

is reached, the PTAB retains the flexibility to accept additional petitions, either for consideration in that quarter or to be held in abeyance for consideration in the next quarter.

The USPTO tracks the number of granted petitions, the average time to answer petitions, and the average time to render a Board decision on the merits of the *ex parte* appeal after a petition grant. Current information and statistics may be viewed on the PTAB website at [www.uspto.gov/PTABFastTrack](http://www.uspto.gov/PTABFastTrack).

**Andrew Hirshfeld,**

*Commissioner for Patents, Performing the Functions and Duties of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.*

[FR Doc. 2021-14615 Filed 7-9-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

**CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**Notice Inviting Public Input on Executive Order 13985**

**AGENCY:** Corporation for National and Community Service.

**ACTION:** Request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with Executive Order 13985 of January 20, 2021, the Corporation for National and Community Service, operating as AmeriCorps, is inviting public comment from any interested party, including current and former AmeriCorps program award recipients, regarding any barriers that they, or the communities they served, faced in accessing benefits and services offered by AmeriCorps' programs.

**DATES:** To be considered, public comments must be received electronically no later than midnight eastern standard time (EST) on August 2, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Public comments should be submitted online at <http://www.regulations.gov>; search for "Request for Information (RFI) from Non-Federal Stakeholders: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities." Comments submitted electronically, including attachments, will be posted to the docket unchanged and available to view by the public. Documents and information supporting your comment may be submitted as attachments. Please provide your contact information or organization name on the web-based form for possible follow-up from AmeriCorps. There is a 5,000-character limit on comments and maximum

number (10) of attached files and maximum size (10 MB) of each attached file.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kiara Rhodes, Honors Attorney, AmeriCorps, at [krhodes@cns.gov](mailto:krhodes@cns.gov) or (202) 937-6965.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On January 20, 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order 13985, "Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government," to address racial, economic, and other disparities faced by underserved communities in the United States. The Order requires Federal agencies to conduct an equity assessment. In furthering this Agency's commitment to bringing together and serving all communities, AmeriCorps seeks general public input on the following:

1. Potential barriers that underserved communities and individuals may face to enrollment in and access to benefits and services in AmeriCorps programs;
2. Potential barriers that underserved communities and individuals may face in taking advantage of Agency procurement and contracting opportunities;
3. Whether new policies, regulations, or guidance documents may be necessary to advance equity in Agency actions and programs; and
4. Knowledge of any offices or divisions within the Agency that are responsible for advancing civil rights or whose mandates specifically include serving underrepresented or disadvantaged communities.

Dated: July 7, 2021.

**Fernando Laguarda,**  
*General Counsel.*

[FR Doc. 2021-14735 Filed 7-9-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6050-28-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

[Docket No.: ED-2021-SCC-0100]

**Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Endowment Excise Tax: Allocation Reduction Waiver**

**AGENCY:** Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE), Department of Education (ED).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, ED is requesting the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to conduct an emergency review of a new information collection.

**DATES:** The Department is requesting emergency processing and OMB approval for this information collection by July 26, 2021; and therefore, the Department is requesting public comments by July 23, 2021. A regular clearance process is also hereby being initiated to provide the public with the opportunity to comment under the full comment period. Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before September 10, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** To access and review all the documents related to the information collection listed in this notice, please use <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching the Docket ID number ED-2021-SCC-0100. Comments submitted in response to this notice should be submitted electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> by selecting the Docket ID number or via postal mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery. If the [regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) site is not available to the public for any reason, ED will temporarily accept comments at [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov). Please include the docket ID number and the title of the information collection request when requesting documents or submitting comments. *Please note that comments submitted by fax or email and those submitted after the comment period will not be accepted.* Written requests for information or comments submitted by postal mail or delivery should be addressed to the PRA Coordinator of the Strategic Collections and Clearance Governance and Strategy Division, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, LBJ, Room 6W208C, Washington, DC 20202-8240.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Karen Epps, 202-453-6337.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Education (ED), in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the Department's information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. ED is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. 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. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

*Title of Collection:* Endowment Excise Tax: Allocation Reduction Waiver.

*OMB Control Number:* 1840–NEW.

*Type of Review:* A new information collection.

