

Under this program, PTA centers provide day-to-day assistance to firms seeking to do business with Federal agencies and State and local governments in the form of such services as helping to prepare bids and proposals, marketing to potential buyers, establishing electronic commerce capability, setting up or improving quality assurance and accounting systems, and resolving payment problems. This specialized and professional assistance may consist of, but is not limited to, outreach and counseling services. Participants in this program make a concerted effort to seek out and assist small businesses, small disadvantaged businesses, women-owned small businesses, historically underutilized business zone small businesses, historically Black colleges and universities and minority institutions, and veteran-owned small businesses (including service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses). A listing of the current PTA centers can be viewed at <http://www.dla.mil/pta>.

In addition, there are three other sources of information that provide assistance to prospective contractors in finding DoD contracting opportunities. The "Guide to DoD Contracting Opportunities" is a publication that provides a step-by-step approach to business dealings with DoD. It is located at http://www.acq.osd.mil/sadbu/Doing_Business/index.htm and provides marketing ideas and helpful advice for registering your company. Also, FedBizOpps is a single Governmentwide point of entry for Federal procurement opportunities. Government buyers are able to publicize their business opportunities by posting information directly to FedBizOpps via the Internet, and commercial vendors seeking jobs can search, monitor, and retrieve opportunities solicited by the entire Federal contracting community. Additional information on FedBizOpps can be found at <http://www.fedbizopps.gov>. This is also a useful site to identify subcontracting opportunities, since contract awards to prime contractors are also published at FedBizOpps.

The Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and the Defense FAR Supplement (DFARS) are the regulations that govern DoD contracting. The FAR and the DFARS work in tandem. They prescribe contractor responsibilities and employment practices that apply to all contractors, large and small. The Defense Acquisition Regulations Directorate maintains electronic copies of these regulations, and they are readily

accessible to the public at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/dars/index.htm>.

Michele P. Peterson,

Executive Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Acting Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before July 19, 2004.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Acting Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment.

The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be

collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: May 14, 2004.

Jeanne Van Vlandren,

Acting Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of Vocational and Adult Education

Type of Review: New.

Title: Annual Performance Report Grants Under the Smaller Learning Communities Program.

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public:

State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs (primary).

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 400.

Burden Hours: 26,000.

Abstract: The Annual Performance Report form requests information from grantees regarding progress made in achieving the objectives identified in the grantee's application including student outcome data and program implementation information.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 2548. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Potomac Center, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20202-4700. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the Internet address OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov or faxed to 202-245-6623. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Sheila Carey at her e-mail address Sheila_Carey@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

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