

concerned), and again annually if the employee serves for more than 60 days in the position.

Most of the persons who file this report are current executive branch Government employees at the time they complete their report. However, some filers are private citizens who are asked by their prospective agencies to file new entrant reports prior to entering Government service in order to permit advance checking for any potential conflicts of interest and resolution thereof by recusal, divestiture, waiver, etc.

Reporting Burden

Based on OGE's annual agency ethics program questionnaire responses for 2002 through 2004, OGE estimates that an average of approximately 277,215 OGE Form 450 reports will be filed each year for the next three years throughout the executive branch. This estimate is based on the number of reports filed branchwide for 2002 through 2004 (272,755 in 2002, 263,463 in 2003, and 295,426 in 2004) for a total of 831,644, with that number then divided by three and rounded, to give the projected annual average of 277,215 reports. Of these reports, OGE estimates that 7.6 percent, or some 21,068 per year, will be filed by private citizens. Private citizen filers are those potential (incoming) regular employees whose positions are designated for confidential disclosure filing as well as potential special Government employees whose agencies require that they file their new entrant reports prior to assuming Government responsibilities. No termination reports are required for the OGE Form 450.

Each filing is estimated to take an average of one and one-half hours to complete. This yields an annual reporting burden of 31,602 hours. OGE previously has published an estimate of only 15 hours because we were not previously required by OMB to make a branchwide estimate, and 15 hours is the applicable regulatory minimum. The current burden hours therefore account for private citizen filers whose reports were filed each year only with OGE itself. In the past, the number of private citizens whose reports were filed each year with OGE itself was less than 10, but pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.3(c)(4)(i), the lower limit for this general regulatory-based requirement is set at 10 private persons. Thus, OGE reported the current annual burden of 15 hours. The proposed estimate of burden hours includes private citizen reports filed with departments and agencies throughout the executive branch (including OGE).

Consideration of Comments

As noted, public comment is again invited, this time particularly on the proposed further modified OGE Form 450 summarized in this notice and available without charge from OGE upon request (see the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section above). In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), public comments are invited specifically on the need for and practical utility of this proposed modified collection of information, the accuracy of OGE's burden estimate, the enhancement of quality, utility and clarity of the information collected, and the minimization of burden (including the use of information technology).

The Office of Government Ethics is planning to submit to OMB, after this notice and comment period, a modified OGE Form 450 for three-year approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act. OGE especially invites comments on the further changes to the proposed modified OGE Form 450 that are intended to make it easier for filers to complete and for agencies to review. Comments received in response to this notice will be summarized for, and may be included with, OGE's future request for OMB paperwork approval for the proposed modified OGE Form 450. Any comments received will also become a matter of public record. After reviewing any comments and deciding on the proposed modifications to the OGE Form 450, OGE will also publish a second paperwork notice in the **Federal Register** to inform the agencies and the public at the time it submits the request for OMB paperwork approval.

Approved: March 14, 2006.

Marilyn L. Glynn,

Acting Director, Office of Government Ethics.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

[Document Identifier: OS-0990-New; 60-day Notice]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the

Office of the Secretary (OS), Department of Health and Human Services, is publishing the following summary of a proposed collection for public comment. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

Type of Information Collection

Request: New, Regular Clearance.

Title of Information Collection: The Effect of Reducing Falls on Acute and Long-Term Care Expenses.

Form/OMB No.: OS-0990-New.

Use: ASPE is planning to conduct a demonstration and evaluation of a multi-factorial fall prevention program to measure its impact on health outcomes for the elderly as well as acute and long-term care use and cost. This will be accomplished by obtaining a sample of individuals with private long-term care insurance who are age 75 and over. We will employ a multi-tiered random experimental research design to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed fall prevention intervention program. The project will provide information to advance Departmental goals of reducing injury and improving the use of preventive services to positively impact Medicare use and spending.

Frequency: Reporting, on occasion.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit, not-for-profit institutions, and Federal government.

Annual Number of Respondents: 4,166.

Total Annual Responses: 4,166.

Average Burden Per Response: 1 hour.

Total Annual Hours: 1,477.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access the HHS Web site address at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocio/infocollect/pending/> or e-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and OS document identifier, to naomi.cook@hhs.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (202) 690-6162. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be received within 60 days, and directed to

the OS Paperwork Clearance Officer at the following address: Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary, Assistant Secretary for Budget, Technology, and Finance, Office of Information and Resource Management, Attention: Naomi Cook (0990–New), Room 531–H, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington DC 20201.

