

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the Rural Business-Cooperative Service's (RBS) intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection or recordkeeping requirements contained in the Federal-State Research on Cooperatives Program, as found in 7 CFR Part 4285.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before May 30, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Stafford, Director, Cooperative Marketing Division, Cooperative Services, RBS, USDA, Stop 3252, Room 4204, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20080-3252, telephone (202) 690-0368. (This is not a toll free number.) E-mail:

tstaff@rurdev.usda.gov. The Federal Information Relay service on 1-800-877-8339 may be used by TDD users.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Federal-State Research on Cooperatives Program.

OMB Number: 0570-0005.

Expiration Date of Approval: June 30, 1997.

Type of Request: Intent to extend the currently approved information collection and record keeping requirements.

Abstract: The Federal-State Research on Cooperatives (FSROC) Program, is authorized under Section 204(b) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 *et seq.*). The FSROC Program is a matching fund program designed to assist State Department of Agriculture and State Agricultural Experiment Stations in conducting research related to cooperatives. The program is not currently funded, but existing agreements are in place and future funding is anticipated.

The FSROC Program is conducted using cooperative agreements which include a need for reporting information on the project proposals. In addition, the accepted proposals are required to keep financial records of the project funds and to make program and financial progress reports on a quarterly basis.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting for this collection information is estimated to average 3.48 hours per response with a variation of from 10 minutes to 36 hours.

Respondents: State departments of Agriculture, State Agricultural Experiment Stations, and other related State agencies.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 20.

Estimated Number of Responses Per Respondent: 14.25.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1712 Hours.

Copies of this information collection and record keeping can be obtained from Sam Spencer, Regulations and Paperwork Management Division, at (202) 720-9588.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) 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; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Sam Spencer, Regulations and Paperwork Management Division, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0743, Washington, DC 20250-0743. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 21, 1997.

Dayton J. Watkins,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 97-7997 Filed 3-28-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-U

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Minority Business Development Agency

Business Development Center Applications: Chicago I and Chicago II

AGENCY: Minority Business Development Agency, Commerce.

ACTION: Cancellation.

SUMMARY: The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is cancelling the announcement to solicit competitive applications under its Minority Business Development Center (MBDC) Program to operate the Chicago I and Chicago II MBDCs. This solicitation was originally published in

the **Federal Register**, Tuesday, June 18, 1996, Vol. 61, No. 118, page 30856.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, 11.800 Minority Business Development Center)

Dated: March 25, 1997.

Frances B. Douglas,

Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Minority Business Development Agency.

[FR Doc. 97-8022 Filed 3-28-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-21-M

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program Evaluation Survey

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before May 30, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230. Phone number: (202) 482-3272.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to: Elizabeth Bury, Manufacturing Extension Partnership, Building 301, Room C-100, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899; phone: (301) 975-3944, and fax: (301) 926-3787.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

I. Abstract

This submission under the Paperwork Reduction Act represents a request for extension of a currently approved collection by the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology. The information collection activity referenced is being conducted in partnership with the Department's Bureau of the Census.

The Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a nationwide