Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development
[Notice of Proposed Information Collection for Public Comment]

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, Housing and Urban Development.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection requirement described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

DATES: Comments due: October 28, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB Control Number and should be sent to: Reports Liaison Officer, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, Department of Housing & Urban Development, 451-7th Street, SW, Room 7230, Washington, DC 20410.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
The Department will submit the proposed information collection to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended). The Notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information to: (1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond; including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will submit to OMB additional, but optional, reporting requirements for participating jurisdictions in the HOME Program.

The HOME Investment Partnerships Act (Title II of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act) was signed into law on November 28, 1990 (Pub. L. 101–625) and created the HOME Program to expand the supply of affordable housing. Interim regulations were first published for the program on December 16, 1991 and subsequent interim rules have been published and codified at 24 CFR part 92. On July 12, 1995, the Department invited wide ranging comments on the interim rules in order to prepare a final rule for the program. This paper work submission will support the changes to be made in the final rule and reflects the increased flexibility that participating jurisdictions may elect to exercise within the statutory framework of the program.

HOME funds may be used to develop or assist modest housing occupied by low-income families. Eligible applicants are States, units of general local government or consortia which are eligible to receive HOME allocations by formula. The additional information collection is essential if the Department is to determine the eligibility of the activity and the property to be assisted in keeping with the statutory requirements of the Act.

This Notice also lists the following information:
- Title of Proposal: HOME Investment Partnerships Program
- OMB Control Number, if applicable: N/A
- Description of the need for the information and proposed use:
  - Documentation would be required by HUD under §92.206 Eligible project costs if a participating jurisdiction elects to refinance existing debt in connection with the rehabilitation of a multifamily project. A participating jurisdiction must establish refinancing guidelines and include them in its consolidated plan as described in 24 CFR part 91.
- Public comment suggested that HUD provide the option of refinancing multifamily projects but develop requirements which assure that this option is used in a fiscally responsible manner. While the Department declined to set limitations on the amount of subsidy used for refinancing or the nature or ownership of the projects, the final rule requires that participating jurisdictions develop and make public the guidelines under which they would permit multifamily property refinancing.
- Documentation would be required by HUD under §92.254 Qualification as affordable housing: homeownership if a participating jurisdiction elects to determine 95 percent of the median area purchase price for single family housing in the jurisdiction instead of using the Single Family Mortgage limits under Section 203(b). The Department has adopted the Section 203(b) limits as a surrogate for the 95 percent statutory limitation.

A few participating jurisdictions, which are part of larger metropolitan areas, expressed concern that the Section 203(b) limits were not reflective of 95 percent of the median area purchase price for their communities. These communities generally had expensive housing markets. The final rule would permit any participating jurisdictions with these concerns to determine 95 percent of median area purchase price based on recent sales in their locality and provide that information to the Department for review.

Under the same section, documentation will be required by HUD if a participating jurisdiction elects to do a market analysis for a neighborhood in which it wishes to demonstrate a presumption of affordability in lieu of imposing an enforcement mechanism on new homebuyer units.

In public comment, several participating jurisdictions indicated the negative effect of imposing resale restrictions on units in which HOME funds are used solely as construction financing. One jurisdiction claimed that the inner city neighborhoods in which they worked provided modest housing which could be affordable to eligible applicants through conventional financing after rehabilitation occurs. HOME funds are used to spur private investment by financing the rehabilitation which could be done quickly and efficiently.

Based on market data prepared by the participating jurisdiction, a presumption of affordability could be supported. In this way, participating jurisdiction could eliminate imposition of resale requirements, making the units a more attractive sales option for prospective eligible homeowners. A participating jurisdiction could elect this procedure at its discretion in lieu of imposing and monitoring long-term lien provisions, requiring the sale of the unit to another low-income family.

Agency form numbers, if applicable: N/A.

Members of affected public: States, units of general local government.

Estimation of the total annual numbers of hours needed to prepare the information collection including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response:
Total annual estimated burden hours for those optional requirements are 2,275.

Status of the proposed information collection: Public comment requested by HUD.

Contact person and telephone number (this is not a toll-free number) for copies of the proposed forms and other available documents: Mary Kolesar, Director, Program Policy Division, Office of Affordable Housing Programs, Room 7162, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20410, telephone number (202) 708-2470. (This is not a toll-free number.) A telecommunications device for hearing- and speech-impaired persons (TTY) is available at 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Information Relay Service).


Dated: July 25, 1996.

Andrew Cuomo,
Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Tursky, (202) 708-2288 (this is not a toll-free number) for copies of the proposed forms and other available documents.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department will submit the proposed information collection to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended). The Notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affecting agencies concerning the proposed collection of information: (1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond; including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

This Notice also lists the following information:

Title of Proposal: Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan.

OMB Control Number: 2529-0013.

Description of the need for the information and proposed use: HUD uses this information to assess the adequacy of the applicant’s proposed actions to carry out the Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing requirements of 24 CFR 200.600 and review compliance with these requirements under 24 CFR Part 108, the AFHM Compliance Regulations. Agency form numbers, if applicable: HUD 935.2.

Members of affected public: Applicants for mortgage insurance under the Department’s insured single family and multifamily programs.

Estimation of the total numbers of hours needed to prepare the information collection including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response: On an annual basis, 2,500 respondents, 1 response per respondent, 2,500 total responses, 1,875 total burden hours.

Status of the proposed information collection: Extension of the expiration date of a currently approved collection without any change in the substance or in the method of collection.


Dated: August 19, 1996.

Laurence D. Pearl, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policies and Initiatives.

[FR Doc. 96-22028 Filed 8-28-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4210-29-M

[Docket No. FR-4086-N-33]
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity; Notice of Proposed Information Collection for Public Comment

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection requirement described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

DATES: Comments due: October 28, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB Control Number and should be sent to: Josie D. Harrison, Reports Liaison Officer, Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Department of Housing & Urban Development, 451—7th Street, SW, Room 5124, Washington, DC 20410-5000.