DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
[Docket No. ED–2022–SCC–0007]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Streamlined Clearance Process for Discretionary Grants

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary (OS), Department of Education (ED).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, ED is proposing an extension of a currently approved information collection.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before May 4, 2022.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for proposed information collection requests should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this information collection request by selecting “Department of Education” under “Currently Under Review,” then check “Only Show ICR for Public Comment” checkbox. Comments may also be sent to ICDocketmgr@ed.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Alfreida Pettiford, 202–453–7718.

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: Streamlined Clearance Process for Discretionary Grants.

OMB Control Number: 1894–0001.

Type of Review: An extension of a currently approved information collection.

Respondents/Affected Public: State, Local, and Tribal Governments.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 1.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 3.

Abstract: Section 3505(a)(2) of the PRA of 1995 provides the OMB Director authority to approve the streamlined clearance process proposed in this information collection request. This information collection request was originally approved by OMB in January of 1997. This information collection streamlines the clearance process for all discretionary grant information collections which do not fit the generic application process. The streamlined clearance process continues to reduce the clearance time for the U.S. Department of Education’s (ED’s) discretionary grant information collections by two months or 60 days. This is desirable for two major reasons: It would allow ED to provide better customer service to grant applicants and help meet ED’s goal for timely awards of discretionary grants. § 3474.20(d) adds the requirement for grantees to develop a dissemination plan for copyrighted work under open licensing. Information contained in the narrative of an application will be captured in the Evidence of Effectiveness Form.

Dated: March 29, 2022.

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

[FR Doc. 2022–06955 Filed 4–1–22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Automatic Extension of Performance Period for All Open Grants Issued Under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)

AGENCY: Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice.
SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Education (Department) is issuing this notice regarding the automatic extension of HEERF grantees’ performance period. The performance period for all open HEERF grants with a balance greater than $1,000 is extended through June 30, 2023.


If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) or a text telephone (TTY), call the Federal Relay Service, toll free, at 1–800–877–8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) (Pub. L. 117–2). The ARP appropriated approximately $39.6 billion for HEERF, which represents the third stream of funding appropriated for HEERF to support institutions of higher education (IHEs) for the purpose of preventing, preparing for, and responding to the coronavirus. The ARP is one of the largest single investments ever made in our Nation’s most historically under-resourced institutions. It has supported American recovery from the economic and health crises created by the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID–19) pandemic. Prior funding streams include the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (Pub. L. 116–136) and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSSA) (Pub. L. 116–260). The CARES Act, enacted on March 27, 2020, provided the Department with a $14.0 billion HEERF appropriation. CRRSSA, signed into law on December 27, 2020, made available an additional $22.7 billion for IHEs under the HEERF program.

In enacting CARES, CRRSSA, and ARP, Congress did not specify a performance period for HEERF grantees. In its initial determination regarding the performance period for grants made under CARES, CRRSSA, and ARP, the Department made the decision that institutions must expend their HEERF grant funds within one year from the date when the Department processed the most recent obligation of funds for each specific grant. For example, when distributing ARP HEERF grant funds, the Department stated that IHEs that received a supplemental award under ARP had one year to spend remaining CARES, CRRSSA, and new ARP grant funds for each specific grant supplement received, which began on the date their ARP supplemental award was made. An institution’s performance period for each of its HEERF grants is currently indicated in Box 6 of the institution’s most recent Grant Award Notification (GAN) under “federal funding period.”

Under the Department’s grantmaking procedures in 2 CFR 200.308(e)(2) and 34 CFR 75.261, grantees may also request one-time extensions of the budget period for up to 12 months to continue the work of their HEERF grants. Given that HEERF grantees have been awarded multiple supplemental grants obligated on a rolling basis, and some grants are on a no-cost extension, the performance period varies among HEERF grantees and their individual HEERF grants.

