

necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) if the information will be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) the accuracy of the agency's estimates of the burden and cost of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (4) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (5) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Crystal Rennie by telephone at 202-693-0456 or by email at [DOL\\_PRA\\_PUBLIC@dol.gov](mailto:DOL_PRA_PUBLIC@dol.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Bloodborne Pathogen Standard is an occupational safety and health standard that prevents occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens. The standard's information collection requirements are essential components that protect workers from occupational exposure. The information is used by employers and workers to implement the protection required by the Standard. OSHA compliance officers will use some of the information in their enforcement of the Standard. For additional substantive information about this ICR, see the related notice published in the **Federal Register** on April 15, 2021 (86 FR 19904).

This information collection is subject to the PRA. A Federal agency generally cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information, and the public is generally not required to respond to an information collection, unless the OMB approves it and displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. In addition, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall generally be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information that does not display a valid OMB Control Number. See 5 CFR 1320.5(a) and 1320.6.

DOL seeks PRA authorization for this information collection for three (3) years. OMB authorization for an ICR cannot be for more than three (3) years without renewal. The DOL notes that information collection requirements submitted to the OMB for existing ICRs receive a month-to-month extension while they undergo review.

*Agency:* DOL-OSHA.

*Title of Collection:* Bloodborne Pathogens Standard.

*OMB Control Number:* 1218-0180.

*Affected Public:* Private Sector: Businesses or other for-profits.

*Total Estimated Number of Respondents:* 701,563.

*Total Estimated Number of Responses:* 26,841,471.

*Total Estimated Annual Time Burden:* 5,720,498 hours.

*Total Estimated Annual Other Costs Burden:* \$52,516,112.50.

*Authority:* 44 U.S.C. 3507(a)(1)(D).

**Crystal Rennie,**

*Senior PRA Analyst.*

[FR Doc. 2021-15932 Filed 7-26-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4510-26-P**

**NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION**

**Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Capital Planning and Stress Testing**

**AGENCY:** National Credit Union Administration (NCUA).

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), as part of a continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on the following extension of a currently approved collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before September 27, 2021 to be assured consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the information collection to Dawn Wolfgang, National Credit Union Administration, 1775 Duke Street, Suite 6032, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; email at [PRACOMMENTS@NCUA.gov](mailto:PRACOMMENTS@NCUA.gov). Given the limited in-house staff because of the COVID-19 pandemic, email comments are preferred.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Address requests for additional information to Mackie Malaka at the address above or telephone 703-548-2279.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*OMB Number:* 3133-0199.

*Title:* Capital Planning and Stress Testing, 12 CFR part 702, subpart E.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* To protect the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF) and the credit union system, the largest Federally Insured Credit Unions (FICUs) must have systems and processes to monitor and maintain their capital adequacy. The rule requires

covered credit unions to develop and maintain a capital plan and submit this plan to NCUA by March 31 of each year. The rule applies to all FICUs that report \$10 billion or more in assets on their March 31 Call Report.

*Affected Public:* Private Sector: Not-for-profit institutions.

*Estimated No. of Respondents:* 18.

*Estimated No. of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Responses:* 18.

*Estimated Burden Hours per Response:* 223.89.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 4,030.

*Request for Comments:* Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. The public is invited to submit comments concerning: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper execution of the function of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the 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 the information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

By Melane Conyers-Ausbrooks, Secretary of the Board, the National Credit Union Administration, on July 20, 2021.

Dated: July 22, 2021.

**Dawn D. Wolfgang,**

*NCUA PRA Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2021-15924 Filed 7-26-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7535-01-P**

**NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION**

[NCUA 2021-0102]

**Request for Information and Comment on Digital Assets and Related Technologies**

**AGENCY:** National Credit Union Administration (NCUA).

**ACTION:** Notice; request for information and comment.

**SUMMARY:** The NCUA Board (Board) is gathering information and soliciting comments from interested parties

regarding the current and potential impact of activities connected to digital assets and related technologies on federally insured credit unions (FICUs), related entities, and the NCUA. The NCUA is broadly interested in receiving input on commenters' views in this area, including current and potential uses in the credit union system, and the risks associated with them.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before September 27, 2021 to ensure consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any one of the following methods (Please send comments by one method only):

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments for NCUA Docket 2021–0102.

- *Fax:* (703) 518–6319. Include “[Your name] Comments on ‘Request for Information and Comment on Digital Assets and Related Technologies.’”

- *Mail:* Address to Melane Conyers-Ausbrooks, Secretary of the Board, National Credit Union Administration, 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314–3428.

- *Hand Delivery/Courier:* Same as mailing address.

