DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review under the Paperwork Reduction Act

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Reinstatement.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has submitted the proposed information collection request for the Application for Assistance/Services under the Financial Assistance and Social Services Program, OMB NO. 1076-0017 for reinstatement under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). On June 5, 1998, the BIA published a Notice in the Federal Register (Volume 63, No. 108, page 30771) requesting comments on the proposed information collection request. Public comment was received during the 60 day comment period. The respondent recommended that the application form be divided into two separate forms, enlarging the print, and that Self-Governance Tribes be provided flexibility to develop their own forms. In response to the suggestions, the BIA stated that prior to 1992, there were two separate application forms. Based on the recommendations of a majority of tribes for brevity and ease of application, the forms were combined. The print is small because of the volume of information requested, but has been determined readable by users and caseworkers alike. Therefore, one comment was not sufficient to change the format. In response to the recommendation that the Self-Governance Tribes not be required to use the form, the BIA agrees that there is no statutory requirement for the Self-Governance Tribes to use the form. However, if the Tribes choose a different form, it should collect comparable data so that the information can be used for reporting and budget preparation purposes.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Copies of the collection of information may be obtained by contacting Larry Blair, Office of Tribal Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, MS-4603-MIB, Washington, D.C. 20240. Telephone: (202) 208-2479.

DATES: OMB is required to respond to this request within 60 days after publication of this notice in the Federal Register, but may respond after 30 days; therefore, your comments should be submitted to OMB by January 20, 1999 (to assure maximum consideration).

ADDRESSES: Your comments and suggestions on the requirements should be made directly to the attention of: Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10102, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20503. Telephone: (202) 208-3667. Please provide a copy to Mr. Larry Blair, Office of Tribal Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, MS-4603-MIB, Washington, D.C. 20240. Telephone: (202) 208-2479.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The information collection is in compliance with 25 CFR Part 20, for the purpose of applying for annual welfare assistance funds which includes general assistance, child welfare assistance, and miscellaneous assistance to determine eligibility for services and funding. In addition, the BIA uses this data to measure program performance and for gathering data to prepare the annual program budget justification.

II. Request for Comments

We specifically request your comments be submitted to OMB at the address provided above with a copy to the BIA within 30 days concerning the following:

1. Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the BIA, including whether the information will have practical utility;

2. The accuracy of the BIA’s estimate of the burden of the information collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

3. The quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and,

4. How to minimize the burden of the information collection on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical or other forms of information technology.

III. Data

Title of the Collection of Information: Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Application for Financial Assistance and Social Services Program.

OMB Number: 1076-0017.

Affected Entities: Members of Indian tribes and their members who are living on a reservation or near-reservation.

Frequency of Response: Annual.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 200,000 applicants.

Estimated Time per Application: 15 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 50,000 hours.


Kevin Gover,
Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 98-33666 Filed 12-18-98; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310-02-P
assistance requirements (general assistance, TWEP, child welfare assistance, and miscellaneous assistance) during FY 1999.

Method of Distribution

There will be two distributions of welfare assistance funds in FY 1999. The first distribution will be an amount equal to 75 percent of projected expenditures for FY 1998 minus prior year unliquidated balances. The second and final distribution of welfare assistance will be made on or about June 1, 1999. This distribution will be based upon submission and analysis of the Mid-Year Analysis of Funds Report for all Bureau operated programs and tribal contractors/compactors. If the nationwide Mid-Year Analysis of Funds Report indicates that the undisbursed balance will not be sufficient to cover the entire need for welfare assistance, this amount will be distributed pro rata so that all programs (Bureau, contractors and compactors), will receive the same percentage level of funds.

Area offices are responsible for collecting data and providing technical assistance to all non-compact tribes (Pub. L. 93–638 contract and Pub. L. 102–477 grant) and agencies on completion of the Mid-Year Analysis of Funds Report. Self-Governance tribes will submit their reports through the Office of Self-Governance in Washington, D.C. The area offices will collect these reports from all Bureau offices and tribes operating programs within their jurisdiction with the exception of the Self-Governance tribes. The area offices will consolidate the data including the expenditures and cases into one report for the entire area. Those locations which do not submit reports will not receive any additional funds. The area offices and the Office of Self-Governance will submit their consolidated reports with all individual tribe and agency reports to the Office of Tribal Services by May 15, 1999. Area offices and the Office of Self-Governance should also provide a short narrative explaining significant changes in caseload and expenditures or other circumstances affecting program operation. An example would be action by a State resulting in termination of Indian clients formerly served by the State Temporary Assistance For Needy Families program.


Kevin Gover,
Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

BILLING CODE 4310–02–P