

authorized by Chapter 1 of subtitle D of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990. The purpose of the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loan and Grant Program is to improve telemedicine services and distance learning services in rural areas through the use of telecommunications, computer networks, and related advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals and rural residents.

Need and Use of the Information: The various forms and narrative statements required are collected from eligible applicants that are public and private, for-profit and not-for-profit rural community facilities, schools, libraries, hospitals, and medical facilities. The purpose of this information is to determine such factors as: eligibility of the applicant; the specific nature of the proposed project; the purposes for which loan and grant funds will be used; project financial and technical feasibility; and compliance with the applicable laws and regulations.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 210.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 12,788.

Rural Utilities Service

Title: 7 CFR Part 1703–H, Deferments of RUS Loan Payments for Rural Development Projects.

OMB Control Number: 0572–0097.

Summary of Collection: Subsection (b) of section 12 of the Rural Electrification Act (RE Act) of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 912), a Rural Utilities Service (RUS) electric or telephone borrower may defer the payment of principal and interest on any insured or direct loan made under the RE Act and invest under certain conditions the deferred amounts in rural development projects. The Deferment program is used to encourage borrowers to invest in and promote rural development and rural job creation projects that are based on sound economic and financial analyses.

Need and Use of the Information: RUS will collect information to determine eligibility; specific purposes for which the deferment amount will be utilized; the term of the deferment the borrower will receive; the cost of the total project and degree of participation in the financing from other sources; verification that the purposes will not violate limitations established in 7 CFR 1703–H. If the information were not collected, RUS would be unable to determine eligibility for a project.

Description of Respondents: Not-for-profit; Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 1.

Frequency of Responses:

Recordkeeping; Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 11.

Rural Utilities Service

Title: 7 CFR Part 1721, Extensions of Payments of Principal and Interest.

OMB Control Number: 0572–0123.

Summary of Collection: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) electric program provides loans and loan guarantees to borrowers at interest rates and on terms that are more favorable than those generally available from the private sector. Procedures and conditions which borrowers may request extensions of the payment of principal and interest are authorized, as amended, in Section 12 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, and Section 236 of the “Disaster Relief Act of 1970”. As a result of obtaining federal financing, RUS borrowers receive economic benefits that exceed any direct economic costs associated with complying with (RUS) regulations and requirements.

Need and Use of the Information: The collection of information occurs only when the borrower requests an extension of principal and interest. Eligible purposes include financial hardship, energy resource conservation loans, renewable energy project, and contributions-in-aid of construction. The collections are made to provide needed benefits to borrowers while also maintaining the integrity of RUS loans and their repayment of taxpayer’s monies.

Description of Respondents: Not for-profit institutions.

Number of Respondents: 45.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 424.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012–25164 Filed 10–11–12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

October 9, 2012.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13. Comments regarding (a) whether the collection of

information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; (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 should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), *OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV* or fax (202) 395–5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250–7602. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720–8681.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Rural Housing Service

Title: Form RD 410–8, Application Reference Letter (A Request for Credit Reference).

OMB Control Number: 0575–0091.

Summary of Collection: The Rural Housing Service (RHS), under Section 502 of Title V of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, 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. Form RD 410–8, *Applicant Reference Letter*, provides credit information and is used by RHS to obtain information about an applicant’s credit history that might not appear on a credit report.

Need and Use of the Information: Using form RD–410–8, RHS will collect information to supplement or verify other debts when a credit report is limited and unavailable to determine the applicant’s eligibility and creditworthiness for RHS loans and grants. It can be used to document an

ability to handle credit effectively for applicants who have not used sources of credit that appear on a credit report. The form provides RHS with relevant information about the applicant's creditworthiness and is used to make better creditworthiness decisions.

Description of Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 8,385.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 2,516.

