

invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on a proposed new information collection. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), this notice seeks comments on the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) Credential File and Database Tracking System. This system will be used to collect data through an on-line application for the purpose of verifying credentials, licenses, and accreditation of health professional volunteers.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The information collection will be conducted pursuant to the requirements of Public Law 107-188, The Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002

(42 U.S.C. Section 247d-7b) and Title III of the Public Health Act, Section 107, Emergency System for Advance Registration of Health Professions Volunteers (Part B of Title III, as amended by Sections 319 H and 319 I, Emergency System for Verification of Credentials of Health Professions Volunteers). Congress has mandated that FEMA establish a credentialing program and system to ensure that all health care professionals who volunteer for participation in the NDMS are credentialed, accredited, and licensed.

Collection of Information

Title: National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) Credential File and Database Tracking System.
OMB Number: 1660-NEW3.
Form Numbers: E-Form 90-136, Office of Emergency Response

Credentialing System On-Line Application.

Abstract: FEMA will collect information conducive to the verification and credentialing of volunteer health care providers for the NDMS. The credentialing process is aimed at securing a qualified and competent medical response force. Participation is voluntary. However, refusal by a team member or an applicant to provide personal, educational, and training information will result in their credentials not being verified and authenticated, thus rendering them ineligible to serve.

Affected Public: Individuals and households—volunteer individuals in health care and related occupations.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 13,584.

FEMA forms	No. of respondents (A)	Frequency of response (B)	Hours per response (C)	Annual burden hours (A x B x C)
On-line	750 Medical Doctors	1	3	2,250
On-line	5,667 Others	1	2 ⁽¹⁾	11,334
Total	6,417	1	13,584

(1) Average of 1-3 hours based on occupation-specific requested information.

Estimated Cost to Respondents: There is no capital or start-up cost to respondents resulting from this information collection other than the wage rate equivalent for time spent filling out the application form. Based on a pay scale ranging from GS-05 to GS-15 and average completion time of 2.5 hours, the cost per respondent to provide the information averages \$34 per hour. The total estimated annual cost to respondents for this information collection is \$461,856.

Estimated Cost to the Agency: \$1.48 million over a 3-year period, which averages \$493,333 per year.

Comments: Written comments are solicited to (a) evaluate whether the proposed data collection is necessary for the proper performance of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) minimize the burden of the collection of 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, e.g., permitting electronic submission of

responses. Comments must be received on or before April 26, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons should submit written comments on the proposed information collection to Muriel B. Anderson, Chief, Records Management Branch, FEMA at 500 C Street, SW., Room 316, Washington, DC 20472, facsimile number (202) 646-3347, or email address InformationCollections@fema.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact CAPT Ana Marie Balingit-Wines, Credentialing Program Manager, FEMA/NDMS at 301-443-2057. You may contact Ms. Anderson for copies of the proposed information collection (see addressee information above).

Dated: February 10, 2004.

Edward W. Kernan,

Division Director, Information Resources Management Division, Information Technology Services Directorate.

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BILLING CODE 9110-09-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[FEMA-1507-DR]

Ohio; Amendment No. 3 to Notice of a Major Disaster Declaration

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice amends the notice of a major disaster declaration for the State of Ohio (FEMA-1507-DR), dated January 26, 2004, and related determinations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 13, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Magda Ruiz, Recovery Division, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-2705.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of a major disaster declaration for the State of Ohio is hereby amended to include the following area among those areas determined to have been adversely affected by the catastrophe declared a major disaster by the President in his declaration of January 26, 2004:

Belmont County for Individual Assistance (already designated for Public Assistance.) (The following Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers (CFDA) are to be used for reporting and drawing funds: 97.030, Community Disaster Loans; 97.031, Cora Brown Fund Program; 97.032, Crisis Counseling; 97.033, Disaster Legal Services Program; 97.034, Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); 97.046, Fire Management Assistance; 97.048, Individual and Household Housing; 97.049, Individual and Household Disaster Housing Operations; 97.050 Individual and Household Program-Other Needs, 97.036, Public Assistance Grants; 97.039, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.)

