

Labor Departmental Clearance Officer, Theresa M. O'Malley ((202) 219-5096 x143).

Comments and questions about the ICR listed below should be forwarded to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: OMB Desk Officer for Employment and Training, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, Washington, D.C. 20503 ((202) 395-7316).

The Office of Management and Budget is particularly interested in comments which:

- 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;
- Evaluate 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;
  - Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
  - Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, technical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

*Agency:* Employment and Training Administration.

*Title:* Planning Guidance and Instructions for Submission of Annual State Plans for FY'98 Welfare-to-Work Formula Grants.

*OMB Number:* 1205-0new.

*Frequency:* Annually.

*Affected Public:* State and local governments.

*Number of Respondents:* 56.

*Estimated Time Per Respondent:* 3 hours.

*Total Burden Hours:* 168.

*Total Burden Cost (capital/startup):* 0.

*Total Burden Cost (operating/maintaining):* 0.

*Description:* The Balanced Budget Act of 1997, signed by the President on August 5, 1997, authorized the Department of Labor to provide Welfare-to-Work (WtW) grants to States and local communities to provide transitional employment assistance to move Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients with significant employment barriers into unsubsidized jobs providing long-term employment opportunities. WtW funds will be provided through formula grants to the States, grants to Indian tribes and

competitive grants to public and private entities. In order to receive formula grant funds, the statute provides that the State must submit a plan for the administration of the WtW grant. This Planning Guidance and Instructions for Submission of Annual State Plans addresses the information required for States which will enable them to qualify for the formula grant funds in Fiscal Year 1998. Separate guidance will be issued for both the grants to the Indian tribes and the competitive grants.

**Theresa M. O'Malley,**

*Departmental Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 97-24526 Filed 9-15-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Office of the Secretary

#### Submission for OMB Emergency Review; Comment Request

Date: September 11, 1997.

The Department of Labor has submitted the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) administrative forms and information collection request (ICR), utilizing emergency review procedures, to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (P.L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). OMB approval has been requested by September 19, 1997. A copy of this ICR, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained by calling the Department of Labor, Departmental Clearance Officer, Theresa O'Malley (202) 219-5096 x. 166).

Comments and questions about the WOTC ICR should be forwarded to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: OMB Desk Officer for the Employment and Training Administration, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, Washington, D.C. 20503 (202) 395-7316).

The Office of Management and Budget is particularly interested in comments which:

- 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;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
  - Enhance the quality, utility, and clarification of the information to be collected; and

- 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, e.g., permitting submissions of responses

*Agency:* Employment and Training Administration.

*Title:* Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) and Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit.

*OMB Number:* 1205-0371.

*Agency number:* ETA 9057-59; 9061-9036 and 9065.

*Number of Respondents:* 52.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 20 minutes.

*Total Burden Hours:* 2,600.

*Frequency:* Quarterly.

*Affected Public:* State, Local or Tribal Government.

*Total Burden Cost (capital/startup):* -0-

*Total Burden Cost (operating/maintaining):* -0-

*Description:* The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has oversight responsibilities for the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) under the Small Business Jobs Protection Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-188) and the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 (P.L. 105-34). Data collected on the WOTC will be collected by the State Employment Security Agencies and provided to the U.S. Employment Service, Division of Planning and Operations, Washington, DC, through the appropriate Department of Labor regional office. The data will be used, primarily, to supplement IRS Form 8850, help expedite the processing of, either, employer requests for Certifications generated through IRS Form 8850 or issuance of Conditional Certifications (CCs) and processing of employer requests for Certifications as a result of individuals' bearing SESAs or participating agencies' generated CCs, help streamline SESAs verification mandated activities, aid and expedite the preparation of the quarterly reports, and provide a significant source of information for the Secretary's Annual Report to Congress on the WOTC program. The data recorded through the use of these forms will also help in the preparation of an annual report to the Committee House Ways and Means of the U.S. House of Representatives.

**Theresa M. O'Malley,**

*Departmental Clearance Officer.*

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