Charlene Parker,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012-25157 Filed 10-11-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Information Collection Request; Representations Regarding Felony Conviction and Tax Delinquent Status for Corporate Applicants and Awardees

AGENCY: Office of the Chief Information Officer, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506), the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) is requesting comments from all interested individuals and organizations on a new information collection request associated with Representations Regarding Felony Conviction and Tax Delinquent Status for Corporate Applicants and Awardees. The Department of Agriculture agencies and staff offices (except Forest Service) must comply with FY 2012 appropriations restrictions in sections 738 and 739, of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 (2012 Ag Appropriations Act) (Pub. L. 112-55). Forest Service must comply with the restrictions in sections 433 and 434 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Pub. L. 112-74).

DATES: We will consider comments that we receive by December 11, 2012.

ADDRESSES: We invite you to submit comments on this notice. In your comments, include date, OMB control number, volume, and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

- *Mail:* Ruth Brown or Charlene Parker, Office of the Chief Information Officer, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Room 405-W, Whitten Building Mail Stop, Washington, DC 20250.

- *Email:* Ruth.Brown@ocio.usda.gov or Charlene.Parker@ocio.usda.gov.

- *Fax:* (202) 690-2688.

Comments also should be sent to the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ruth Brown, (202) 720-8958 or Charlene Parker, (202) 720-8681. Copies of the information collection may be obtained from Ruth Brown or Charlene Parker at the above address. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc) should contact the USDA Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Representations Regarding Felony Conviction and Tax Delinquent Status for Corporate Applicants and Awardees in Non-Procurement Programs.

OMB Control Number: 0505-0025.

Type of Request: Revision and Extension of an approved information collection.

Abstract: The Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies and staff offices (except Forest Service) must comply with the restrictions set forth in sections 738 and 739 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (Pub. L. 112-55, as amended and/or subsequently enacted), which prevents agencies from doing business with corporations that (1) have been convicted, or had an officer or agent of such corporation acting on behalf of the corporation convicted, of a felony criminal violation under any Federal or State law within the preceding 24 months, and/or (2) have any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability; unless the agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and made a determination that suspension or debarment are not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

The Forest Service must comply with similar restrictions in sections 433 and 434 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Pub. L. 112-74, as amended

and/or subsequently enacted). The Forest Service restrictions on doing business are almost identical to the restrictions for other USDA offices and agencies; the one difference is that the Forest Service restrictions are concerned only with felony convictions under Federal law, rather than both Federal and State law.

To comply with the appropriations restrictions, the proposed information collection will require corporate applicants and awardees for USDA and Forest Service programs to represent accurately whether they do or do not have any qualifying convictions or tax delinquencies which would prevent USDA or the Forest Service from entering into a proposed business transaction with the corporate applicant. For non-procurement programs and transactions, these representations will be submitted on the proposed information collection forms AD-3030, AD 3031, AD-3030-FS and AD-3031-FS. For procurement transactions, compliance with the appropriations restrictions has been effected through the issuance of Agricultural Acquisition Regulation Advisory Number 104, issued March 29, 2012 and available here: <http://www.dm.usda.gov/procurement/policy/advisories.htm>. Accordingly, this notice does not address and the proposed information collection is not intended for use with USDA or Forest Service procurement transactions. This notice and the proposed information collection, deal only with USDA and Forest Service non-procurement transactions. The categories of non-procurement transactions covered by this notice and the proposed information collection are: non-procurement contracts, grants, loans, loan guarantees, cooperative agreements, and some memoranda of agreement. For more specific information about whether a particular non-procurement program or transaction is included in this list please contact the USDA agency or staff office or Forest Service office responsible for the program or transaction in question.

In July of 2012, OCIO received a temporary emergency clearance of forms AD-3030, AD-3031, AD-3030-FS and AD-3031-FS to begin use of the forms to effectuate compliance with the appropriations restrictions. The temporary emergency clearance expires December 31, 2012. While this expiration date is after the end of the 2012 fiscal year, the representations will continue to be required as Congress has already extended the fiscal year 2012 appropriations. Also, it is possible that the same appropriations restrictions will