*Public Inspection:* You may view all public comments on the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> as submitted, except for those we cannot post for technical reasons. NCUA will not edit or remove any identifying or contact information from the public comments submitted. Due to social distancing measures in effect, the usual opportunity to inspect paper copies of comments in the NCUA's law library is not currently available. After social distancing measures are relaxed, visitors may make an appointment to review paper copies by calling (703) 518–6540 or emailing [OGCMail@ncua.gov](mailto:OGCMail@ncua.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

*Policy and Analysis:* Scott Borger, Senior Financial Modeler and Todd Sims, National Payment Systems Officer, Office of National Examinations and Supervision, (703) 518–6640; *Legal:* Thomas Zells, Senior Staff Attorney, Office of General Counsel, (703) 518–6540; or by mail at National Credit Union Administration, 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

## I. Background

### *NCUA Overview*

The NCUA is an independent federal agency that insures shares at FICUs, protects the members who own credit

unions, and charters and regulates federal credit unions (FCUs). The NCUA is charged with protecting the safety and soundness of credit unions and, in turn, the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF) through regulation and supervision. The NCUA's mission is to “provide, through regulation and supervision, a safe and sound credit union system, which promotes confidence in the national system of cooperative credit.”<sup>1</sup> The NCUA also works to protect credit union members and consumers. Consistent with these aims, the NCUA has statutory responsibility for a wide variety of regulations that protect the credit union system, members, and the NCUSIF.

### *Decentralized Finance, Digital Assets, and Related Technologies*

Decentralized Finance (DeFi) is the broad category of applications adopting peer-to-peer networks, Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT), and related uses, such as smart contracts, to create digital assets like cryptocurrency and crypto-assets, clearing and settlement systems, identity management systems, and record retention systems.<sup>2</sup> As noted, DLT is the digital process to record transactions that are behind many of these innovations. DLT consists of a shared electronic database where copies of the same information are stored on a distributed network of computers. This shared immutable digital ledger both ensures the data cannot be altered and serves to add new information to the database. Information is only added to the distributed ledger when consensus is reached that the information is valid. As a result, any attempt to modify the information on one computer will not impact the information on other computers. “Blockchains” are one type of distributed ledger. In a blockchain, a chronological record of all transactions is created and stored on the ledger by sequentially grouping all transactions together in blocks.

Digital assets can be transferred between two people without an

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ncua.gov/about-ncua/mission-values>.

<sup>2</sup> There are a number of terms used to describe DLT-based tokens, including virtual currencies, cryptocurrencies, crypto-assets, utility tokens, and digital assets. There are a variety of reasons these terms have evolved including the fact that these digital tokens fail to exhibit the qualities of a currency, and therefore, should not be confused by a term like cryptocurrencies. The term DeFi recognizes that because DLT has been used to develop a broader set of financial products beyond value transfer mechanisms, DeFi encompasses a broader range of different digital and financial products including settlement systems, security-like and equity-like financial instruments, non-fungible tokens, and discount tokens.

intermediary. However, as a practical matter, most members of the public do not have a means of converting dollars into digital assets on their own. Software developers and entrepreneurs have created exchanges to facilitate the exchange of dollars for digital assets and digital wallets to provide customers a convenient way to store their encryption keys required to verify ownership of their digital assets. These entities serve as intermediaries in the new digital ledger payment systems.

Since the introduction of DLT, thousands of projects have used the technology to lower the cost of verifying ownership, storing distributed data, or tracking information. The projects have covered everything from tracking ownership in national land registries to tracking the history of a product in the food supply chain. While DeFi offers a number of potential benefits and opportunities for the credit union system, it also presents several risks, for example: (1) The permanent nature of the transactions necessitates questions about consumer recourse for fraudulent financial activities; (2) the ability to source funds for new projects has the downside of individuals or groups manipulating the price of tokens; (3) the storage of digital assets poses risks of lost or stolen cryptographic keys; and (4) the ability to transfer value through peer-to-peer networks creates unregulated money transmitters that could provide liquidity to those who want to launder money or participate in tax-avoidance schemes.

The NCUA is publishing this request for information with the aim of engaging the broad credit union industry and other stakeholders and learning how emerging DLT and DeFi applications are viewed and used. The NCUA hopes to learn how the credit union community is using these emerging technologies and gain additional feedback as to the role the NCUA can play in safeguarding the financial system and consumers in the context of these emerging technologies. The accelerating pace of change information technology brings, coupled with the widespread diffusion of computing power and the growing importance of networks, is raising new opportunities and challenges. In order to continue to fulfill its mandate to maintain a safe and sound credit union system and protect credit union members, the NCUA is working to better understand the implications of these changes and the associated benefits or challenges that may exist.