*Respondents/Affected Public:* Private Sector.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 200.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 200.

*Abstract:* In accordance with the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), Public Law 116–260, section 314(d)(6)(B), the Secretary may waive the requirements to reduce a grantee's CRRSAA allocation by 50 percent, if upon application, an institution of higher education demonstrates need (including need for additional funding for financial aid grants to students, payroll expenses, or other expenditures) for the total amount of funds such institution is allocated under section 314(a)(1) of CRRSAA. The proposed form provides institutions with the opportunity to request this waiver and collects data needed to evaluate their waiver request.

*Additional Information:* If this emergency collection is not approved, the Department will be unable to receive and review waiver requests in a timely manner, delaying the release of funds to institutions of higher education and students that are still recovering from the effects of the pandemic.

Dated: July 7, 2021.

**Juliana Pearson,**

*PRA Coordinator, Strategic Collections and Clearance, Governance and Strategy Division, Office of Chief Data Office, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development.*

[FR Doc. 2021–14736 Filed 7–9–21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Accrediting Agencies Currently Undergoing Review for the Purposes of Recognition by the U.S. Secretary of Education

**AGENCY:** Accreditation Group, Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Call for written third-party comments.

**SUMMARY:** This notice provides information to members of the public on submitting written comments for accrediting agencies currently undergoing review for purposes of recognition by the U.S. Secretary of Education.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Herman Bounds, Director, Accreditation Group, Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 270–01, Washington, DC 20202, telephone: (202) 453–7615, or email: [herman.bounds@ed.gov](mailto:herman.bounds@ed.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This request for written third-party comments concerning the performance of accrediting agencies under review by the Secretary of Education is required by § 496(n)(1)(A) of the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, as amended, and pertains to the summer 2022 meeting of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI). The meeting date and location have not been determined, but will be announced in a later **Federal Register** notice. In addition, a later **Federal Register** notice will describe how to register to provide oral comments at the meeting.

*Agencies Under Review and Evaluation:* The Department requests written comments from the public on the following accrediting agencies, which are currently undergoing review and evaluation by the Accreditation Group, and which will be reviewed at the summer 2022 NACIQI meeting.

The agencies are listed by the type of application each agency has submitted. Please note, each agency's current scope of recognition is indicated below. If any agency requests a change to its scope of recognition, identified are both the current scope of recognition and the requested scope of recognition.

#### Applications for Renewal of Recognition

1. Association for Biblical Higher Education, Commission on Accreditation. Scope of recognition: The accreditation and pre-accreditation ("Candidate Status") of institutions of

biblical higher education in the United States offering undergraduate certificates, associate degrees, baccalaureate degrees, graduate certificates, and master's degrees, including the accreditation of educational programs offered via distance education.

2. American Occupational Therapy Association, Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education. Scope of recognition: The accreditation of occupational therapy educational programs offering the professional master's degree, combined baccalaureate/master's degree, and occupational therapy doctorate (OTD) degree; the accreditation of occupational therapy assistant programs offering the associate degree or a certificate; and the accreditation of these programs offered via distance education. Requested scope of recognition: The pre-accreditation and accreditation throughout the United States of occupational therapy education programs offering the professional master's degree, combined baccalaureate/master's degree, and occupational therapy doctorate (OTD) degree; and occupational therapy assistant programs offering the baccalaureate degree, associate degree, or a certificate; including those programs offered via distance education.

3. Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education. Scope of recognition: The accreditation and pre-accreditation within the United States of professional degree programs in pharmacy leading to the degree of Doctor of Pharmacy, including those programs offered via distance education.

4. Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc., Accreditation Commission. Scope of recognition: The pre-accreditation (provisional) and accreditation of both clinical pastoral education (CPE) centers and Certified Educator CPE programs within the United States, including those that offer those programs via distance education.

5. American Dental Association, Commission on Dental Accreditation. Scope of recognition: The accreditation of predoctoral dental education programs (leading to the D.D.S. or D.M.D. degree), advanced dental education programs, and allied dental education programs that are fully operational or have attained "Initial Accreditation" status, including programs offered via distance education.

6. Distance Education Accrediting Commission. Scope of recognition: The accreditation of postsecondary institutions in the United States that offer degree and/or non-degree programs primarily by the distance or correspondence education method up to