

In order to minimize burden on small businesses, an effort was made to identify any other private or government departments which collected data on specific cooperative salaries and benefit packages. After discussions with representatives of the Census Bureau, Population—National Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis—Chief of Farm Income, Regional Economic Measurement Division, it was evident that the most relevant data available through these agencies were labor wages aggregated by county. This information isn't specific enough to supply adequate details pertaining to salary ranges, factors involved in setting salaries, and educational background for cooperative employees.

The initial users of the information collected will be managers, directors, and other cooperative leaders and policy makers of cooperatives. New cooperatives will use the resulting report primarily as a guide for setting their cooperative's benefit/compensation packages. Established cooperatives will use the resulting report primarily as a comparison of their present salary/benefit base. The report will also give new cooperatives a basis to evaluate their perspective employees' educational and/or work experience and backgrounds in order to formulate an adequate benefit/compensation package.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated at .75 hour per survey, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing survey

Respondents: Cooperative managers and human resources personnel.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 300.

Estimated Number of Responses per respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Burden on Respondent: 225 Hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Jean Mosely, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 692-0041.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of RBS' 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 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 Jean Mosely, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250. Comments may be submitted via the Internet by addressing them to Comments@rus.usda.gov and must contain the word "compensation" in the subject. 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: March 11, 1999.

Dayton J. Watkins,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 99-6998 Filed 3-22-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Maximum Portion of Guarantee Authority Available for Fiscal Year 1999

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As set forth in 7 CFR part 4279, subpart B, each fiscal year the Agency shall establish a limit on the maximum portion of guarantee authority available for that fiscal year that may be used to guarantee loans with a guarantee fee of 1 percent or guaranteed loans with a guarantee percentage exceeding 80 percent.

Allowing the guarantee fee to be reduced to 1 percent or exceeding the 80 percent guarantee on certain guaranteed loans that meet the conditions set forth in 7 CFR 4279.107 and 4279.119 will increase the Agency's ability to focus guarantee assistance on projects which the Agency has found particularly meritorious, such as projects in rural communities that remain persistently poor, experience long-term population decline and job deterioration, are experiencing trauma as a result of natural disaster or are experiencing fundamental structural changes in the economic base.

Not more than 7 percent of the Agency quarterly apportioned guarantee

authority will be reserved for loan requests with a guarantee fee of 1 percent, and not more than 15 percent of the Agency quarterly apportioned guarantee authority will be reserved for guaranteed loan requests with a guaranteed percentage exceeding 80 percent. Once the above quarterly limits have been reached, all additional loans guaranteed during the remainder of that quarter will require a 2 percent guarantee fee and not exceed an 80 percent guarantee limit. As an exception to this paragraph and for the purposes of this notice, loans developed by the North American Development Bank (NADBank) Community Adjustment and Investment Program (CAIP) will not count against the 15 percent limit. CAIP loans are subject to a 50 percent limit of the overall CAIP loan program.

Written requests by the Rural Development State Office for approval of a guaranteed loan with a 1 percent guarantee fee or a guaranteed loan exceeding 80 percent must be forwarded to the National Office, Attn: Director, Business Programs Processing Division, for review and consideration prior to obligation of the guaranteed loan. The Administrator will provide a written response to the State Office confirming approval or disapproval of the request.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 23, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kenneth E. Hennings, Senior Loan Specialist, Business Programs Processing Division, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, Stop 3221, Washington, DC 20250-3221, telephone (202) 690-3809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action has been reviewed and determined not to be a rule or regulation as defined in Executive Order 12866.

Dated: March 2, 1999.

Dayton J. Watkins,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 99-6997 Filed 3-22-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-U

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Consultation Proceeding on the "Crisis of the Young African American Male in the Inner Cities"

AGENCY: Commission on Civil Rights.

ACTION: Notice of consultation.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a public consultation before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will commence on Thursday, April 15 through Friday, April 16, 1999, daily at 8:30 a.m. in the Holiday Inn,