DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

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 are requested regarding: 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; the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and 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.

Comments regarding this information collection received by November 23, 2022 will be considered. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

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 Business-Cooperative Service

Title: Intermediary Re-lending Program.

OMB Control Number: 0570–0021.

Summary of Collection: The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized by 7 U.S.C. 1936(b) to make or guarantee loans to eligible entities (Indian tribes, public agencies, cooperatives and nonprofit corporations) so that loans will be reloaned to individuals and entities for the purposes that predominantly serve communities in rural areas and promote community development, establish new businesses, establish and support micro-lending programs and create or retain employment opportunities. 7 CFR 4284. Subpart D contains regulations for filing applications for loans made by Rural Development (RD) under the Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) to eligible intermediaries and applies to borrowers and other parties involved in making such loans.

Need and Use of the Information: The information requested is necessary for RBS to process applications in a responsible manner, make prudent credit and program decisions, and effectively monitor the intermediaries’ activities to protect the Government’s financial interest and ensure that funds obtained from the Government are used appropriately. Various forms are used to include information to identify the intermediary, describe the intermediary’s experience and expertise, describe how the intermediary will operate its revolving loan fund, provide for debt instruments, loan agreements, and security, and other material necessary for prudent credit decisions and reasonable program monitoring.

Description of Respondents: The information is collected from intermediaries that are public bodies and private nonprofit organizations, and Indian Tribes. This information is for determining such factors as: (1) eligibility; (2) the specific purposes for which grant funds will be utilized; (3) timeframes or dates by which actions surrounding the use of funds will be accomplished; (4) who will be carrying out the purposes for which the grant is made; (5) project priority; (6) applicants’ experience in administering a rural economic development program; (7) employment improvement; and (8) mitigation of economic distress of a community through the creation or salvation of jobs or emergency situations.

Number of Respondents: 140.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: On occasion.

Total Burden Hours: 11,790.

Rural Business Cooperative Service

Title: Rural Business Development Grants.

OMB Control Number: 0570–0070.

Summary of Collection: The Agricultural Act of 2014, Public Law 113–79 (2014 Farm Bill) (7 U.S.C. 1932(c)), authorized the Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) program to facilitate the development of small and emerging private businesses, industries, and related employment as well as identifying and analyzing business opportunities, establishing business support centers, and providing training, technical assistance, and planning for improving the economy in rural communities. 7 CFR 4280. Subpart E is a Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) regulation which covers the administration of this program, including eligibility requirements and evaluation criteria to make funding selection decisions. The reporting burden to be cleared with this request includes the submission of documentation to support selection priority points such as evidence of experience, commitment by other funding sources, evidence of loans that are needed, commitment by business of jobs created or saved, and evidence that the proposed project is covered by a plan; and reporting requirements after grant approval.

Need and Use of the Information: The information is necessary for RBDG to process applications in a responsible manner, make prudent credit and program decisions, and effectively monitor the intermediaries’ activities to protect the Government’s financial interest and ensure that funds obtained from the Government are used appropriately. Various forms are used to include information to identify the intermediary, describe the intermediary’s experience and expertise, describe how the intermediary will operate its revolving loan fund, provide for debt instruments, loan agreements, and security, and other material necessary for prudent credit decisions and reasonable program monitoring.

Description of Respondents: The information is collected from intermediaries that are public bodies and private nonprofit organizations, and Indian Tribes. This information is for determining such factors as: (1) eligibility; (2) the specific purposes for which grant funds will be utilized; (3) timeframes or dates by which actions surrounding the use of funds will be accomplished; (4) who will be carrying out the purposes for which the grant is made; (5) project priority; (6) applicants’ experience in administering a rural economic development program; (7) employment improvement; and (8) mitigation of economic distress of a community through the creation or salvation of jobs or emergency situations.

Number of Respondents: 920.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 59,823.

