

proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to 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. Comments may be sent to: Linda Watts Thomas, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-0742. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Title: Direct Single Family Housing Loans and Grants.

OMB Number: 0575-0172.

Expiration Date of Approval: August 31, 2010.

Type of Request: Extension and revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The Rural Housing Service (RHS), through its direct single family housing loan and grant programs, provides financial assistance to construct, improve, alter, repair, replace or rehabilitate dwellings, which will provide modest, decent, safe and sanitary housing to eligible individuals in rural areas. To assist a customer, they must provide the Agency with a standard housing application (used by government and private lenders), and provide documentation to support the same. Documentation includes verification of income, financial information on assets and liabilities, etc. The information requested is comparable to that required by any private mortgage lender. To assist individuals in obtaining affordable housing, a borrower's house payment may be subsidized to an interest rate as low as one percent. The amount of subsidy is based upon the customer's household income. After receipt of this information, if the customer obtains a loan from RHS, they must update income information on an annual basis to renew the payment subsidy. The aforementioned information required by RHS is vital to be able to process applications for RHS assistance and make prudent loan underwriting and program decisions. It includes borrower financial information such as household income, assets and liabilities and monthly expenses. Without this

information, the Agency is unable to determine if a customer would qualify for any services or if assistance has been granted to which the customer would not be eligible under current regulations and statutes. The Agency also encourages its customers to leverage our mortgage financing with that of other lenders to assist as many customers as possible within our limited resources. In many cases, another lender will leverage and participate with RHS in assisting the customer. In these cases, RHS and the other lender share documentation, with the customer's consent, to reduce duplication. Through our work with participating lenders, the Agency keeps abreast of information required by other lenders to ensure that RHS is not requiring unnecessary information. The Agency continually strives to ensure that information collection burden is kept to a minimum.

As mentioned, these loans are made directly by the Agency. RHS also services these loans for their term (30, 33, or 38 years) and provides tools to assist the customer in becoming a successful homeowner. As discussed, payment subsidies are renewed on an annual basis. In addition, the Agency provides credit counseling and other services to its customers in an effort to assist them in becoming successful. The Agency offers many servicing tools including a moratorium (stop) on payments, modifications to payment subsidies to reflect changes in the customer's income, loan re-amortization, payment workouts, etc. To obtain this assistance, the Agency must require certain information such as updated income and financial information, etc., to ensure the customer qualifies for the assistance, and is provided with the correct benefits based upon their circumstances.

Direct Single Family Housing loans are only provided to customers who cannot obtain other credit for their housing needs and are required by statute to refinance with another lender when they are financially able. To ensure the Agency meets its statutory responsibilities, existing customers may be requested to submit updated income and financial information for the Agency to make a determination as to whether they can "graduate" to other credit. In addition, should a customer default on a loan which results in liquidation, the Agency needs updated income and financial information to settle any outstanding indebtedness.

With the implementation of EGOV in June 2002, individuals are able to make application on line. We have 64 eForms which the public can access and print for personal use. RHS is committed to

automation and reducing the burden upon the public.

Estimate of Burden: Public burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .30 hours per response.

Respondents: Approximately 33,000 applicants seeking direct single family housing loans and grants from the Agency and approximately 292,000 existing customers who have active loans and grants under the Section 502 and 504 programs.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 225,586.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Total Number of Responses: 1,435,263.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents (hours): 428,461.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Linda Watts Thomas, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch at (202) 692-0226.

Dated: March 12, 2010.

Tammye Treviño,

Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

[FR Doc. 2010-5881 Filed 3-17-10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Notice of Request for Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Housing Service's intention to request an extension for a currently approved information collection in support of the program for Rural Housing Loans.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by May 17, 2010 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Debra A. Terrell, Senior Loan Specialist, Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Division, Rural Housing Service, Stop 0784, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-0784; *Telephone:* (202) 720-1452; *E-mail:* debra.terrell@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Rural Housing Loans.

