

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration

[Document Identifier: HCFA-R-0270]

Emergency Clearance: Public Information Collection Requirements Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

AGENCY: Health Care Financing Administration, HHS.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), Department of Health and Human Services, is publishing the following summary of proposed collections for public comment. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

We are, however, requesting an emergency review of the information collection referenced below. In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we have submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) the following requirements for emergency review. We are requesting an emergency review because of an unanticipated event and the fact that the collection of this information is needed before the expiration of the normal time limits under OMB's regulations at 5 CFR, Part 1320. In order to assess and renovate internal systems and interfaces with business partners for Y2K, the Agency cannot reasonably comply with the normal clearance procedures. Without this information, HCFA will be unable to assess the millennium readiness status of the business partners and will be unable to make operational and contracting decisions to assure the safety and continuity of health care services provided to Medicare beneficiaries, and payments to providers of services. This request complies with the procedures for emergency clearance of Y2K surveys as outlined in the OMB memo dated 5/26/98.

HCFA is requesting OMB review and approval of this collection within 11 working days with a 180-day approval period. Written comments and recommendations will be accepted from the public if received by the individuals designated below, within 10 working days. During this 180-day period, we will publish a separate **Federal Register** notice announcing the initiation of an extensive 60-day agency review and public comment period on these requirements. We will submit the requirements for OMB review and an extension of this emergency approval.

Type of Information Request: New collection.

Title of Information Collection: Managed Care organization Year 2000 Continuity and Contingency Planning (BCCP) Status Report.

Form Number: HCFA-R-0270.

Use: This information is needed to determine the status of HCFA's business partners millennium readiness.

Frequency: Monthly.

Affected Public: Federal Government, Business or other for-profit, and Not-for-profit institutions.

Number of Respondents: 350.

Total Annual Responses: 4,200.

Total Annual Hours Requested: 44,450.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, E-mail your request, including your address, phone number, and HCFA form number(s) referenced above, to Paperwork@hcfa.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326. ADD WEB SITE ADDRESS to access S.S.

Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding the burden or any other aspect of these collections of information requirements. However, as noted above, comments on these information collection and recordkeeping requirements must be mailed and/or faxed to the designees referenced below, within 10 working days:

Health Care Financing Administration,
Office of Information Services,
Information Technology Investment
Management Group, Division of
HCFA Enterprise Standards, Room
C2-26-17, 7500 Security Boulevard,
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850. Fax
Number: (410) 786-1415 Attn: Dawn
Willingham and,
Office of Information and Regulatory
Affairs, Office of Management and
Budget, Room 10235, New Executive
Office Building, Washington, DC
20503, Fax Number: (202) 395-6974
or (202) 395-5167 Attn: Allison
Herron Eydt, HCFA Desk Officer.

Dated: January 12, 1999.

John P. Burke III,

*HCFA Reports Clearance Officer, HCFA,
Office of Information Services, Information
Technology Investment Management Group,
Division of HCFA Enterprise Standards.*

[FR Doc. 99-1330 Filed 1-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Proposed Data Collection, Comment Request; American Stop Smoking Intervention Study for Cancer Prevention (ASSIST) Final Evaluation: "Strength of Tobacco Control Research Evaluation"

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirement of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Cancer Institute (NCI) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects to be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval.

PROPOSED COLLECTION: *Title:* American Stop Smoking Intervention Study for Cancer Prevention (ASSIST) Final Evaluation: "Strength of Tobacco Control Research Evaluation". *Type of Information Request:* New. *Need and Use of Information Collection:* "The Strength of Tobacco Control Research Evaluation" will collect data on financial resources, capacity, and specific efforts to control tobacco use. The data will be collected from professionals working in the field, in project management, and in senior agency administration within major state-level organizations concerned with tobacco control, in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The data will be used by the National Cancer Institute to evaluate the effectiveness of the American Stop Smoking Intervention Study for Cancer Prevention (ASSIST), a large-scale, 17-state demonstration project. Data will be used to develop a "strength of tobacco control" construct for use in evaluation of the overall ASSIST intervention. This study will also provide valuable information to Government agencies and to the general public necessary for tobacco control research. Data will be collected from September to November 1999, from approximately 1,428 individuals in 357 organizations in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. *Frequency of Response:* One-time study. *Affected*

Public: Individuals. *Type of Respondents:* Professionals in tobacco control organizations. The annual reporting burden is as follows: *Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,428; *Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1; *Average Burden Hours per Response:* .54; and *Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours Requested:* 773. The annualized cost to the respondents is estimated at \$31,833. There are no Operating or Maintenance Costs to report.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS: Written comments and/or suggestions from the public and affected agencies are invited on one or more of the following points: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the function of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) 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; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and instruments, contact Frances Stillman, Ed.D., Public Health Advisor, National Cancer Institute, Executive Plaza North, Room 241, 6130 Executive Boulevard MSC 7337, Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7337, or call non-toll free number (301) 496-8584, or FAX your request to (301) 496-8675.

COMMENTS DUE DATE: Comments regarding this information collection are best assured of having their full effect if received within 60 days of the date of this publication.

Dated: January 12, 1999.

Reesa Nichols,

OMB Project Clearance Liaison.

[FR Doc. 99-1422 Filed 1-21-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following meeting.

The meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C. as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: National Institute on Deafness and Other Communications Disorders Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: March 11, 1999.

Time: 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Executive Plaza South, Room 400C, 6120 Executive Blvd., Rockville, MD 20852, (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Richard S. Fisher, PhD Scientific Review Administrator, Scientific Review Branch, Division of Extramural Activities, NIDCD/NIH, 6120 Executive Blvd., Room 400C, MSC-7180, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301-496-8683.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.173, Biological Research Related to Deafness and Communicative Disorders, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: January 13, 1999.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Committee Management Officer, NIH.

[FR Doc. 99-1269 Filed 1-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Center for Scientific Review; Notice of Closed Meetings

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following meetings.

The meetings will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5,

U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: Immunological Sciences Initial Review Group, Immunobiology Study Section.

Date: January 21-22, 1999.

Time: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Double Tree Hotel, 2 Portola Plaza, Monterey, CA 93940.

Contact Person: Betty Hayden, PHD, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4206, MSC 7812, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1223.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: January 21, 1999.

Time: 1:00 PM to 1:45 PM.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: NIH, Rockledge 2, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Joe Marwah, PHD Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5188, MSC 7846, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1253.

This notice is published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: January 21, 1999.

Time: 2:00 PM to 2:45 PM.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: NIH, Rockledge 2, Bethesda, MD 20892, (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Joe Marwah, PHD, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5188, MSC 7846, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1253.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.306, Comparative Medicine, 93.306; 93.333, Clinical Research, 93.333, 93.337, 93.393-93.396, 93.837-93.844, 93.846-93-878, 93.892, 93.893, National Institutes of Health, HHS)