

786-1326. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections should be sent within 60 days of this notice directly to the HCFA Paperwork Clearance Officer designated at the following address: HCFA, Office of Financial and Human Resources, Management Analysis and Planning Staff, Attention: Linda Mansfield, Room C2-26-17, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

Dated: April 2, 1997.

Edwin J. Glatzel,

Director, Management Analysis and Planning Staff, Office of Financial and Human Resources, Health Care Financing Administration.

[FR Doc. 97-9083 Filed 4-8-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection: Comment Request

In compliance with the requirement for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects (section 3506(c)(2)(A) of Title 5, United States Code, as amended by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects being

developed for submission to OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans, call the HRSA Reports Clearance Officer on (301) 443-1129.

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 shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Proposed Project: Application and Annual Report, Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Program (OMB No. 0915-0172)—Extension and Revision—The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) proposes to revise and reformat the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Guidance. This guidance is used annually by the 50 States and 9 jurisdictions in making application for Block Grants under Title V of the Social Security Act, and in preparing the required annual report. The revisions are designed to simplify and clarify the guidance and required forms and to reduce duplication, while still allowing for clear, concise, useful, and accurate communication about the

States' programs. More specifically, the revisions should: (1) Make the program descriptions more readable; (2) alleviate the disconnect between the application for the next fiscal year and the annual report for the previous fiscal year that makes programmatic and data reviews difficult; (3) clarify budget and expense tables, through better design of forms and by carrying totals from form to form; (4) report objectives in a standard format, including the relationship to Healthy People 2000 goals, to facilitate year to year comparisons and multi-State tabulations; and, (5) incorporate uniform performance measures across all States and jurisdictions as well as State/jurisdiction-specific performance measures.

The HRSA revision would also combine the current three guidance documents into one document, by eliminating the separate annual application and annual report in favor of a combined document, and every fifth year explicitly including the results of the needs assessment, which would be incorporated only by reference in the intervening years. The HRSA revision efforts are intended not only to simplify and expedite the rational submission of necessary data and reports, but also to reduce the burden on States and jurisdictions by eliminating duplicative requirements and streamlining the presentation of information. It is expected that a 10% reduction in burden can be achieved. Estimates of burden to complete the application and annual report are as follows:

| Type of form | Number of respondents | Responses per respondent | Burden hours per response | Total burden hours |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Application and Annual Report (without needs assessment)* | | | | |
| States | 50 | 1 | 495 | 24,750 |
| Jurisdictions | 9 | 1 | 200 | 1,800 |
| Five-Year Application and Annual Report (with needs assessment)* | | | | |
| States | 50 | 1 | 675 | 33,750 |
| Jurisdictions | 9 | 1 | 360 | 3,240 |

*The Annual Application and Annual Report, without needs assessment, will be submitted in FY 1998 and FY 1999. The five-year Annual Application and Annual Report will be submitted in FY 2000. The average annual response burden for the next three years is 30,030 hours.

The HRSA revision plan calls for copies of the draft version of the new guidance package to be mailed to the Maternal and Child Health Directors in all States and jurisdictions on or about April 15th, 1997. Copies will also be available to all other interested parties who request one from: Peter C. van Dyck, M.D., M.P.H., Director, Office of

State and Community Health, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Room 18-31, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857. His phone number is (301) 443-2204.

Send comments to Patricia Royston, HRSA Reports Clearance Officer, Room 14-36, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857. Written

comments should be received within 60 days of this Notice.

Dated: April 2, 1997.

J. Henry Montes,

Director, Office of Policy and Information Coordination.

[FR Doc. 97-9024 Filed 4-8-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-15-M