

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), in consultation with the Council, will develop standard data formats for project monitoring, along with requirements for types of data collected and frequency of monitoring. These standards will build on existing inter-agency efforts to develop monitoring protocols and restoration databases. These standards are not intended to limit the types of information gathered by project managers, but rather to ensure that data will be useful to other parties, and to facilitate regional and national tracking of restoration success. Consistent data collection and reporting standards should clarify results, make selection and justification of restoration methods more straightforward, ensure that success is documented based on sufficient data, enhance the restoration knowledge base, and increase the comparability of data among restoration projects.

In addition to developing monitoring data standards, NOAA will also maintain a database of information concerning estuary habitat restoration projects carried out under the Act, including information on project techniques, project completion, monitoring data, and other relevant information. This database will be Internet-accessible, to allow widespread dissemination and use of restoration project and monitoring data.

Conclusions

The actions described in this Strategy facilitate reaching the goal of restoring one million acres of estuary habitat by 2010. There are many existing programs and organizations actively involved in estuary restoration whose efforts will also contribute significantly to estuary restoration. Examples include the National Estuary Program, the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, Restore America's Estuaries member organizations, and the program implementing the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act.

The Strategy is intended to be dynamic. Working with the organizations listed above and other interested stakeholders, the Council will review and refine this Strategy over time in an iterative process, as new information becomes available and progress toward meeting the goals of the Act is evaluated. Section 108(a) of the Act requires the Secretary to report to Congress at the end of the third and fifth fiscal years. As part of this process the Council will review the Strategy and update as necessary.

The Council will prepare additional documents and make them available for public comment regarding habitat restoration program implementation and the development of the monitoring standards. As indicated in this Strategy, the Council will promote a variety of efforts to facilitate promotion of partnerships and efficient, effective restoration of estuary habitats.

References

Cowardin, L.M. V. Carter, F.C. Golet, and E.T. LaRoe. 1979. "Classification of wetlands and deepwater habitats of the United States." U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Biological Services Program; FWS/OBS-79/31. 131 pp. Dahl, T.C. 2000. "Status and trends of wetlands in the contiguous United States, 1986-1997." US Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. Washington, DC.

Luz D. Ortiz,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of proposed information collection requests.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory Information Management, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: An emergency review has been requested in accordance with the Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 3507(j)), since public harm is reasonably likely to result if normal clearance procedures are followed. Approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has been requested by May 3, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding the emergency review should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Karen Lee, Desk Officer: Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget; 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Director of OMB provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) may amend or waive the

requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Regulatory Information Management, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes this notice containing proposed information collection requests at the beginning of the Departmental review of the information collection. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g., new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. ED invites public comment.

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 respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: April 29, 2002.

John Tressler,

Leader, Regulatory Information Management, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of Educational Research and Improvement

Type of Review: Reinstatement.

Title: Fund for the Improvement of Education: Partnerships in Character Education Program.

Abstract: This application package, based on the Department of Education's Generic Application package, has program specific criteria which is used to provide guidance to applicants on new statutory requirements. Because this application package is based on the generic application package, it is in an easily recognizable format for applicants. It is necessary to announce the competition as soon as possible to allow state education agencies (SEAs) and local education agencies (LEAs) time to submit the application with a reasonable expectation that awards will be made before the next school year begins.

Additional Information: The Department is requesting emergency processing and a May 3 approval for this information collection since it could potentially result in public harm if this collection went through the normal clearance process. Applications for Character Education Program grants must be available in early May in order to provide applicants with sufficient time to develop and submit strong applications by early July, 2002. The Department of Education must award these grants by early August or sooner to allow the involved state and local education agencies sufficient time for planning during the summer so that implementation occurs in September, 2002.

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 500.

Burden Hours: 12,000.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 2028. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651 or to the e-mail address vivian.reese@ed.gov. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the internet address OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov or faxed to 202-708-9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Kathy Axt at her internet address Kathy.Axt@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA Nos.: 84.282A, 84.282B, and 84.282C]

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education—Public Charter Schools Program (PCSP); Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2002.

Purpose of Program: The purpose of the PCSP is to increase national understanding of the charter school model and to expand the number of high-quality charter schools available to students across the Nation by providing financial assistance for the planning, program design, and initial implementation of charter schools; evaluating the effects of charter schools, including the effects on students, student academic achievement, staff, and parents; and encouraging States to provide support to charter schools for facilities financing in an amount more commensurate to the amount States have typically provided for traditional public schools.

Eligible Applicants: (a) State educational agencies (SEAs) in States with a specific State statute authorizing the establishment of charter schools may apply for funding. The Secretary awards grants to SEAs to enable them to conduct charter school programs in their States. SEAs use their PCSP funds to award subgrants to "eligible applicants," as defined in this notice, for planning, program design, and initial implementation of a charter school; and to support the dissemination of information about, and successful practices in, charter schools. A charter school may apply for funds to carry out dissemination activities, whether or not the charter school has applied for or received funds under the PCSP for planning or implementation, if the charter school has been in operation for at least three consecutive years and has demonstrated overall success, including—

- (1) Substantial progress in improving student achievement;
- (2) High levels of parent satisfaction; and

- (3) The management and leadership necessary to overcome initial start-up problems and establish a thriving, financially viable charter school.

(b) Non-SEA eligible applicants may apply for funding directly from the U.S. Department of Education (Department) if the SEA in the State elects not to participate in the PCSP or does not have an application approved under the program. An "eligible applicant" is defined as a developer that has applied to an authorized chartering authority to operate a charter school and has

provided to that authority adequate and timely notice and a copy of its PCSP application, *except that these requirements may be waived in the case of a pre-charter planning grant.* If an SEA's application is approved in this competition, applications received from non-SEA eligible applicants in that State will be returned to the applicants. In such a case, the non-SEA eligible applicant should contact the SEA for information related to the State's subgrant competition.

Note: The following States currently have approved applications under this program: California, Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Texas. In these States, only the SEA is eligible to receive an award under this competition. Eligible applicants in these States should contact their respective SEAs for information about participation in the State's charter school subgrant program. Non-SEA eligible applicants in States that are not listed above must apply directly to the Department on or before the deadline for transmittal of applications in order to be considered for funding in this competition.

Applications Available: May 3, 2002.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: July 2, 2002.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: September 3, 2002.

Estimated Available Funds: \$50,000,000.

Estimated Range of Awards:

State educational agencies: \$500,000–\$8,000,000 per year.

Other eligible applicants: \$10,000–\$150,000 per year.

Estimated Average Size of Awards:

State educational agencies: \$2,500,000 per year.

Other eligible applicants: \$150,000 per year.

Estimated Number of Awards:

State educational agencies: 15–18.

Other eligible applicants: 50–70.

Note: These estimates are projections for the guidance of potential applicants. The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: Up to 36 months.

Note: Grants awarded by the Secretary directly to non-SEA eligible applicants or subgrants awarded by SEAs to eligible applicants will be awarded for a period of up to 36 months, no more than 18 months of which may be used for planning and program design; no more than two years of which may be used for the initial implementation of a charter school; and no more than two years of which may be used to carry out dissemination activities.

Applicable Regulations and Statute:

- (a) The Education Department General