act, must submit its application to the Department on or before February 2, 2006, no later than 4:30 p.m., Washington, DC time. You must submit your initial application electronically using the Department's Electronic Grant Application System (e-Application) available through the Department's e-Grants system. You may not e-mail an electronic copy of a grant application to us.

You can access the electronic application for the Assistance for Homeless Youth and Emergency Impact Aid programs at: <http://e-grants.ed.gov>.

Once you access this site, you will receive specific instructions regarding the information to include in your application. The regular hours of operation of the e-Application Web site are 6 a.m. Monday until 7 p.m.

Wednesday; and 6 a.m. Thursday until midnight, Saturday (Washington, DC time). Please note that the system is unavailable on Sundays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For the Emergency Impact Aid program: Ms. Catherine Schagh, Director, Impact Aid Program, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20202-6244. Telephone: (202) 260-3858 or via the Internet: Impact.Aid@ed.gov. For the Assistance for Homeless Youth program: Mr. Gary Rutkin, Program Officer, Homeless Children and Youth Program, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20202-6244. Telephone: (202) 260-4412 or via the Internet: gary.rutkin@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339. Individuals with disabilities may obtain the application package in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to one of the contact persons listed in this section.

Electronic Access to This Document: You may view this document, as well as other Department of Education documents published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet

at the following site: <http://www.ed.gov/news/fedregister>.

To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free, at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC, area at (202) 512-1530.

Note: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html>.

Program Authority: Division B, Title IV of Pub. L. 109-148.

Dated: January 10, 2006.

Henry L. Johnson,

Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education.

[FR Doc. 06-327 Filed 1-10-06; 12:50 pm]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A National Dialogue: The Secretary of Education's Commission on the Future of Higher Education

AGENCY: A National Dialogue: The Secretary of Education's Commission on the Future of Higher Education, U.S. Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of public hearing.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of an upcoming public hearing with members of A National Dialogue: The Secretary of Education's Commission on the Future of Higher Education (Commission). Notice of this meeting is required by section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and is intended to notify the public of their opportunity to attend.

DATE: Tuesday, February 7, 2006.

TIME: Tuesday, February 7, 2006: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public hearing will be held in Seattle, WA, at the Seattle Crowne Plaza, 1113 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cheryl Oldham, Executive Director, A National Dialogue: The Secretary of Education's Commission on the Future of Higher Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20202-3510; telephone: (202) 205-8741.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission is established by the Secretary of Education to begin a national dialogue about the future of higher education in this country. The purpose of this Commission is to

consider how best to improve our system of higher education to ensure that our graduates are well prepared to meet our future workforce needs and are able to participate fully in the changing economy. The Commission shall consider federal, state, local and institutional roles in higher education and analyze whether the current goals of higher education are appropriate and achievable. The Commission will also focus on the increasing tuition costs and the perception of many families, particularly low-income families, that higher education is inaccessible.

The agenda for this public hearing will begin with presentations from panels of invited speakers addressing the four areas of focus for the Commission: access, accountability, affordability, and quality. After the presentations by invited speakers, there will be time reserved for comments from the public.

If you are interested in participating in the public comment period to present comments to the Commission, you are requested to reserve time on the agenda of the meeting by email or phone. Please include your name, the organization you represent if appropriate, and a brief description of the issue you would like to present. Participants will be allowed approximately three to five minutes to present their comments, depending on the number of individuals who reserve time on the agenda. At the meeting, participants are also encouraged to submit four written copies of their comments. Persons interested in making comments are encouraged to address the following issues and questions:

(1) How accessible is higher education today? Is this changing?

(2) Do students have access to the institutions best suited to their needs and abilities?

(3) What is the real cost of educating college students? How fast is it rising?

(4) What is the true price of a college education?

(5) What is the quality of higher education in America?

(6) How well are universities meeting specific national needs?

Given the expected number of individuals interested in providing comments at the meeting, reservations for presenting comments should be made as soon as possible. Persons who are unable to obtain reservations to speak during the meetings are encouraged to submit written comments. Written comments will be accepted at the meeting site or may be mailed to the Commission at the address listed above.

Individuals who will need accommodations for a disability in order