

make recommendations to the Chief, NRCS based on criteria set forth in the CFO proposal package. The review committee may be drawn from the Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Cooperative Extension Service, Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, Department of Energy, Economic Research Service, Environmental Protection Agency, Farm Service Agency, Forest Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey. The Chief, NRCS, will select proposals for funding. Upon selection of pilot project proposals, all producers with production flexibility contracts under AMTA within project areas will be eligible to participate in the CFO. CFO conservation farm plans will be approved by NRCS and the CFO contracts will be approved and payments made by the local FSA office.

Signed in Washington, D.C. on April 14, 1998.

Pearlie S. Reed,

Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation.

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BILLING CODE 3410-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business—Cooperative Service

Notice of Request for Approval of New Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Business—Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces RBS' intention to request approval of information collection in support of the Intermediary Relending Program (IRP), Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program, and Rural Economic Development Grant Program.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by June 22, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: M. Wayne Stansbery, Loan Specialist, Rural Business—Cooperative Service, USDA, STOP 1521, Washington, DC 20250, Telephone: (202) 720-6819.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Survey of revolving loan funds capitalized by USDA Rural Development.

Type of Request: New Information Collection.

Abstract: The Rural Business—Cooperative Service (RBS), an agency within the Rural Development mission area of the United States Department of Agriculture, operates several programs that provide funds to intermediary organizations (intermediaries) to be used for loans to third-party recipients (ultimate recipients). RBS has entered into a cooperative agreement with Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VA Tech) to develop an automated data base of information on ultimate recipient loans.

Information will be collected from intermediaries about each ultimate recipient loan, to identify the borrower, date of the loan, loan size, terms, interest rates, collateral, repayment history, location, type of business, jobs impacted, other funds leveraged, and minority owned businesses assisted.

The first reason for developing the data base is to analyze the feasibility of secondary market sales of the loans held by the intermediaries. The data will help to determine whether the loans are salable and, if so, under what terms and conditions. If determined feasible, secondary market sales of loans will allow intermediaries that have received and used money to establish revolving funds to recapitalize almost immediately with private funds, rather than waiting for term loans to be repaid over time.

The second reason for creating the data base is to give RBS better measures and more accurate and complete information for measuring program impact, in accordance with the National Performance and Results Act. Without more data on the ultimate recipients, RBS is limited in its ability to measure the full impact of programs that operate through intermediaries and ultimate recipients.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 3 hours per response.

Respondents: Non-profit corporations, public agencies, Indian tribes, and cooperatives.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 550.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2750 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Cheryl Thompson, Programs Team Information Collection Coordinator, (202) 720-9750.

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, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Cheryl Thompson, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0743, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0743. Comments may be submitted via the Internet by addressing them to "Comments@rus.usda.gov" and must contain the word "revolving" in the subject. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: April 9, 1998.

Dayton J. Watkins,

Administrator, Rural Business—Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 98-10433 Filed 4-20-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-U

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Hearing on Schools and Religions

AGENCY: Commission on Civil Rights.

ACTION: Notice of hearing.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given pursuant to the provisions of the Civil Rights Commission Amendments Act of 1994, section 3, Public Law 103-419, 108 Stat. 4338, as amended, and 45 CFR 702.3, that a public hearing before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will commence on Wednesday, May 20, 1998, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in the YWCA Building, Conference Room 540, located at 624 Ninth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20425.

The purpose of the hearing is to collect information within the jurisdiction of the Commission, under 45 CFR 702.2, to examine the operation of the Equal Access Act and similar