Dated: February 8, 2006.

Robert E. Polson,

Office of the Secretary, Paperwork Reduction Act Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. E6–3933 Filed 3–16–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4151–05–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration on Aging

Availability of Funding Opportunity Announcement

Funding Opportunity Title/Program Name: Senior Medicare Patrol Projects.
Announcement Type: Initial.

Funding Opportunity Number: HHS–2006–AoA–SM–0603.

Statutory Authority: The Older Americans Act, Public Law 106–501.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 93.048, Title IV and Title II, Discretionary Projects, and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104–191).

Dates: The deadline date for the receipt of applications is April 28, 2006.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

This announcement seeks proposals for the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Projects which will serve as model projects that demonstrate effective ways of utilizing retired persons as volunteer expert resources and educators in community-based efforts to prevent and identify health care error, fraud and abuse in the Medicare/Medicaid programs. Applicants under this announcement must provide a comprehensive plan for statewide SMP program coverage targeting isolated and hard-to-reach, beneficiaries, their families or caregivers and address the five SMP program objectives. A detailed description of the funding opportunity including the program objectives and application materials may be obtained at <http://www.aoa.gov/doingbus/fundopp/fundopp.asp> or <http://www.grants.gov>.

II. Award Information

1. Funding Instrument Type

Cooperative Agreement. Grantees will carry out cooperative agreement awards

to train retired persons to serve in their communities as volunteer expert resources and educators in preventing and identifying health care error, fraud, and abuse. The award is a cooperative agreement because the AoA will be substantially involved in the development and execution of the activities of the projects. AoA will provide mentoring, on-line training and other technical support through its National Consumer Protection Technical Resource Center (the Center). The Center will also provide technical assistance and support to the grantee in volunteer recruitment and management; will ensure currency in Medicare and Medicaid program information, fraud prevention and identification techniques, outreach strategies, complaint management, tracking and reporting; and will share approaches for reaching targeted populations. The AoA project officer for the SMP project grant will also provide technical assistance and support on grant management and implementation issues, including execution of the cooperative agreement. The AoA will conduct at least one national conference and one regional meeting in alternate years for the purpose of providing technical assistance and training to SMP projects. Grantee participation in these conferences is specified as part of the cooperative agreement. The grantee and the AoA will work cooperatively to determine the priority activities to be completed by the project and develop the work plan for each year of the project. Within 45 days of the award and 45 days of each continuation award, the project will agree upon and adhere to a work plan that details expectations for major activities, products, and reports during the current budget period. The work plan will include specific steps and a timetable for implementing statewide program coverage. The plan will also specify actions to expand program access to target populations. The work plan will also include staff assignments, work locations, and other areas that require AoA consultation, review, and/or prior approval. Either the AoA or the project can propose a revision of the final work plan at any time.

The AoA will specify project performance criteria and expectations relative to the SMP program objectives and will monitor, evaluate and support the projects' efforts in achieving performance goals. The project will provide program performance output, outcome and activity data semiannually utilizing the performance instrument developed by the AoA and the HHS

Office of the Inspector General (OIG). The AoA will evaluate project performance data, and provide support and technical assistance, in coordination with the Center, to assist projects in improving performance.

The AoA will provide information to grantee leadership to assist in understanding the strategic goals and objectives, policy perspectives and priorities of the Assistant Secretary for Aging and the Department of Health and Human Services. The AoA will also share information with the grantee about other SMP projects, including integration grants, and other federally sponsored projects and activities relevant to the interests of SMP projects.

2. Anticipated Total Priority Area Funding Per Budget Period

The AoA intends to make available, under this program announcement, grant awards for up to twenty-eight (28) cooperative agreements at a federal share of up to \$180,000 per year for a project period of up to three (3) years. With the exception of Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands, grantees are required to cover 25% of the total cost of the project from non-federal case or in-kind assistance.

III. Eligibility Criteria and Other Requirements

1. Eligible Applicants

Eligibility for grant awards is limited to public state and local agencies, federally recognized tribes, or nonprofit agencies, organizations, and institutions, including faith-based organizations, in the following 26 states and 2 territories: Alabama, California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Nevada, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. The competition is limited to the 26 states and 2 territories specified above. Competition is limited to those specified states and territories because the current three-year grant period for Senior Medicare Patrol projects within these states and the one-year capacity building grants in the territories will end on June 30, 2006. The AoA is currently funding SMP projects in the remaining 24 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

In order to ensure the program reaches Medicare/Medicaid beneficiaries in the maximum number of states, given available funding, only one project from each state or territory