

education award and others use it several times a year.

Average Time Per Response: Total of 5 minutes (one half minute for the AmeriCorps member's section and 4½ minutes for the school or lender).

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 5,750 hours.

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): None.

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance): None.

Description

After completing a period of national and community service, the AmeriCorps member receives an education award that can be used to pay against qualified student loans or pay for current post secondary educational expenses. The Voucher and Payment Request Form is the document that a member uses to access his or her account in the National Service Trust.

The form serves three purposes: (1) The AmeriCorps member uses it to request and authorize a specific payment to be made from his or her account, (2) the school or loan company uses it to indicate the amount for which the individual is eligible, and (3) the school or loan company and member both certify that the payment meets various legislative requirements. When the Corporation receives a voucher, it is processed and the U.S. Treasury issues a payment to the loan holder or school on behalf of the AmeriCorps member.

The form was first designed and some variation of it has been in use since the summer of 1994. We are proposing revisions to clarify certain sections of the existing form and to include terminology included in recent legislative changes. The changes impose no additional burden. The legislated change in terminology modifies the definition of loans "made directly to the student. * * *" to loans "made, insured, or guaranteed directly to the student. * * *"

Modifications to Section A clarify instructions to the member on filling out that portion of the Voucher, especially the dollar amount the member requests and authorizes, and includes space to indicate the disbursement period. Similarly, modifications to Section B clarify information provided to loan holders and educational institutions, particularly in regard to stating the dollar amount for educational expenses.

The Corporation seeks to continue using this particular form, albeit in a revised version. The current form is due to expire 09/2004.

Analysis of Comments Received During the Public Comment Period

One comment was received from an educational institution. It suggested the member indicate the disbursement period for the requested payment on the form so that the school would not need to contact the student for that information. Another person commented on the reference to "an eligible program", which he found unclear. Both comments were incorporated into the revised form.

Dated: August 30, 2004.

Ruben Wiley,

Manager, National Service Trust.

[FR Doc. 04-20386 Filed 9-8-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6050--SS-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Contract Financing: Performance-Based Payments

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Request for public comments.

SUMMARY: The Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy (DPAP) is currently conducting an internal assessment regarding the use of performance-based payments as a method of financing for DoD contracts. As part of this assessment, DPAP would like to hear the views of interested parties on what they believe are potential areas for improving DoD's use of performance-based payments.

DATES: Submit written comments to the address shown below on or before October 25, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments to: Office of the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Policy Directorate, ATTN: Mr. David Capitano, Room 3C838, 3000 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-3000. Comments may also be submitted by fax at (703) 614-0719 (ATTN: Mr. David Capitano), or by e-mail at david.capitano@osd.mil.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David Capitano, DPAP Policy Directorate, by telephone at (703) 847-7486, or by e-mail at david.capitano@osd.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Government policy is that performance-based payments are the preferred form of contract financing. In furtherance of this policy, the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy is soliciting public input regarding actions (policy changes, training, etc.) DoD should undertake to—

1. Increase the use of performance-based payments as the method of contract financing on DoD contracts (e.g., what should be done to increase the number of contracts that utilize performance-based payments); and

2. Improve the efficiency of performance-based payments when used on DoD contracts (e.g., what should be done to improve the use of performance-based payments on those contracts that provide for such contract financing).

It would be helpful, but not required, if respondents could also provide—

1. A brief summary of their experience in using performance-based payments on DoD contracts; and

2. What they believe to be the most important advantages and disadvantages that performance-based payments have with respect to progress payments.

Michele P. Peterson,

Executive Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council.

[FR Doc. 04-20398 Filed 9-8-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001--08-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

[OMB Control Number 0704-0255]

Information Collection Requirement; Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Construction and Architect-Engineer Contracts

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice and request for comments regarding a proposed extension of an approved information collection requirement.

SUMMARY: In compliance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), DoD announces the proposed extension of a public information collection requirement and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. DoD invites comments on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of DoD, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved this information collection requirement for use through

October 31, 2004. DoD proposes that OMB extend its approval for use through October 31, 2007.

DATES: DoD will consider all comments received by November 8, 2004.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by OMB Control Number 0704-0255, using any of the following methods:

- Defense Acquisition Regulations Web Site: <http://emissary.acq.osd.mil/dar/dfars.nsf/pubcomm>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- E-mail: dfars@osd.mil. Include OMB Control Number 0704-0255 in the subject line of the message.

- Fax: Primary: (703) 602-7887;

Alternate: (703) 602-0350.

- Mail: Defense Acquisition Regulations Council, Attn: Mr. Euclides Barrera, OUSD(AT&L)DPAP(DAR), IMD 3C132, 3062 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-3062.

