

for FY14 compact funding. In these cases, the Board considered how the countries were evaluated by supplemental sources like Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index, the Global Integrity Report, Open Government Partnership status, and the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative, as applicable. The Board also took into consideration recent actions by each government to address corruption. After accounting for this supplemental information, the Board directed MCC to continue a more limited engagement on compact development with both Benin and Sierra Leone and support their continued efforts to address corruption. The Board discussed the seriousness with which it take the scorecard's hard hurdles and indicated that it expects both countries to pass the Control of Corruption indicator before it would approve a compact with them.

The Board asked all four countries that do not meet the scorecard criteria to work to improve their policy performance over the coming year.

Countries Newly Selected for Threshold Program Eligibility

For FY14, the Board did not select any new countries as eligible for threshold assistance.

Countries Reselected To Continue Developing Threshold Programs

Two countries selected as eligible for threshold assistance in FY14 were previously selected as eligible. Reselection allows them to access funding from FY2014. These countries are Guatemala and Nepal.

The Board reselected these countries based on their continued performance since their prior selection. The Board determined that since their initial selection, there has been no material change in their performance that would indicate a serious decline in policy performance.

Ongoing Review of Partner Countries' Policy Performance

The Board also reviewed the policy performance of countries that are implementing compacts. These countries do not need to be reselected each year in order to continue implementation. Once MCC makes a commitment to a country through a compact, MCC does not consider the country for reselection on an annual basis during the term of its compact. The Board emphasized the need for all partner countries to maintain or improve their policy performance. If it is determined that a country has demonstrated a significant policy

reversal, MCC can hold it accountable by applying MCC's Suspension and Termination Policy.

Selection To Initiate the Compact Process

The Board also authorized MCC to invite Lesotho to submit a proposal for a compact, as described in section 609 of the Act (22 U.S.C. 7708).

Submission of a proposal is not a guarantee that MCC will finalize a compact with an eligible country. Any MCA assistance provided under section 605 of the Act (22 U.S.C. 7704) will be contingent on the successful negotiation of a mutually agreeable compact between the eligible country and MCC, approval of the compact by the Board, and the availability of funds.

[FR Doc. 2013-30084 Filed 12-17-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9211-03-P

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

Arts Advisory Panel Meeting

AGENCY: National Endowment for the Arts, National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463), as amended, notice is hereby given that six meetings of the Arts Advisory Panel to the National Council on the Arts will be held at the Nancy Hanks Center, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20506 (unless otherwise noted) as follows (all meetings are Eastern time and ending times are approximate):

Folk & Traditional Arts (application review): This meeting will be closed.

Dates: January 9, 2014. 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in room 716.

Music (review of nominations): This meeting will be closed.

Dates: January 14, 2014. 10:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. The meeting will be held at Jazz at Lincoln Center, Ella & Louis Room, 3 Columbus Circle, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10019.

Music (application review): This meeting will be virtual and will be closed.

Dates: January 14, 2014. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

State & Regional (review of State Partnership Agreements): This meeting will be open.

Dates: January 15-16, 2014. From 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on January 15th and from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on January 16th, in Room 716.

State & Regional (review of Regional Partnership Agreements): This meeting will be open.

Dates: January 23, 2014. 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Research (application review): This meeting will be virtual and will be closed.

Dates: January 29, 2014. 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Further information with reference to these meetings can be obtained from Ms. Kathy Plowitz-Worden, Office of Guidelines & Panel Operations, National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, DC 20506; plowitzk@arts.gov, or call 202/682-5691.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The closed portions of meetings are for the purpose of Panel review, discussion, evaluation, and recommendations on financial assistance under the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, as amended, including information given in confidence to the agency. In accordance with the determination of the Chairman of February 15, 2012, these sessions will be closed to the public pursuant to subsection (c)(6) of section 552b of Title 5, United States Code.

Dated: December 13, 2013.

Kathy Plowitz-Worden,

Panel Coordinator, National Endowment for the Arts.