The Department is committed to providing consistency, where possible, and extending all available flexibilities that may be authorized by law to grantees under the HEERF programs as institutions continue to grapple with the financial consequences of COVID–19. The COVID–19 pandemic continues to challenge the public health and safety of the Nation, and it is essential to continue to combat and respond to COVID–19 with the full capacity and capability of the Federal Government. Under 34 CFR 75.250(a), the Secretary may approve a project period of up to 60 months to perform the substantive work of a grant. While grantees have diligently spent most of their HEERF grant funds, the Department recognizes the need to use remaining funds to meet the needs of students. Accordingly, the Department is extending the performance period on all HEERF grants through June 30, 2023. This extension does not apply to grants that are closed or in the closeout process, nor does it apply to grants that have an award balance of $1,000 or less. The Department believes that extending the performance period on all HEERF grants through June 30, 2023, is consistent with the intent of Congress and authorized by the law. This extension, with a consistent performance period across grants, will also allow IHEs to manage grant spending more efficiently and spend remaining funds to meet institutional needs during the ongoing pandemic.

This blanket extension is not considered a no-cost extension under 2 CFR 200.308(e)(2) and 34 CFR 75.261. While institutions will not receive a new GAN updating the performance periods of their HEERF grants, this notice supersedes, in part, all previous guidance, grant award documents to provide IHEs with an extended performance period through June 30, 2023. Grantees are not required to take any action to take advantage of this automatic extension but are encouraged to maintain a copy of this notice within their HEERF grant files as required documentation for auditing purposes.

Institutions may always spend HEERF funds prior to the conclusion of the performance period. For those institutions that do not need additional time to spend their HEERF award, the Department encourages spending funds as soon as possible.

For more information on HEERF, please visit the Department’s Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund page at: www2.ed.gov/programs/heerf/

Program Authority: Section 18004 of CARES, Section 314 of CRRSSA, and Section 2003 of ARP.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations in 34 CFR parts 75, 77, 81, 82, 84, 86, 97, 98, and 99. (b) The Office of Management and Budget Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) in 2 CFR part 180, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3485. (c) The Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards in 2 CFR part 200, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3474.

Accessible Format: On request to the program contact person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT, individuals with disabilities can obtain this document in an accessible format. The Department will provide the requestor with an accessible format that may include Rich Text Format (RTF) or text format (txt), a thumb drive, an MP3 file, braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc, or other accessible format.

Electronic Access to This Document: The official version of this document is the document published in the Federal Register. You may access the official edition of the Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations at www.govinfo.gov. At this site you can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the Federal Register, in text or Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF, you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site.

You may also access documents of the Department published in the Federal Register by using the article search feature at www.federalregister.gov. Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit
your search to documents published by the Department.

Michelle Asha Cooper,
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Higher Education Programs, Delegated the Authority to Perform the Functions and Duties of the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Postsecondary Education.

[FR Doc. 2022–07053 Filed 4–1–22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED–2022–SCC–0045]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Application for Grants Under the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education (FUTURE) Act 2019 Programs (1894–0001)

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, ED is proposing an extension without change of a currently approved collection.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before May 4, 2022.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for proposed information collection requests should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this information collection request by selecting “Department of Education” under “Current Federal Reviews,” then check “Only Show ICR for Public Comment” checkbox. Comments may also be sent to ICDOcketmgr@ed.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Wendy Lawrence, (202) 453–7821.

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: Application for Grants Under the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education (FUTURE) Act 2019 Programs (1894–0001).

OMB Control Number: 1840–0113.

Type of Review: Extension without change of a currently approved collection.

Respondents/Affected Public: State, Local, and Tribal Governments; Private Sector.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 131.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 3,668.

Abstract: The Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Program and Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education (FUTURE) Act 2019 are authorized by Title II, Part B, and Part F. The purpose of these programs is to provide historically Black institutions with resources to establish or strengthen their physical plants, financial management, academic resources, and endowments.

This collection is being submitted under the Streamlined Clearance Process for Discretionary Grant Information Collections (1894–0001). Therefore, the 30-day public comment period notice will be the only public comment notice published for this information collection.

Dated: March 29, 2022.

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