

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Rural Housing Service****Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection**

**AGENCY:** Rural Housing Service (RHS), USDA.

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; Comments requested.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Housing Service's intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the program for Rural Housing Loans.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by August 31, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dean A. Daetwyler, Senior Loan Specialist, Single Family Housing Servicing and Property Management Division, RHS, United States Department of Agriculture, Mail Stop 0784, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-0784, Telephone (202) 690-0514, E-mail dean.daetwyler@usda.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* 7 CFR 1980-D, Rural Housing Loans.

*OMB Number:* 0575-0078.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* July 31, 1998.

*Type of Request:* Extension of a currently approved information collection.

*Abstract:* The Rural Housing Service (RHS) is authorized under Section 517 (d) of Title V of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, to issue loan guarantees for the acquisition of new or existing dwellings and related facilities to provide decent, safe, and sanitary living conditions and other structures in rural areas by eligible recipients.

The Act also authorizes the Secretary to pay the holder of a guaranteed loan the difference between the rate of interest paid by the borrower and the market rate of interest.

The purpose of the program is to assist low and moderate income individuals and families acquire or construct a single family residence in a rural area with loans made by private lenders. Eligibility for this program includes low and moderate income families or persons whose income does not exceed 115 percent of the median income for the area, as determined by the Secretary.

The GRH program was authorized under the Cranston-Gonzalez National

Affordable Housing Act and the Agency issued a final rule implementing the GRH program on April 17, 1991, before departmental reorganization. The program began as a pilot program in 20 States on May 17, 1991. In 1992, the GRH program was offered on a nationwide basis. During the implementation process, the Agency looked for ways to improve the program and make it more user friendly.

The Agency recognized the need to make its program even more compatible with the existing structure of the mortgage lending community. On May 22, 1995, the Agency published the final rule incorporating the needed changes to encourage greater participation by lenders and the secondary market for mortgage loans.

The information requested by the Agency includes borrower financial information such as household income, assets and liabilities, and monthly expenses. All information collected is vital for the Agency to determine if borrowers qualify for and assure they receive all assistance for which they are eligible. Information requested on lenders is required to ensure lenders are eligible to participate in the GRH program. Lender requirements are in compliance with OMB Circular A-129.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .4 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Individuals or households and business or other for-profits.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 48,060.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 8.6.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 153,931 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Michele Brooks, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 692-0036.

**Comments**

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of RHS, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of RHS'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 are to 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 Michele Brooks, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250. 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: June 24, 1998.

**Jan E. Shadburn,**

*Administrator, Rural Housing Service.*

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BILLING CODE 3410-XV-P

**COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED****Procurement List; Additions and Deletions**

**AGENCY:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

**ACTION:** Additions to and Deletions from the Procurement List.

**SUMMARY:** This action adds to the Procurement List a commodity and services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities, and deletes from the Procurement List services previously furnished by such agencies.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** August 3, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Gateway 3, Suite 310, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-4302.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On May 15 and May 22, 1998, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notices (63 F.R 27049 and 28352) of proposed additions to and deletions from the Procurement List.

**Additions**

After consideration of the material presented to it concerning capability of qualified nonprofit agencies to provide the commodity and services and impact of the additions on the current or most recent contractors, the Committee has determined that the commodity and services listed below are suitable for procurement by the Federal Government