

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. One 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.

Dated: December 7, 1998.

Kevin Gover,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

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BILLING CODE 4310–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Indian Affairs****Distribution of Fiscal Year 1999 Welfare Assistance Funds**

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of method of distribution of Fiscal Year (FY) 1999 Welfare Assistance Funds within Part 20—Financial Assistance and Social Services Program.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this announcement is to issue the Bureau of Indian Affairs (Bureau) administrative procedures for distribution of Welfare Assistance Funds (funds utilized within 25 CFR 20). These administrative procedures are designed to provide Bureau personnel and tribal contractors/compactors with assistance in carrying out their responsibilities when distributing welfare assistance funds. These procedures are not regulations establishing program requirements.

DATES: The Mid-Year Analysis of Funds Reports are due on April 30, 1999. For Bureau and tribal programs on fiscal year systems, this report will include actual expenditures and caseload for 6 months and projections for the remaining 6 months. Those tribal programs on calendar year systems will include actual expenditures and caseload for 3 months and projections for the remaining 9 months. Area offices will notify Bureau Agencies and tribes of due dates and locations for transmission of these reports. In addition, the Office of Self-Governance will notify tribes of due dates and locations for transmission of these reports.

ADDRESSES: Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Self-Governance, 1849 C Street, NW, MS-2548-MIB, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Telephone: (202) 219–0240. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Tribal Services, Division of Social Services, 1849 C Street, NW, MS-4603-MIB, Washington, D.C. 20240. Telephone: (202) 208–2479.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A total of \$94,010,000 is available to meet welfare