## II. Request for Comment

The Board seeks comments on the current and potential impact of

activities related to DLT and DeFi on the credit union system. The NCUA is broadly interested in receiving input on parties' views in this area, including current and potential uses. Commenters are also encouraged to discuss any and all relevant issues they believe the Board should consider with respect to these technologies and related matters. The Board reiterates that this request for information does not modify any existing requirements applicable to FICUs and does not grant FICUs any new authorities or limit any existing authorities. The request for information does not speak to the permissibility or impermissibility of any specific activity.

#### *Questions Regarding Usage and the Marketplace*

1. How are those in the credit union system currently using or planning to use DLT and DeFi applications?

2. What, if any, DLT or DeFi applications are those in the credit union system currently engaging in or considering? Please explain, including the nature and scope of the activity. More specifically:

a. What, if any, types of specific products or services related to these technologies are those in the credit union system currently offering or considering offering to members? Are credit union members asking for specific products or services related to these technologies?

b. To what extent are those in the credit union system engaging in or considering DeFi applications or providing services related to digital assets that have direct balance sheet impacts?

c. To what extent are those in the credit union system engaging in or considering DLT for other purposes, such as to facilitate internal operations?

d. To what extent, if any, are those in the credit union system aware of cross-jurisdiction or cross-border transactions related to DLT and digital assets.

3. In terms of the marketplace, where do those in the credit union system see the greatest demand for DeFi application services, and who are the largest drivers for such services?

4. Are there new developments that might affect use of DeFi applications by those in the credit union system in the future?

5. Are DeFi applications a competitive threat for those in the credit union system?

6. What concerns, if any, do those in the credit union system have related to current statutory or regulatory limitations on their ability to utilize DeFi applications? Are there any changes that would influence the credit

union system's ability to utilize DeFi applications?

7. Apart from anything listed in this Request for Information, what other actions should the NCUA take? Please be as precise as possible, including, but not limited to, necessary regulatory changes, additional guidance, and legal opinions.

#### *Operational Questions*

8. What are the advantages and disadvantages of FICUs developing DLT and DeFi projects through third-party relationships versus through a credit union service organization (CUSO)?

9. How dependent will FICUs be on third-party software and open-source libraries for their own DLT projects?

#### *Questions Regarding Risk and Compliance Management*

10. To what extent are existing risk and compliance management frameworks designed to identify, measure, monitor, and control risks associated with various DLT and DeFi applications? Do some DLT and DeFi applications more easily align with existing risk and compliance management frameworks compared to others? Do, or would, some DLT and DeFi applications result in FICUs developing entirely new or materially different risk and compliance management frameworks?

11. What unique or specific risks are challenging to measure, monitor, and control for various DLT and DeFi applications? What unique controls or processes are or could be implemented to address such risks?

12. What unique benefits or risks to operations do FICUs consider as they analyze various DLT and DeFi applications?

13. How are FICUs integrating, or how would FICUs integrate, operations related to DLT and DeFi applications with legacy FICU systems?

14. Please identify any potential benefits, and any unique risks, of particular DLT and DeFi applications to FICUs and their members.

15. What impact will DLT and DeFi applications have on FICUs' earnings? How will FICUs ensure they account for any negative impact, such as potential lost interchange income as peer-to-peer transactions grow?

16. How are those in the credit union system integrating these new technologies into their existing Information Technology environment securely, including existing cybersecurity functions and data privacy/data protection policies? How are the risks in this area being evaluated?

17. What considerations have commenters given to how to maintain continued compliance with State and Federal laws and regulations that may be applicable to various DLT and DeFi applications, including, but not limited to, those governing securities, Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) and anti-money laundering, and consumer protection? Have those obligations, or uncertainty related to potential obligations, impacted commenters' DLT and DeFi activities? How do commenters' DLT and DeFi activities address requirements in these areas?

18. How specifically do DLT and DeFi projects in the credit union system address BSA and Know Your Customer (KYC) requirements?

19. How can FICUs address fraud and other consumer protections with an immutable digital ledger? How can FICUs ensure continued compliance with any applicable consumer protection requirements that may arise with various DLT and DeFi applications, such as obligations related to fair lending, electronic funds transfers, and funds availability?

20. If utilizing, or planning to utilize, any of these or related technologies, what steps have been taken in providing the services and what has been done to ensure the services are being utilized safely and in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations? Please describe:

a. The process for developing a sound business case and presenting it to the board of directors for approval;

b. The process for ensuring the consideration of all of the risks and risk categories;

c. The level of due diligence performed on any vendors or third parties and whether the vendors were a new entry in the market or an established technology provider;

d. The process for assessing the quality and level of internal information systems and technology staff to support systems and applications; and

e. The process for developing internal oversight of the program.