OMB Number: 0575-0078.

Expiration Date of Approval: March 31, 2010.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The Rural Housing Service (RHS) is authorized under Section 517(d) of Title V of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, to issue loan guarantees for the acquisition of new or existing dwellings and related facilities to provide decent, safe, and sanitary living conditions and other structures in rural areas by eligible recipients.

The Act also authorizes the Secretary to pay the holder of a guaranteed loan the difference between the rate of interest paid by the borrower and the market rate of interest.

The purpose of the program is to assist low and moderate income individuals and families acquire or construct a single family residence in a rural area with loans made by private lenders. Eligibility for this program includes low and moderate income families or persons whose income does not exceed 115 percent of the median income for the area, as determined by the Secretary.

The Guaranteed Rural Housing (GRH) program was authorized under the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, and the Agency issued a final rule implementing the GRH program on April 17, 1991, before departmental reorganization. The program began as a pilot program in 20 States on May 17, 1991. In 1992, the GRH program was offered on a nationwide basis. During the implementation process, the Agency looked for ways to improve the program and make it more user-friendly.

The Agency recognized the need to make its program even more compatible with the existing structure of the mortgage lending community. On May 22, 1995, the Agency published a final rule incorporating the needed changes to encourage greater participation by lenders and the secondary market for mortgage loans.

The information requested by the Agency includes borrower financial information such as household income, assets and liabilities, and monthly expenses. All information collected is vital for the Agency to determine if borrowers qualify for and assure they receive all assistance for which they are eligible. Information requested on lenders is required to ensure lenders are eligible to participate in the GRH program. Lender requirements are in compliance with OMB Circular A-129.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1.44 hours per response.

Respondents: Individuals or households and business or other for-profits.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 33,393.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 8.7.

Estimated Number of Responses: 293,053.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 204,081 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Linda Watts-Thomas, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 692-0226.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of RHS, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of RHS's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to 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.

Comments may be sent to Linda Watts-Thomas, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-0742. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 12, 2010.

Tammye Treviño,

Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

[FR Doc. 2010-5883 Filed 3-17-10; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Notice of Intent To Hold Public Forums To Solicit Feedback From the Public Regarding the Section 523 Mutual Self-Help Housing Program; Correction

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; correction.

SUMMARY: The Rural Housing Service, USDA published a document in the

Federal Register of February 2, 2010, concerning upcoming public forums and request for comments regarding the Section 523 Mutual Self-Help Housing Program. There has been a change in one of the forum dates.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Debra S. Arnold,
debra.arnold@wdc.usda.gov or (202) 720-1366.

Correction

In the **Federal Register** of February 2, 2010, in FR Doc. 2010-2067, on page 5281, in the third column, correct the date for Mississippi to read March 29, 2010.

Dated: March 10, 2010.

Tammye Treviño,

Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

[FR Doc. 2010-5895 Filed 3-17-10; 8:45 am]

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ARCHITECTURAL AND TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS COMPLIANCE BOARD

Meetings

AGENCY: Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) plans to hold its regular committee and Board meetings in Washington, DC, Monday through Wednesday, March 29-31, 2010, at the times and location noted below.

DATES: The schedule of events is as follows:

Monday, March 29, 2010

10:30-11 a.m. Budget Committee.
11-Noon Planning and Evaluation Committee.
1:30-3:30 p.m. Ad Hoc Committee Meetings (Closed to the Public).
3:30-4:30 p.m. Technical Programs Committee.

Tuesday, March 30, 2010

9:30-2:30 p.m. Ad Hoc Committee Meetings, Continued (Closed to the Public).
2:30-3:30 p.m. Frontier Issues Ad Hoc Committee.
3:30-4:30 p.m. Accessible Design in Education Ad Hoc Committee.

Wednesday, March 31, 2010

9:30-11 a.m. Briefing on Health Information Technology.
1:30-3 p.m. Board Meeting.