

influenza H5N1 in chickens and ducks in several farms in Gaza.

On April 25, 2006, OIR reported confirmation of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in chickens and ducks in Abidjan district, Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire).

Introduction of birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 into the United States could lead to outbreaks of disease among birds and among the human population, a significant public health threat. Banning the importation of all avian species from affected countries is an effective means of limiting this threat. HHS/CDC is therefore taking this action to reduce the likelihood of introduction or spread of influenza A H5N1 into the United States.

Immediate Action

Therefore, pursuant to 42 CFR 71.32(b), HHS/CDC is amending the February 4, 2004, order to add Gaza, the West Bank, and the Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire) to the list of countries subject to the order's embargo of birds and products derived from birds. All other portions of the February 4, 2004, order, as further amended on March 10, 2004, September 28, 2004, December 29, 2005, February 8, 2006, February 22, 2006, February 27, 2006, March 2, 2006, March 15, 2006, March 20, 2006, March 21, 2006; March 29, 2006; April 10, 2006; and April 10, 2006 shall remain in effect until further notice.

Julie Louise Gerberding,

Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[Document Identifier: CMS-276]

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

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), 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 function; (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.

1. *Type of Information Collection Request:* Extension of a currently approved collection; *Title of Information Collection:* Prepaid Health Plan Cost Report; *Use:* Health Maintenance Organizations and Competitive Medical Plans (HMO/CMPs) contracting with the Secretary under section 1876 of the Social Security Act are required to submit a budget and enrollment forecast, four quarterly reports, and a final certified cost report. Health Care Prepayment Plans (HCPPs) contracting with the Secretary under section 1833 of the Social Security Act are required to submit a budget and enrollment forecast, mid-year report, and final cost report. An HMO/CMP is a health care delivery system that furnishes directly or arranges for the delivery of the full spectrum of health services to an enrolled population. A HCPP is a health care delivery system that furnishes directly or arranges for the delivery of certain physician and diagnostics services up to the full spectrum of non-provider Part B health services to an enrolled population. These reports will be used to establish the reasonable cost of delivering covered services furnished to Medicare enrollees by an HMO/CMP or HCPP; *Form Numbers:* CMS-276 (OMB#: 0938-0165); *Frequency:* Recordkeeping, Reporting—Quarterly and Annually; *Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit; *Number of Respondents:* 45; *Total Annual Responses:* 225; *Total Annual Hours:* 7,860.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access CMS Web site address at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PaperworkReductionActof1995>, or E-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and CMS document identifier, to Paperwork@cms.hhs.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be mailed

or faxed within 30 days of this notice directly to the OMB desk officer: OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, Attention: Carolyn Lovett, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503. Fax Number: (202) 395-6974.

Dated: April 25, 2006.

Michelle Shortt,

Director, Regulations Development Group, Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs.

[FR Doc. E6-6805 Filed 5-4-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[Document Identifier: CMS-10169]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Agency: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, HHS.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) 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.

1. *Type of Information Collection Request:* New collection; *Title of Information Collection:* Request for Bids (RFB) for Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program; *Use:* The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will conduct competitive bidding programs in which certain suppliers will be awarded contracts to provide certain DMEPOS items to Medicare beneficiaries. Competitive bidding provides a way to harness marketplace dynamics to create incentives for suppliers to provide quality items and

services in an efficient manner and at a reasonable cost.

The objectives of competitive bidding include:

(1) To implement competitive bidding programs for certain covered items of DMEPOS and associated services in select areas;

(2) To assure beneficiary access to quality DMEPOS as a result of the program;

(3) To reduce the amount Medicare pays for DMEPOS and create a payment structure under competitive bidding that is more reflective of a competitive market;

(4) To limit the financial burden on beneficiaries by reducing their out-of-pocket expenses for DMEPOS they obtain through the program; and,

(5) To contract with suppliers who conduct business in a manner that is beneficial for the program and Medicare beneficiaries.

