Notice of Extension of Designation of Somalia Under the TPS Program

By the authority vested in me as Attorney General under section 244(b)(3)(A) of the Act, I have consulted with the appropriate agencies of the Government concerning whether the conditions under which Somalia was initially designated for TPS continue to exist. As a result, I determine that, the armed conflict in Somalia is ongoing, and that the extraordinary and temporary conditions that provided a basis for the initial TPS designated for Somalia continue to exist. Accordingly, I order as follows:

(1) The designation of Somalia under section 244(b) of the Act is extended for an additional 12-month period from September 18, 1999, until September 17, 2000. 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(3)(C).

(2) I estimate that there are approximately 350 nationals of Somalia (or aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in Somalia) who have been granted TPS and who are eligible for re-registration.

(3) In order to be eligible for TPS during the period from September 18, 1999, through September 17, 2000, a national of Somalia (or aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in Somalia) who received a grant of TPS during the initial period of designation from September 16, 1991, until September 16, 1992, must re-register for TPS by filing a new Application for Employment Authorization, Form I-821, along with an Application for Employment Authorization, Form I-765, within the 30-day period beginning on September 13, 1999 and ending on October 13, 1999.

(4) Pursuant to section 244(b)(3)(A) of the Act, the Attorney General will review, at least 60 days before September 17, 2000, the designation of Somalia under the TPS program to determine whether the conditions for designation continue to be met. 8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(3)(A). Notice of that determination, including the reasons underlying it, will be published in the Federal Register.

TPS does not change the required dates of continuous physical presence and residence in the United States, and does not expand the TPS program to include nationals of Somalia (or aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in Somalia) who arrived in the United States after the date of the original designation, in this case, September 16, 1991.

When Can I File for an Extension of TPS?

The 30-day re-registration period begins September 13, 1999 and will remain in effect until October 13, 1999.

How Does an Application for TPS Affect My Application for Asylum or Other Immigration Benefits?

An application for TPS does not affect an application for asylum or any other immigration benefit. A national of Somalia (or alien having no nationality who last habitually resided in Somalia) who otherwise eligible for TPS and has applied for or plans to apply for asylum, but who has not been granted asylum or withholding of removal, may also apply for TPS. Denial of an application for asylum or any other immigration benefit does not affect an applicant’s ability to register for TPS, although the grounds of denial may also be grounds of denial for TPS. For example, a person who has been convicted of an aggravated felony is not eligible for asylum or TPS.

Does This Extension Allow Nationals of Somalia (or Aliens Having No Nationality Who Last Habitually Resided in Somalia) Who Entered the United States After September 16, 1991, To File for TPS?

No. This is a notice of an extension of the TPS designation for Somalia. It is not a notice of redesignation of Somalia under the TPS program. An extension of TPS does not change the required dates of continuous physical presence and residence in the United States, and does not expand the TPS program to include nationals of Somalia (or aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in Somalia) who arrived in the United States after the date of the original designation, in this case, September 16, 1991.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Proposed Information Collection Request Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations; Extension of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Title XII Advances Process

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor (DOL), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Employment and Training Administration is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of the process for requesting advances from the Federal Unemployment Account (FUA) and repayment of such advances under Title XII of the Social Security Act(SSA). Technically, there is no request for information. There is, however, a paperwork burden on States because they must prepare and transmit formal requests for the authority to request advances and the repayment of said advances.

A copy of the proposed procedure can be obtained by contacting the addressee listed below.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before November 12, 1999.

ADDRESS: Office of Workforce Security, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, Room C 4514, 200 Constitution Ave, NW., Washington, DC 20210; 202 219-7931 (this is not a toll-free number).
I. Background

Title XII section 1201 of the SSA provides for advances to States from the FUA. The law further sets out specific requirements to be met by a State requesting an advance:

- The Governor must apply for the advance;
- The application must cover a three month period and the Secretary of Labor must be furnished with estimates of the amounts needed in each month of the three month period;
- An application for an advance shall be made on such forms and shall contain such information and data (fiscal and otherwise) concerning the operation and administration of the State unemployment compensation law as the Secretary of Labor deems necessary or relevant to the performance of his duties under this title;
- The amount required by any State for the payment of compensation in any month shall be determined with due allowance for contingencies and taking into account all other amounts that will be available in the State's unemployment fund for the payment of compensation in such month;
- The term "compensation" means cash benefits payable to individuals with respect to their unemployment exclusive of expenses of administration.

Section 1202(a) of the SSA provides that the Governor of any State may at any time request that funds be transferred from the account of such State to the FUA in repayment of part or all of the balance of advances made to such State under section 1201. These applications and repayments may be requested by an individual designated for that authority in writing by the Governor. The DOL proposes to extend this procedure through September, 2002.

II. Review Focus

The DOL is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed extension of the current procedure is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed extension of the current procedure, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the procedure; and
- Minimize the burden of the procedure on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

III. Current Actions

This action is requested to maintain the continuity of current procedures which have succeeded in the orderly application and repayment operations at both the State and Federal levels. This is not a data collection process.

Agency: Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor

Title: Governor’s requests for advances from the Federal unemployment account or requests for voluntary repayment of such advances.

OMB Number: 1205–0199.

Affected Public: State governments (State Employment Security Agencies).

Total Respondents: 50 States, Washington, DC, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico are covered by this process. The DOL estimates that no State will be requesting advances and making repayments in FY 2000, 2001, and 2002. However, in the event of a recession, that estimate may be revised, and that contingency must be accommodated. In the last recession, six States requested advances.

Frequency: As needed, based on a State’s discretion.

Total Responses: 0.

Average Time Per Response: 1 hour.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: None under current forecasts. This estimate may change as a result of economic recession.

Estimated Total Burden Cost: None under current forecasts. This estimate may change as a result of economic recession.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.


Cheryl Atkinson,
Deputy Director, Unemployment Insurance Service.

[FR Doc. 99–23688 Filed 9–10–99; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4510–30–P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Job Training and Partnership Act (JTPA), Title IV—Pilot and Demonstration Program

AGENCY: Employment and Training Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Notice, solicitation of grant applications for proposals to conduct regional consortium building activities.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration (ETA), using funds authorized under the JTPA Section 452 (c) for Pilot and Demonstration programs, is seeking to award regional consortium building grants as stated in the Conference Report (H. Rep. No. 105–825). The purpose of these awards is to support the creation and development of regional skills consortia for the purpose of assessing employer skill needs and of assessing the need for closing the gaps between the skills needed by industry and the skills currently held by regional workers.

All Information Required To Submit a Grant Application is Contained in This Announcement:

It is anticipated that up to $9 million will be available for funding the projects covered by this solicitation. Approximately 15 grants will be awarded, and the estimated range of awards will be $500,000 to $1 million. At the Government’s discretion, it is possible that awards would be made above this amount.

DATES: Applications for grant awards will be accepted commencing September 13, 1999. The closing date for receipt of applications is Monday, November 15, 1999, at 4 p.m. (Eastern Time) at the address below. Telefacsimile (FAX) applications will not be honored.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions should be faxed to Mamie D. Williams, at (202) 219–8739 (this is not a toll free number). All inquiries should include the SGA number (SGA/DFA 99–021) and a contact name, telephone and fax number. This solicitation will also be published on the Internet, on the Employment and Training...