- Hand Delivery/Courier: Defense Acquisition Regulations Council, Crystal Square 4, Suite 200A, 241 18th Street, Arlington, VA 22202-3402.

All comments received will be posted to <http://emissary.acq.osd.mil/dar/dfars.nsf>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Euclides Barrera, (703) 602-0296. The information collection requirements addressed in this notice are available electronically on the Internet at: <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/dfars/index.htm>.

Paper copies are available from Mr. Euclides Barrera, OUSD(AT&L)DPAP(DAR), IMD 3C132, 3062 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-3062.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title and OMB Number: Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) Part 236, Construction and Architect-Engineer Contracts, and Related Clauses at DFARS 252.236; OMB Control Number 0704-0255.

Needs and Uses: DoD contracting officers need this information to evaluate contractor proposals for contract modifications; to determine that a contractor has removed obstructions to navigation; to review contractor requests for payment for mobilization and preparatory work; to determine reasonableness of costs allocated to mobilization and demobilization; and to determine eligibility for the 20 percent evaluation preference for United States firms in the award of some overseas construction contracts.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit and not-for-profit institutions.

Annual Burden Hours: 318,295.

Number of Respondents: 3,117.

Responses Per Respondent: Approximately 1.

Annual Responses: 3,152.

Average Burden Per Response: 100.98 hours.

Frequency: On occasion.

Summary of Information Collection

DFARS 236.570(a) prescribes use of the clause at DFARS 252.236-7000, Modification Proposals-Price Breakdown, in all fixed-price construction contracts. The clause requires the contractor to submit a price breakdown with any proposal for a contract modification.

DFARS 236.570(b) prescribes use of the following clauses in fixed-price construction contracts as applicable:

(1) The clause at DFARS 252.236-7002, Obstruction of Navigable Waterways, requires the contractor to notify the contracting officer of obstructions in navigable waterways.

(2) The clause at DFARS 252.236-7003, Payment for Mobilization and Preparatory Work, requires the contractor to provide supporting documentation when submitting requests for payment for mobilization and preparatory work.

(3) The clause at DFARS 252.236-7004, Payment for Mobilization and Demobilization, permits the contracting officer to require the contractor to furnish cost data justifying the percentage of the cost split between mobilization and demobilization, if the contracting officer believes that the proposed percentages do not bear a reasonable relation to the cost of the work.

DFARS 236.570(c) prescribes use of the following provisions in solicitations for military construction contracts that are funded with military construction appropriations and are estimated to exceed \$1,000,000:

(1) The provision at DFARS 252.236-7010, Overseas Military Construction-Preference for United States Firms, requires an offeror to specify whether or not it is a United States firm.

(2) The provision at DFARS 252.236-7012, Military Construction on Kwajalein Atoll-Evaluation Preference, requires an offeror to specify whether it is a United States firm, a Marshallese firm, or other firm.

Michele P. Peterson,

Executive Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

TRICARE Formerly Known as the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS); Fiscal Year 2005 Mental Health Rate Updates

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of updated mental health per diem rates.

SUMMARY: This notice provides for the updating of hospital-specific per diem rates for high volume providers and regional per diem rates for low volume providers; the updated cap per diem for high volume providers; the beneficiary per diem cost-share amount for low volume providers for FY 2005 under the TRICARE Mental Health Per Diem Payment System; and the updated per diem rates for both full-day and half-day TRICARE Partial Hospitalization Programs for fiscal year 2005.

DATES: The fiscal year 2005 rates contained in this notice are effective for services occurring on or after October 1, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Christine Gavlick, Office of Medical Benefits and Reimbursement Systems, TRICARE Management Activity, telephone (303) 676-3841.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The final rule published in the **Federal Register** on September 6, 1988, (53 FR 34285) set forth reimbursement changes that were effective for all inpatient hospital admissions in psychiatric hospitals and exempt psychiatric units occurring on or after January 1, 1989. The final rule published in the **Federal Register** on July 1, 1993, (58 FR 35-400) set forth maximum per diem rates for all partial hospitalization admissions on or after September 29, 1993. Included in these final rules were provisions for updating reimbursement rates for each Federal fiscal year. As stated in the final rules, each per diem shall be updated by the Medicare update factor for hospitals and units exempt from the Medicare Prospective Payment System. For fiscal year 2005, Medicare has recommended a rate of increase of 3.3 percent for hospitals and units excluded from the prospective payment system. TRICARE will adopt this update factor for FY 2005 as the final update factor. Hospitals and units with hospital-specific rates (hospitals and units with high TRICARE volume) and regional specific rates for psychiatric hospitals and units with low TRICARE volume will have their TRICARE rates for FY 2004 updated by 3.3 percent for FY