

Internal Revenue Service**Notice of Open Meeting of the Information Reporting Program Advisory Committee**

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

SUMMARY: In 1991 the IRS established the Information Reporting Program Advisory Committee (IRPAC). The primary purpose of IRPAC is to provide an organized public forum for discussion of relevant information reporting issues between the officials of the IRS and representatives of the payer community. IRPAC offers constructive observations about current or proposed policies, programs, and procedures and, when necessary, suggests ways to improve the operation of the Information Reporting Program (IRP).

There will be a meeting of IRPAC on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 19–20, 1996. The meeting will be held in Room 3313 of the Internal Revenue Service Building, which is located at 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC. A summarized version of the agenda along with a list of topics that will be discussed are listed below.

Summarized Agenda for Meeting on November 19–20, 1996

Tuesday, November 19, 1996

9:30 Public Meeting Opens
11:30 Break for Lunch
1:00 Public Meeting Continues
4:30 Adjourn for the Day

Wednesday, November 20, 1996

9:30 Public Meeting Reconvenes
12:00 Adjourn

The topics that will be covered are as follows:

- (1) Logos on Certain Form 1099 Payee Statements Update
- (2) Summary of Recent Legislative Tax Initiatives
- (3) Medical Savings Accounts (MSA's)
- (4) SIMPLE Plans
- (5) Escrow Fund Disbursements & Form 1099–MISC Reporting Issues
- (6) Domestic Partners
- (7) Backup Withholding Issues
- (8) Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS) Update
- (9) Electronic Filing of the Form W–4
- (10) IRS Electronic Information Services
- (11) Electronic Filing of Information Returns
- (12) On-Line TIN Matching Program
- (13) Reporting Rollovers of Ineligible Amounts to an Individual Retirement Account
- (14) Harmonized Codes for Forms 1099–R and 5329
- (15) Statutory Employee Check Box on Form W–2

- (16) Closing Agreements in Lieu of Corrected Forms 1099 Update
- (17) Magnetic Media Filing of Form W–2 to SSA for U. S. Territories
- (18) Employee Classification Update
- (19) Tax Reporting When a Mutual Fund Changes Transfer Agents
- (20) Reporting Deposit Interest Paid to Canadians
- (21) Reporting December/January Mutual Fund Dividends
- (22) C-Notice Program Improvements
- (23) Updating Employee Address on Form W–2C

Note: Last minute changes to these topics are possible and could prevent advance notice.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: IRPAC reports to the National Director, Office of Specialty Taxes, who is the executive responsible for information reporting payer compliance and is charged with its system wide planning and improvement. IRPAC is instrumental in providing advice to enhance the IRP Program. Increasing participation by external stakeholders in the planning and improvement of the tax system will help achieve the goals of increasing voluntary compliance and reduction of burden. IRPAC is currently comprised of 20 representatives from various segments of the private sector payer community. IRPAC members are not paid for their time or services, but consistent with Federal regulations, they are reimbursed for their travel and lodging expenses to attend two meetings each year.

DATES: The meeting will be open to the public, and will be in a room that accommodates approximately 90 people, including members of IRPAC and IRS officials. Seats are available to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. In order to get your name on the building access list, *notification of intent to attend this meeting must be made with Ms. Tommie Matthews no later than Friday, November 15, 1996. Ms. Matthews can be reached at 202–622–4214 (not a toll-free number).* Notification of intent to attend should include your name, organization and phone number. If you leave this information for Ms. Matthews in a voice-mail message, please spell out all names. A draft of the agenda will be available via facsimile transmission the week prior to the meeting. Please call Ms. Matthews on or after Tuesday, November 12, 1996 to have a copy of the agenda faxed to you. Please note that a draft agenda will not be available until Tuesday, November, 12, 1996.

ADDRESSES: If you would like to have IRPAC consider a written statement at a future IRPAC meeting (not the

November 1996 meeting), please write to Kate LaBuda at IRS, Office of Specialty Taxes, CP:EX:ST:PC, Room 2013, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To give notification of intent to attend this meeting, call Ms. Tommie Matthews at 202–622–4214 (not a toll-free number). For general information about IRPAC call Kate LaBuda at 202–622–3404 (not a toll-free number).

Dated: October 17, 1996.

Approved:

Kate LaBuda,

(Acting) Director, Office of Payer Compliance, Office of Specialty Taxes.

[FR Doc. 96–27863 Filed 10–30–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830–01–U

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY**Edmund S. Muskie and Freedom Support Act Graduate Fellowship Programs Host Institution Competition**

ACTION: Notice—announcement.