#### *Questions Regarding Supervision and Activities*

21. Are there any unique aspects the NCUA should consider from a supervisory perspective?

22. Are there any areas in which the NCUA should clarify or expand existing supervisory guidance to address these activities?

23. The NCUA's Part 721 application procedures may be applicable to certain DLT activities.<sup>3</sup> Is additional clarity

<sup>3</sup> 12 CFR part 721.

needed? Would any changes to NCUA's regulations be helpful in addressing uncertainty surrounding the permissibility of particular types of DLT activity, in order to support FICUs considering or engaging in such activities?

#### *Questions Regarding Share Insurance and Resolution*

24. Are there any steps the NCUA should consider to ensure FICU members can distinguish between uninsured digital asset products and insured shares?

25. Are there distinctions or similarities between stablecoins (cryptocurrencies that are backed by a currency like the U.S. Dollar and are designed to have a stable value compared to other cryptocurrencies) and stored value products where the underlying funds are held at FICUs and, for which pass-through share insurance may be available to members in limited scenarios?

26. If the NCUA were to encounter any of the digital assets use cases in the resolution process or in a conservatorship capacity, what complexities might be encountered in valuing, marketing, transferring, operating, or resolving the DeFi activity? What actions should be considered to overcome the complexities?

#### *Additional Considerations*

Commenters are invited to address any other DLT and DeFi applications or related information they seek to bring to the NCUA's attention. Commenters are encouraged to provide the specific basis for their comments and, to the extent feasible, documentation to support any comments.

*Authority:* 12 U.S.C. 1756 and 1784.

By the National Credit Union Administration Board on July 22, 2021.

**Melane Conyers-Ausbrooks,**

*Secretary of the Board.*

[FR Doc. 2021-15948 Filed 7-26-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7535-01-P**

## **NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES**

### **National Endowment for the Arts**

#### **60-Day Notice for "Applications From Students for Agency Initiatives Poetry Out Loud or the Musical Theater Songwriting Challenge for High School Students"**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This program helps to ensure that requested data is provided in the desired format; reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized; collection instruments are clearly understood; and the impact of collection requirements on respondents is properly assessed. Currently, the NEA is soliciting comments concerning the proposed information collection of: Applications from Students for Agency Initiatives Poetry Out Loud or the Musical Theater Songwriting Challenge for High School Students." A copy of the current information collection request can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the address section of this notice.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the address section below within 60 days from the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**. The NEA is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Can help the agency minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the electronic submission of responses.

**ADDRESS:** Email comments to Daniel Beattie, Director, Office of Guidelines and Panel Operations, National Endowment for the Arts, at: 202-682-5688 or [beattied@arts.gov](mailto:beattied@arts.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Daniel Beattie, Director of Guidelines and Panel Operations, National Endowment for the Arts, at: 202-682-5688 or [beattied@arts.gov](mailto:beattied@arts.gov).

Dated: July 22, 2021.

**Daniel Beattie,**

*Director, Guidelines and Panel Operations, Administrative Services, National Endowment for the Arts.*

[FR Doc. 2021-15976 Filed 7-26-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7537-01-P**

## **NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

### **Sunshine Act Meeting**

The National Science Board's Committee on Awards & Facilities hereby gives notice of the scheduling of a teleconference for the transaction of National Science Board business, as follows:

**TIME AND DATE:** Tuesday, August 3, 2021, from 10:45-11:45 a.m. EDT.

**PLACE:** This meeting will be held by teleconference through the National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314.

**STATUS:** Closed.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:** The agenda of the teleconference is: Committee Chair's Opening Remarks; approval of Prior Minutes; Action Item: Rubin Observatory Management Reserve; Action Item: Arecibo Observatory Clean-up Costs Award; Committee Chair's Closing Remarks.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Point of contact for this meeting is: Chris Blair, [cblair@nsf.gov](mailto:cblair@nsf.gov), 703/292-7000. Meeting information and updates may be found at <http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/meetings/notices.jsp#sunshine>. Please refer to the National Science Board website [www.nsf.gov/nsb](http://www.nsf.gov/nsb) for general information.

**Chris Blair,**

*Executive Assistant to the National Science Board Office.*

[FR Doc. 2021-16104 Filed 7-23-21; 4:15 pm]

**BILLING CODE 7555-01-P**

## **NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

### **Sunshine Act Meeting**

The National Science Board's Committee on External Engagement hereby gives notice of the scheduling of a teleconference for the transaction of National Science Board business as follows:

**TIME AND DATE:** Tuesday, August 3, 2021, from 11:00-11:45 a.m. p.m. EDT.

**PLACE:** This meeting will be held by teleconference through the National Science Foundation.

**STATUS:** Open.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:** The agenda of the teleconference is: Opening