Contract suppliers will be selected from the suppliers that have the lowest bids and that meet all relevant program requirements. Suppliers bidding above the winning price are to be excluded from the Medicare market; however, multiple winners must be awarded in each site. The forms associated with this collection of information will collect all of the relevant information needed for processing bids.; *Form Number:* CMS-10169 (OMB#: 0938-NEW); *Frequency:* Reporting—Every three years; *Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit, not-for-profit institutions, and the Federal government; *Number of Respondents:* 16,545; *Total Annual Responses:* 16,545; *Total Annual Hours:* 1,158,150.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access CMS' Web site address at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PaperworkReductionActof1995>, or E-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and CMS document identifier, to Paperwork@cms.hhs.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326.

To be assured consideration, comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be received at the address below, no later than 5 p.m. on July 5, 2006.

CMS, Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs, Division of Regulations Development—B, Attention: William N. Parham, III, Room C4-26-05, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

Dated: April 28, 2006.

Michelle Shortt,

*Director, Regulations Development Group,
Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs.*

[FR Doc. E6-6808 Filed 5-4-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

Office of Community Services; Program Announcement for Assets for Independence Program Grants

Notice of amendment to the standing announcement for Assets for Independence Demonstration Program Grants, HHS-2005-ACF-OCS-EI-0053, CFDA # 93.602, published in the **Federal Register**, Volume 70, No. 26, page 6879-6888, on February 9, 2005. **AGENCY:** Office of Community Services (OCS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

ACTION: Notice of amendment.

The Program Announcement concerning the application procedures for the Assets for Independence Demonstration Program grants published on February 9, 2005 in the **Federal Register**, Volume 70, No. 26, pages 6879-6888 is hereby modified. **SUMMARY:** On February 9, 2005, the Office of Community Services (OCS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services published an announcement seeking applications for the Assets for Independence Demonstration Program. This program provides grant support for Individual Development Account (IDA) projects administered by government agencies and non-profit organizations. This Notice amends the final Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 application due date.

This Notice announces a change in the final FY 2006 application due date from June 15, 2006 to July 18, 2006. This Notice also announces two conference call series. The first series will provide an overview of the Assets for Independence Demonstration Program, including application procedures and requirements. The second series will provide an orientation to administering effective Individual Development Account (IDA) projects with support from the Assets for Independence Demonstration Program.

The Program Announcement for the Assets for Independence Demonstration

Program is a standing announcement. It is effective until canceled or changed by the Office of Community Services (OCS). Applicants may submit applications at any time throughout the year. (Any changes to application due dates in successive years will be announced through publication of a Notice in the **Federal Register**, on the ACF Grant Opportunities Web page at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/index.html>, and on <http://www.Grants.gov>.) OCS will review and make funding decisions about applications in three separate funding cycles annually.

For FY 2006, the due dates are: November 1, 2005; March 15, 2006; and July 18, 2006. For example, starting in mid-March, OCS reviews all applications submitted November 2 through March 15. Starting in mid-July, OCS reviews all applications submitted March 16 through July 18. And, starting in early November, OCS reviews all applications submitted July 19 through November 1. Unsuccessful applicants may submit a new application in any succeeding application period.

(1) Under the Executive Summary section of the original Program Announcement, please delete the following:

The Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Services (OCS) will accept applications for financial assistance to establish and administer Assets for Independence (AFI) Projects. These projects assist low-income people in becoming economically self-sufficient. They do so by teaching project participants about economic and consumer issues and enabling them to establish matched savings accounts called Individual Development Accounts (IDA) in order to save for a first home, a business, or higher education. Grantees must participate in an on going national evaluation of the impact of AFI Projects and IDAs.

This is a standing announcement. It is effective until canceled or changed by the Office of Community Services. Applicants may submit applications at any time throughout the year. OCS will review and make funding decisions about applicants submitted by any of three due dates: March 15, June 15 and November 1. (If a date falls on a weekend, the due date will be the following Monday.) For example, starting in mid-March annually, OCS will review all applications submitted November 2 through March 15. Starting in early June, OCS will review all applications submitted March 16 through June 15. And, starting in early November, OCS will review all