

national accreditation organization for hospices that request participation in the Medicare program, effective June 18, 1999, through June 18, 2003.

#### IV. Paperwork Reduction Act

This document does not impose any information collection and record keeping requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). Consequently, it does not need to be reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the authority of the PRA. The requirements associated with granting and withdrawal of deeming authority to national accreditation, codified in part 488, "Survey, Certification, and Enforcement Procedures," are currently approved by OMB under OMB approval number 0938-0690, with an expiration date of August 31, 1999.

#### V. Regulatory Impact Statement

We have examined the impacts of this notice as required by Executive Order 12866 and the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) (Pub. L. 96-354). Executive Order 12866 directs agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, when regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety effects; distributive impacts; and equity). The RFA requires agencies to analyze options for regulatory relief for small businesses. For purposes of the RFA, States and individuals are not considered small entities.

Also, section 1102(b) of the Act requires the Secretary to prepare a regulatory impact analysis for any notice that may have a significant impact on the operations of a substantial number of small rural hospitals. Such an analysis must conform to the provisions of section 604 of the RFA. For purposes of section 1102(b) of the Act, we consider a small rural hospital as a hospital that is located outside of a Metropolitan Statistical Area and has fewer than 50 beds.

This notice merely recognizes JCAHO as a national accreditation organization for hospices that request participation in the Medicare program. As evidenced by the following data for the cost of surveys, there are neither significant costs nor savings for the program and administrative budgets of Medicare. Therefore, this notice is not a major rule as defined in Title 5, United States Code, section 804(2) and is not an economically significant rule under Executive Order 12866.

Therefore, we have determined, and the Secretary certifies, that this notice will not result in a significant impact on

a substantial number of small entities and will not have a significant effect on the operations of a substantial number of small rural hospitals. Therefore, we are not preparing analyses for either the RFA or section 1102(b) of the Act.

In fiscal year 1996, there were 2,148 certified hospices participating in the Medicare program. We conducted 258 initial surveys, 322 recertification surveys (both at a cost of \$634,904), and 145 complaint surveys.

In fiscal year 1997, there were 2,270 certified hospices. This was an increase of 122 facilities. We conducted 180 initial surveys, 354 recertification surveys (both at a cost of \$330,686), and 237 complaint surveys. The increase in the number of facilities is less than the number of initial surveys because of mergers, withdrawals, and closures during the year.

In fiscal year 1998, there were 2,290 certified hospices. This was an increase of 20 facilities. We conducted 126 initial surveys, 196 recertification surveys (both at a cost of \$360,783), and 201 complaint surveys. The increase in the number of facilities is less than the number of initial surveys because of mergers, withdrawals, and closures during the year.

As the data above indicate, the number of hospices and the cost for conducting hospice surveys by State agencies are increasing. There was a 6.6 percent increase in hospices within 3 years (fiscal years 1996 through 1998). Hospices accredited by JCAHO would be surveyed every 3 years. The numbers of participating providers continue to increase. In an effort to better assure the health, safety, and services of beneficiaries in hospices already certified, as well as to provide relief to State budgets in this time of tight fiscal constraints, we deem hospices accredited by JCAHO as meeting our Medicare requirements. Thus, we continue our focus on assuring the health and safety of services by providers and suppliers already certified for participation in a cost-effective manner.

In accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 12866, this notice was reviewed by OMB.

**Authority:** Sec. 1865(b)(3)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395bb(b)(3)(A)). (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.773, Medicare—Hospital Insurance)

Dated: May 3, 1999.

**Nancy-Ann Min DeParle,**  
Administrator, Health Care Financing  
Administration.

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## DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4432-N-24]

### Federal Property Suitable as Facilities To Assist the Homeless

**AGENCY:** Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, HUD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This Notice identifies unutilized, underutilized, excess, and surplus Federal property reviewed by HUD for suitability for possible use to assist the homeless.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** June 18, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mark Johnston, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Room 7256, 451 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20410; telephone (202) 708-1226; TTY number for the hearing- and speech-impaired (202) 708-2565, (these telephone numbers are not toll-free), or call the toll-free Title V information line at 1-800-927-7588.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the December 12, 1988 court order in *National Coalition for the Homeless v. Veterans Administration*, No. 88-2503-OG (D.D.C.), HUD publishes a Notice, on a weekly basis, identifying unutilized, underutilized, excess and surplus Federal buildings and real property that HUD has reviewed for suitability for use to assist the homeless. Today's Notice is for the purpose of announcing that no additional properties have been determined suitable or unsuitable this week.

Dated: June 11, 1999.

**Fred Karnas, Jr.,**  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic  
Development.

[FR Doc. 99-15221 Filed 6-17-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Availability of a Technical/Agency Draft Revised Puerto Rican Parrot (*Amazona vittata*) Recovery Plan for Review and Comment

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of document availability and public comment period.

**SUMMARY:** We, the Fish and Wildlife Service, announce the availability for public review of the technical/agency