

Review Criteria

Technically eligible applications will be competitively reviewed according to the criteria stated below. These criteria are not rank ordered:

1. Programmatic Planning, Objectives, and Quality

Proposed programs should strengthen long-term mutual understanding, including maximum sharing of information and establishment of long-term individual and institutional linkages. A detailed agenda and plan should adhere to the program overview and guidelines described above. Proposals must provide a plan for continued follow-on activity (without USIA support) that ensures that USIA-supported programs are not isolated events.

2. Organizational Capacity and Track Record

Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the Program or project's goals. Proposals should demonstrate an institutional record of successful exchange programs, including responsible fiscal management and full compliance with all reporting requirements for past Agency grants as determined by USIA's Office of Contracts. The Agency will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants. An organization's track record will be evaluated based on the achievement of stated goals and impact on schools in the U.S. and NIS.

3. Support of Diversity

Proposals should demonstrate the recipient's commitment to promoting the awareness and understanding of diversity. Applicants should review the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs "diversity flyer." Additionally, the geographic diversity of programs in both the U.S. and the NIS will be a significant factor in USIA's award decisions.

4. Cost-effectiveness/Sharing

The overhead and administrative components of the proposal, including salaries and honoraria, should be kept as low as possible. All other items should be necessary and appropriate. Overall costs of participants will be a major factor in the review of the proposal. Proposals should maximize cost-sharing through United States participant contributions and other private sector support as well as institutional direct funding

contributions. Source of funds for cost-sharing should be indicated.

5. Project Evaluation

Proposals must include a plan to evaluate the program, both as the activities unfold and at the end. USIA recommends that the proposal include a draft survey questionnaire or other technique plus description of a methodology for use in linking outcomes to original project objectives for each school linkage. Award-receiving organizations/institutions will be expected to submit reports on each separate linkage.

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by any USIA representative. Explanatory information provided by the Agency that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Agency reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements. Organizations will be expected to cooperate with USIA in evaluating their programs under the principles of the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, which requires federal agencies to measure and report on the results of their programs and activities.

Notification

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal USIA procedures.

Dated: November 20, 1996.

John P. Loiello,

Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

[FR Doc. 96-30261 Filed 11-26-96; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Proposed Information Collection Activity; Public Comment Request

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) invites the

general public and other Federal agencies to comment on this information collection. This request for comment is being made pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Comments should address the accuracy of the burden estimates and ways to minimize the burden including the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology, as well as other relevant aspects of the information collection.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposal for the collection of information should be received on or before January 27, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. All comments will become a matter of public record and will be summarized in the VBA request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. In this document VBA is soliciting comments concerning the following information collection:

OMB Control Number: 2900-0215.

Title and Form Number: Request for Information to Make Direct Payment to Child Reaching Majority, VA Form Letter 21-863.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Need and Uses: The form letter is used to gather the necessary information to determine the address of a child attaining majority and to determine the child's student status.

Current Actions: The information is needed to pay a child directly when the child attains majority. VA procedures provide that a competent child who is entitled to benefits in his or her own right should be paid directly upon attaining majority.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 3,767 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 10 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Generally one-time.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 22,600.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form should be directed to Department of Veterans Affairs, Attn: Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, Telephone (202) 273-7079 or FAX (202) 275-4884.

Dated: November 12, 1996.

By direction of the Secretary.

William T. Morgan,

Management Analyst.

[FR Doc. 96-30260 Filed 11-26-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

**Agency Information Collection:
Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request**

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits
Administration, Department of Veterans
Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Veterans Benefits
Administration (VBA), Department of
Veterans Affairs, has submitted to the
Office of Management and Budget
(OMB) the following proposal for the
collection of information under the
provisions of the Paperwork Reduction
Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

OMB Control Number: 2900-0180.

Title and Form Number: Compliance
Report of Proprietary Institutions, VA
Form 27-4274.

Type of Review: Reinstatement,
without change, of a previously
approved collection for which approval
has expired.

Need and Uses: The form will be used
to collect statistical information from
proprietary schools which receive
Federal assistance from the VA and the
Department of Education to determine
compliance with applicable civil rights
statutes and regulations.

Affected Public: Business or other for-
profit.

Estimated Annual Burden: 124 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per

Respondent: 60 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents:
124.

ADDRESSES: A copy of this submission
may be obtained from Ron Taylor, VA
Clearance Officer (0451A4), Department
of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont

Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420,
(202) 273-8015.

Comments and recommendations
concerning the submission should be
directed to VA's OMB Desk Officer,
Allison Eydt, OMB Human Resources
and Housing Branch, New Executive
Office Building, Room 10235,
Washington, DC 20503, (202) 395-4650.
DO NOT send requests for benefits to
this address.

DATES: Comments on the information
collection should be directed to the
OMB Desk Officer on or before
December 27, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ron
Taylor, VA Clearance Officer (045A4),
(202) 273-8015.

Dated: November 7, 1996.

By direction of the Secretary.

Donald L. Neilson,

Director, Information Management Service.

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