SUMMARY: The Office of Academic Programs, European Branch, of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces opportunities for regionally and professionally accredited U.S. institutions offering degree and executive education programs at the master's level in business administration, education administration, economics, journalism/mass communications, law, library and information science, public administration and public policy to host graduate students from Armenia, Azerbaijan*, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan for one- to two-year degree or non-degree programs under the auspices of the 1997 Edmund S. Muskie and Freedom Support Act Graduate Fellowship Programs.

Application Information: The Edmund S. Muskie and Freedom Support Act (FSA) Graduate Fellowship Programs are comprised of one- to two-year Master's-level academic programs and a three-month internship program. Pending available funding, the 1997 Muskie and FSA Graduate Fellowship Programs will be administered by USIA through cooperative agreements with the American Council of Teachers of

Russian/American Council for Collaboration in Education and Language Study (ACTR/ACCELS) and the Soros Foundations/Open Society Institute (Soros/OSI). Under these agreements ACTR and Soros/OSI will be responsible for recruitment, selection, academic placement, and monitoring of Fellows. Interested institutions should contact these organizations for additional program and application information:

For programs in Business Administration, Economics, Library and Information Science, Public Administration, and Public Policy, Kent Lewis, ACTR/ACCELS, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20036, E-Mail: fellows@actr.org.

For programs in Law, Education Administration and Journalism/Mass Communications: Kristin Crosby, Open Society Institute, 888 Seventh Avenue, Floor 31, New York, NY 10106, E-Mail: kcrosby@sorosny.org.

Current host institutions should contact the above organizations for renewal applications.

Applications must be received by 5pm Washington, DC time, Friday, February 28, 1997. Faxed copies or applications mailed on Friday, February 28, 1997, but received later will not be accepted.

Additional Information: Increases in program expenses together with reduced overall government funding for exchange programs make cost-sharing arrangements with host institutions a critical part of the Muskie and FSA Graduate Fellowship Programs. Preference will be given to institutions that can provide cost-sharing toward tuition, fees, and/or room and board expenses. Cost-sharing may also be in the form of other direct program and participant costs.

The Edmund S. Muskie and Freedom Support Act Graduate Fellowship Programs are not intended as precursors to doctoral studies in the United States. At the end of their designated academic and internship Programs, Fellows are required to return to their home countries to fulfill the two-year home residency requirement as specified in the Exchange Visitor (J-Visa) regulations and the Muskie and FSA Graduate Fellowship Programs Terms and Conditions.

ACTR/ACCELS and Soros/OSI will not approve the transfer of visa sponsorship to universities or the extension of visas for the purpose of Ph.D. programs, extended practical training, or other additional academic study. Universities that do not comply with the policies of the Muskie and FSA

Graduate Fellowship Programs and J-Visa regulations will be removed from the pool of host institutions.

*Please note: Programs with Azerbaijan are subject to restrictions of Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act: Employees of the Government of Azerbaijan or any of its instrumentalities are excluded from participation, and no U.S. participant overseas may work for the Government of Azerbaijan or any of its instrumentalities. In addition, the Government of Azerbaijan or any of its instrumentalities will have no control in the actual selection of participants.

Dated: October 25, 1996.

Dell Pendergrast,

Deputy Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

[FR Doc. 96-27926 Filed 10-30-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on this information collection. This request for comment is being made pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Comments should address the accuracy of the burden estimates and ways to minimize the burden including the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology, as well as other relevant aspects of the information collection.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposal for the collection of information should be received on or before December 30, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. All written comments will become a matter of public record and will be summarized in the VBA request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. In this document VBA is soliciting comments concerning the following information collection:

OMB Control Number: 2900-0423.

Titles and Form Numbers: Invitation, Bid, and/or Acceptance or Authorization, VA Form 26-6724.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Need and Uses: The form is used to solicit competitive bids or serves as a work order for the repair of properties acquired by the VA. In addition, the form serves as a record of a contractor's bid, the VA's acceptance of a bid, inspection of completed work, and a contractor's invoice and payment authorization.

Current Actions: In the operation of home loan activities authorized by 38 U.S.C., Chapter 37, the VA acquires residential properties which are rehabilitated and rented or sold. Without the use of VA Form 26-6724, the VA would have to rely on contractors to submit bids on separate documents and would not have the advantage of a single record of each repair program's specification, bid, acceptance, inspection, and payment authorization.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 25,000 hours.

Estimated Total Average Burden Per Respondent: 30 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Total Number of Respondents: 50,000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form should be directed to Department of Veterans Affairs, Attn: Nancy Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, telephone (202) 273-7079 or FAX (202) 275-4884.

Dated: October 18, 1996.

By direction of the Secretary.

William T. Morgan,

Management Analyst.

[FR Doc. 96-27895 Filed 10-30-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on this