[FR Doc. 2013-30054 Filed 12-17-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7537-01-P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Notice of Request for a Revision to and Extension of Approval of an Information Collection; Qualitative Feedback on Agency Service Delivery

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Revision to and extension of approval of an information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the National Science Foundation's intention to request a revision to and an extension of approval of an information collection associated with qualitative customer and stakeholder feedback on service delivery by the National Science Foundation.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by February 18, 2014 to be assured of consideration.

Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding the information collection and

requests for copies of the proposed information collection request should be addressed to Suzanne Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Rm. 1265, Arlington, VA 22230, or by email to splimpto@nsf.gov.

Comments: Written comments are invited on (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; or (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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Suzanne H. Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1265, Arlington, Virginia 22230; telephone (703) 292-7556; or send email to splimpto@nsf.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-(800) 877-8339, which is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year (including federal holidays).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Agency Service Delivery.

OMB Number: 3145-0215.

Type of Request: Revision to and extension of approval of an information collection.

Abstract: The proposed information collection activity provides a means for the National Science Foundation (NSF) to garner qualitative customer and stakeholder feedback in an efficient, timely manner, in accordance with the Agency's commitment to improving service delivery.

By qualitative feedback we mean information that provides useful insights on perceptions and opinions, but not statistical surveys that yield quantitative results that can be generalized to the population of study. This feedback will provide insights into customer or stakeholder perceptions, experiences, and expectations; provide an early warning of issues with service; or focus attention on areas where

communication, training, or changes in operations might improve delivery of products or services. This collection will allow for ongoing, collaborative and actionable communications between the Agency and its customers and stakeholders. It will also allow feedback to contribute directly to the improvement of program management.

The solicitation of feedback will target areas such as: Timeliness, appropriateness, accuracy of information, courtesy, efficiency of service delivery, and resolution of issues with service delivery. Responses will be assessed to plan and inform efforts to improve or maintain the quality of service offered to the public. If this information is not collected, vital feedback from customers and stakeholders on the Agency's services will be unavailable.

NSF will only submit a collection for approval under this generic clearance if it meets the following conditions:

- The collection is voluntary;
 - The collection is low-burden for respondents (based on considerations of total burden hours, total number of respondents, or burden-hours per respondent) and is low-cost for both the respondents and the Federal Government;
 - The collection is non-controversial and does not raise issues of concern to other Federal agencies;
 - The collection is targeted to the solicitation of opinions from respondents who have experience with the program or may have experience with the program in the near future;
 - Personally identifiable information (PII) is collected only to the extent necessary and is not retained;
 - Information gathered is intended to be used only internally for general service improvement and program management purposes and is not intended for release outside of NSF (if released, NSF must indicate the qualitative nature of the information);
 - Information gathered will not be used for the purpose of substantially informing influential policy decisions; and
 - Information gathered will yield qualitative information; the collection will not be designed or expected to yield statistically reliable results or used as though the results are generalizable to the population of study.
- Feedback collected under this generic clearance provides useful information, but it does not yield data that can be generalized to the overall population. This type of generic clearance for qualitative information will not be used for quantitative information collections that are designed to yield reliably

actionable results, such as monitoring trends over time or documenting program performance. Such data uses require more rigorous designs that address: The target population to which generalizations will be made, the sampling frame, the sample design (including stratification and clustering), the precision requirements or power calculations that justify the proposed sample size, the expected response rate, methods for assessing potential nonresponse bias, the protocols for data collection, and any testing procedures that were or will be undertaken prior to fielding this study. Depending on the degree of influence the results are likely to have, such collections may still be eligible for submission for other generic mechanisms that are designed to yield quantitative results.

As a general matter, this information collection will not result in any new system of records containing privacy information and will not ask questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

Below we provide the National Science Foundation's projected average estimates for the next three years:

Affected Public: Individuals and Households, Businesses and Organizations, State, Local or Tribal Government.

Average Expected Annual Number of Activities: 15.

Respondents: 500 per activity.

Annual Responses: 7,500.

Frequency of Response: Once per request.

Average Minutes per Response: 30.

Burden Hours: 3,750.

Dated: December 12, 2013.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,
Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.

[FR Doc. 2013-30033 Filed 12-17-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Investor Education and Advocacy, Washington, DC 20549-0213.

Extension: Form 144, OMB Control No. 3235-0101, SEC File No. 270-112.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities