Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 3,600

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:
An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

Request for Comments: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) whether the 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 collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: March 20, 2024.
Molly J. Stasko, Senior Tax Analyst.

UNIFIED CARRIER REGISTRATION PLAN

Board of Directors; Request for Nominations

AGENCY: Unified Carrier Registration Plan.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Unified Carrier Registration (UCR) Plan Board of Directors is requesting nominations of qualified individuals for all five of the motor carrier industry positions for appointment by FMCSA to the UCR Plan Board of Directors. The five vacancies have terms which expire on May 31, 2027. The nominees must be representatives from the motor carrier industry. At least one of the five motor carrier industry directors must be from a national trade association representing the general motor carrier of property industry and one of them must be from a motor carrier that falls within the smallest fleet fee bracket.

DATES: Nominations of or expressions of interest by qualified individuals to be considered by the FMCSA for appointment to fill these five vacancies in the Board of Directors of the Unified Carrier Registration Plan, along with accompanying resumes, must be received on or before May 10, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Nominations of or expressions of interest by qualified individuals to be considered by the FMCSA for appointment to the Board of the UCR Plan, along with accompanying resumes, must be received on or before May 10, 2024.

Mail, Courier, or Hand-Delivery: Unified Carrier Registration Plan, Attention: Matt Mantione, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 1280, Washington, DC 20045. Internet: mmantione@plan.ucr.gov.
Supplementary Information:

Background: Section 4305(b) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) (Pub. L. 109–59, 119 Stat. 1144, August 10, 2005) enacted 49 U.S.C. 14504a, entitled “Unified carrier registration system plan and agreement.” Under the UCR Agreement, motor carriers, motor private carriers, brokers, freight forwarders, and leasing companies that are involved in interstate transportation register and pay certain fees. The UCR Plan’s Board of Directors must issue rules and regulations to govern the UCR Agreement.

Section 14504a(a)(9) defines the Unified Carrier Registration Plan as the organization of State, Federal, and industry representatives responsible for developing, implementing, and administering the UCR Agreement. Section 14504a(d)(1)(B) directed the Secretary of Transportation to establish a Unified Carrier Registration Plan. Board of Directors made up of 15 members from FMCSA, State Governments, and the motor carrier industry.

The Board also must recommend to the Secretary of Transportation annual fees to be assessed against carriers, leasing companies, brokers, and freight forwarders under the UCR Agreement. Section 14504a(d)(1)(B) provides that the UCR Plan’s Board of Directors must consist of directors from the following groups:

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration: One director must be selected from each of the FMCSA service areas (as defined by FMCSA on January 1, 2005) from among the chief administrative officers of the State agencies responsible for administering the UCR Agreement.

State Agencies: The five directors selected to represent State agencies must be from among the professional staffs of State agencies responsible for overseeing the administration of the UCR Agreement.

Motor Carrier Industry: Five directors must be from the motor carrier industry. At least one of the five motor carrier industry directors must be from a national trade association representing the general motor carrier of property industry and one of them must be from a motor carrier that falls within the smallest fleet fee bracket. The term of each of these appointments expires on May 31, 2027.

All nominations of or expressions of interest by qualified individuals who are interested in being considered by the UCR Plan Board of Directors must be received for the five soon to be vacant positions described above and submitted on or before May 10, 2024, will be forwarded to FMCSA. The authority to appoint an individual to fill each of the five vacant positions lies with Secretary of Transportation, which has been delegated to FMCSA.

Nominations and expressions of interest should indicate that the individual nominated or interested meets the statutory requirements specified in 49 U.S.C. 14504a(d)(1)(B). All applications must include a current resume.

The UCR Plan Board may, but is not required to, recommend to FMCSA the appointment of individuals from among the nominations and expressions of interest received. If the Board does make such recommendation(s), it will do so after consideration during an open meeting in compliance with the Sunshine Act. If the Board makes such recommendation(s), it will do so after consideration during an open meeting in compliance with the Sunshine Act that includes such recommendation(s) as part of the subject matter of the open meeting.

Alex B. Leath,
Chief Legal Officer, Unified Carrier Registration Plan.

For further information contact: Elizabeth Leaman, Chair, Unified Carrier Registration Plan Board of Directors, [617] 305–3783, eleaman@board.ucr.gov.

Notice: This notice is to inform the public about changes to rates contained within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Fee Schedule. This fee schedule is currently used as part of the rate structure for certain agreements that VA uses to purchase community care under the Veterans Community Care Program (VCCP). Additionally, in this notice, VA will explain its use of non-reimbursable codes and industry-standard business practices to ensure consistent adjudication of claims for services deemed non-billable or non-reimbursable.

Dates: The change will be effective March 27, 2024.

For further information contact: Joseph Duran, Policy Directorate, 161VCEO3, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420; 303–370–1637 (This is not a toll-free number).

Supplementary Information:

A. Background

Prior to implementing VCCP, as required by section 101 of the VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018, VA would pay for community care pursuant to regulations found at 38 CFR 17.55 and 17.56. These regulations created a VA 75th Percentile Fee Schedule that was used to determine payment rates when there was no negotiated rate and no Medicare Rate. While the VA 75th Percentile Fee Schedule still exists and is used for paying for care provided under certain authorities (for example, 38 U.S.C. 1728), it is not used for making payments under VCCP, and is not the subject of this notice. Under VCCP, there are no specific payment rates assigned through statute, and the amount that VA pays for health care provided under this program is determined by the terms of the agreement the care was purchased under. While the statute does not set rates, 38 U.S.C. 1703(j) does indicate that VA must, when practicable, limit the amounts it pays to the amounts that would be paid under Medicare for the same services. Specifically, 38 U.S.C. 1703(j) states that, “...to the extent practicable, the rate paid for hospital care, medical services, or extended care services under any provision in this title may not exceed the rate paid by the United States to a provider of services...” under the Medicare program under title XI or title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395f).