Levi S. Harrell,
Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

[Docket No. RUS–22–TELECOM–0054]

Notice of New Information Collection

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Utilities Service’s (RUS or Agency), an agency within the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, intention to request a new information collection package for the Broadband Technical Assistance Program (BTA Program). The BTA Program provides financial assistance to technical assistance providers and rural communities to promote the expansion of broadband service into unserved rural areas.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by December 23, 2022 to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pamela Bennett, Regulations...
Management Division, Innovation Center, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Email: pamela.bennett@usda.gov. Telephone: (202) 720–9639.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) regulation (5 CFR part 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13) requires that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice identifies an information collection that RUS will submit to OMB for regular approval.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Rural Business-Cooperative Service’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including 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 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.

Comments may be sent by the Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to https://www.regulations.gov and, in the “Search” box, type in the Docket No. RUS–22–TELECOM–0054. A link to the Notice will appear. You may submit a comment here by selecting the “Comment” button or you can access the “Docket” tab, select the “Notice,” and go to the “Browse & Comment on Documents” Tab. Here you may view comments that have been submitted as well as submit a comment. To submit a comment, select the “Comment” button, complete the required information, and select the “Submit Comment” button at the bottom. Information on using Regulations.gov, including instructions for accessing documents, submitting comments, and viewing the docket after the close of the comment period, is available through the site’s “FAQ” link at the bottom.

A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. Data furnished by the applicants will be used to determine eligibility for program benefits. Furnishing the data is voluntary; however, failure to provide data could result in program benefits being withheld or denied.

Title: Broadband Technical Assistance Program.

OMB Control Number: 0572–NEW.

Type of Request: New information collection.

Abstract: The Rural Utilities Service administers the Broadband Technical Assistance Program (BTA Program) as authorized pursuant to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117–58). The purpose of the program is to provide financial assistance to technical assistance providers and rural communities to promote the expansion of broadband service into unserved rural areas. Program funds must be used to support broadband technical assistance activities which include, but are not limited to, project planning and community engagement, operations support, financial sustainability, environmental compliance, construction and engineering, accessing federal resources, and data collection and reporting.

The reporting burden covered by this collection of information consists of forms, documents and written burden to support a request for funding for BTA Program assistance. This information collection will be used to obtain information necessary to evaluate applications to determine the eligibility of the applicant and the project for the program and to qualitatively assess the project’s technical and financial merit to determine which projects should be funded.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1.109 hours per response.

Respondents: Respondents for this data my include Tribes and Tribal Entities, state or local governments, a territory or possession of the United States, an institution of higher learning, non-profit entities with 501(c)(3) IRS status, cooperatives or mutual organizations, corporations and limited liability companies or limited liability partnerships.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 25.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 18.04.

Estimated Number of Responses: 451.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 500 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Pamela Bennett, Rural Development Innovation Center, Regulations Management Division, at (202) 720–9639. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Andrew Berke, Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Notice of Public Meeting of the Nebraska Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

AGENCY: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

ACTION: Announcement of meetings.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act that the Nebraska Advisory Committee (Committee) to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will hold two (2) meetings on Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. Central Time and Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. Central Time. The purpose for the meetings is to discuss the proposal for their project on the effects of the pandemic on education in the state.

DATES: The meetings will take place on:

• Thursday, November 10, 2022, from 4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. Central Time. Online Registration (Audio/Visual): Join ZoomGov Meeting https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1605098126?pwd=WCIWN0g0NyR09F09HaGlhus0xU0t2UT09. Telephone (Audio Only): Dial 833 435 1820 USA Toll Free; Access code: 160 569 8126#.

• Tuesday, December 13, 2022, from 4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. Central Time. Online Registration (Audio/Visual): Join ZoomGov Meeting https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1613760014?pwd= dEBoSFRUSUGR1ZhwaW94WC9 WOWt2UT09. Telephone (Audio Only): Dial 833 435 1820 USA Toll Free; Access code: 161 376 0014#.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Victoria Moreno at vmoreno@uscrr.gov or by phone at 434–515–0204.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This meeting is available to the public