

projects, please contact Karen McClure at (202) 493-6417. For all other questions, please contact Howard Hill at (202) 366-0301. A TDD is available for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing at 202-366-3993. In addition, up to the application deadline, USDOT will post answers to common questions and requests for clarifications on USDOT's Web site at <https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/FASTLANEgrants>. To ensure applicants receive accurate information about eligibility or the program, the applicant is encouraged to contact USDOT directly, rather than through intermediaries or third parties, with questions.

H. Other Information

1. Invitation for Public Comment on the FY 2017 Notice

The FAST Act authorized the FASTLANE program through FY 2020. This notice solicits applications for FY2017 only. The Department invites interested parties to submit comments about this notice's contents, the Department's implementation choices, as well as suggestions for clarification in future FASTLANE rounds. The Department may consider the submitted comments and suggestions when developing subsequent FASTLANE solicitations and guidance, but submitted comments will not affect the selection criteria for the FY 2017 round. Applications or comments about specific projects should not be submitted to the docket. Any application submitted to the docket will not be reviewed. Comments should be sent DOT-OST-2016-0016 by December 31, 2016, but, to the extent practicable, the Department will consider late filed comments.

2. Response to Comments on the FY 2016 Notice

The Department received four comments in response to the FY16 Notice of Funding Opportunity, published under docket DOT-OST-2016-0022. The Department appreciates the feedback from our stakeholders.

Two commenters addressed USDOT's intent to prioritize projects that enhance personal mobility and accessibility.⁹ Congress established multiple goals for the FASTLANE discretionary grant program, including the improvement of the safety, efficiency, and reliability of movement of both people and freight. It is the view of USDOT that considering the impact that transportation projects

have on personal mobility and accessibility, particularly of disadvantaged groups, is entirely compatible with the goals of the program.

Another goal for the program which was incorporated into USDOT's evaluation was the reduction of highway congestion and bottlenecks, including bottlenecks similar to the "Missing Links" described by one commenter.¹⁰

Two commenters requested that the USDOT publish a full list of applications for FASTLANE funding.¹¹ USDOT has published such a list at <https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/FASTLANEgrants>.

Finally, one commenter encouraged DOT to change the population eligibility criteria for Metropolitan Planning Organizations.¹² Under 23 U.S.C. 117(c)(1)(B), an MPO that serves an urbanized area with a population of more than 200,000 is an eligible applicant, and DOT lacks discretion to change that statutory threshold. However, if an MPO is organized as a unit of local government or a political subdivision of a State or local government, then that MPO satisfies other eligibility criteria and the size of the urbanized area that it serves does not affect eligibility.

3. Protection of Confidential Business Information

All information submitted as part of or in support of any application shall use publicly available data or data that can be made public and methodologies that are accepted by industry practice and standards, to the extent possible. If the application includes information the applicant considers to be a trade secret or confidential commercial or financial information, the applicant should do the following: (1) Note on the front cover that the submission "Contains Confidential Business Information (CBI)"; (2) mark each affected page "CBI"; and (3) highlight or otherwise denote the CBI portions.

The USDOT protects such information from disclosure to the extent allowed under applicable law. In the event USDOT receives a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for the information, USDOT will follow the procedures described in its FOIA regulations at 49 CFR 7.17. Only

information that is ultimately determined to be confidential under that procedure will be exempt from disclosure under FOIA.

Following the completion of the selection process and announcement of awards, the Department intends to publish a list of all applications received along with the names of the applicant organizations and funding amounts requested.

Issued On: October 28, 2016.

Blair C. Anderson,

Under Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-NEW]

Proposed Information Collection (Application for Approval of a Program in a Foreign Country) Activity: Comment Request

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on information needed from foreign educational institutions.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before January 3, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information through Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at www.Regulations.gov or to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20M33), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420 or email to nancy.kessinger@va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-XXXX" in any correspondence. During the comment period, comments may be viewed online through the FDMS.

⁹ <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=DOT-OST-2016-0022-0005>; <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=DOT-OST-2016-0022-0006>.

¹⁰ <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=DOT-OST-2016-0022-0003>.

¹¹ <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=DOT-OST-2016-0022-0005>; <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=DOT-OST-2016-0022-0006>.

¹² <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=DOT-OST-2016-0022-0002>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 632-8924 or FAX (202) 632-8925.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-21), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (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 respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Title: Application for Approval of a Program in a Foreign Country.

OMB Control Number: 2900-XXXX.

Type of Review: New information collection.

Abstract: This form is used by foreign educational institutions seeking approval for their postsecondary programs. VA uses the information to determine if a program offered by the foreign educational institution is approvable under CFR 21.4260.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions.

Estimated Annual Burden: 50 hours.

Estimated Average Burden per Respondent: 20 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Once.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 150.

By direction of the Secretary.

Cynthia Harvey-Pryor,

Enterprise Records Service (005R1B), Program Specialist, Office of Privacy and Records Management, Office of Information Technology, Department of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2016-26523 Filed 11-2-16; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0847]

Proposed Information Collection: (Veterans Employment Pay For Success (VEPFS), Grant Program Application); Activity: Comment Request.

AGENCY: Office of Policy and Planning, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Office of Policy and Planning, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed revision of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before January 3, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information through Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at www.Regulations.gov or to Patrick Littlefield, Office of Policy and Planning (008), VA Center for Innovation, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue (B-34) NW., Washington, DC 20420 or email to patrick.littlefield@va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0847" in any correspondence. During the comment period, comments may be viewed online through the FDMS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cynthia Harvey-Pryor (202) 461-5870 or email: cynthia.harvey-pryor@va.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-21), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, the Office of Policy and Planning invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the

proper performance of the Office of Policy and Planning's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the Office of Policy and Planning's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (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 respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Title: Veterans Employment Pay For Success (VEPFS), Grant Program Application.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0847.

Type of Review: Extension of an approved collection.

Abstract: Section 3119 of title 38, United States Code, authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to or contract with public or nonprofit agencies, including institutions of higher learning, to advance "the knowledge, methods, techniques, and resources available for use in rehabilitation programs for veterans." Section 3119 specifically authorizes the Secretary to make grants to such agencies to conduct or provide support for projects which are "designed to increase the resources and potential for accomplishing the rehabilitation of disabled veterans." VA has codified these provisions in its regulations at 38 CFR 21.390 Rehabilitation research and special projects. The purpose of the VEPFS program is to provide one or more grants to fund Outcomes Payments for one or more PFS projects that seek to improve employment outcomes for Veterans with a Service-connected Mental Health Disability.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 2000 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 80 hours.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 25.

By direction of the Secretary:

Cynthia Harvey-Pryor,

Program Specialist, Office of Privacy and Records Management, Department of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2016-26494 Filed 11-2-16; 8:45 am]

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