Michael D. Brown,

Under Secretary, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Department of Homeland Security.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[FEMA-1509-DR]

South Carolina; Major Disaster and Related Determinations

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is a notice of the Presidential declaration of a major disaster for the State of South Carolina (FEMA-1509-DR), dated February 13, 2004, and related determinations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 13, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Magda Ruiz, Recovery Division, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-2705.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that, in a letter dated February 13, 2004, the President declared a major disaster under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5206 (the Stafford Act), as follows:

I have determined that the damage in certain areas of the State of South Carolina, resulting from a severe ice storm on January 26-30, 2004, is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5206 (the Stafford Act). I, therefore, declare that such a major disaster exists in the State of South Carolina.

In order to provide Federal assistance, you are hereby authorized to allocate from funds

available for these purposes, such amounts as you find necessary for Federal disaster assistance and administrative expenses. You are authorized to provide Public Assistance in the designated areas and Hazard Mitigation throughout the State, and any other forms of assistance under the Stafford Act you may deem appropriate. Consistent with the requirement that Federal assistance be supplemental, any Federal funds provided under the Stafford Act for Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation will be limited to 75 percent of the total eligible costs. If Other Needs Assistance under Section 408 of the Stafford Act is later requested and warranted, Federal funding under that program will also be limited to 75 percent of total eligible costs. Further, you are authorized to make changes to this declaration to the extent allowable under the Stafford Act.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hereby gives notice that pursuant to the authority vested in the Under Secretary for Emergency Preparedness and Response, Department of Homeland Security, under Executive Order 12148, as amended, Carlos Mitchell, of FEMA is appointed to act as the Federal Coordinating Officer for this declared disaster.

I do hereby determine the following areas of the State of South Carolina to have been affected adversely by this declared major disaster:

Aiken, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Clarendon, Edgefield, Florence, Horry, Kershaw, Lexington, Marion, McCormick, Newberry, Orangeburg, Richland, Sumter, and Williamsburg Counties for Public Assistance.

All counties within the State of South Carolina are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

(The following Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers (CFDA) are to be used for reporting and drawing funds: 97.030, Community Disaster Loans; 97.031, Cora Brown Fund Program; 97.032, Crisis Counseling; 97.033, Disaster Legal Services Program; 97.034, Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); 97.046, Fire Management Assistance; 97.048, Individual and Household Housing; 97.049, Individual and Household Disaster Housing Operations; 97.050 Individual and Household Program-Other Needs, 97.036, Public Assistance Grants; 97.039, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.)

Michael D. Brown,

Under Secretary, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Department of Homeland Security.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4903-N-7]

Notice of Submission of Proposed Information Collection to OMB: HUD Initiative for the Removal Regulatory Barriers

AGENCY: Office of the Chief Information Officer, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection requirement described below has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

This information collection is in support of HUD's America's Affordable Communities Initiative focusing on regulatory barriers that impede the production of affordable housing.

DATES: *Comments Due Date:* March 25, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and should be sent to: HUD Desk Officer, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503; Fax number (202) 395-6974; e-mail Melanie_Kadlic@omb.eop.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wayne Eddins, Reports Management Officer, AYO, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, Southwest, Washington, DC 20410; e-mail Wayne_Eddins@HUD.gov; telephone (202) 708-2374. This is not a toll-free number. Copies of the proposed forms and other available documents submitted to OMB may be obtained from Mr. Eddins.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department has submitted the proposal for the collection of information, as described below, to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). The Notice lists the following information: (1) The title of the information collection proposal; (2) the office of the agency to collect the information; (3) the OMB approval number, if applicable; (4) the description of the need for the information and its proposed use; (5) the agency form number, if applicable; (6) what members of the public will be affected by the proposal; (7) how frequently information submissions will be required; (8) an estimate of the total number of hours needed to prepare the