

the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), under the Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) to eligible IRP intermediaries and applies to ultimate recipients and other involved parties. This regulation is also for servicing the existing Rural Development Loan Fund (RDLF) loans previously approved and administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under 45 CFR part 1076. The objective of the IRP is to improve community facilities and employment opportunities and increase economic activity in rural areas by financing business facilities and community development. This purpose is achieved through loans made by RBS to intermediaries that establish programs for the purpose of providing loans to ultimate recipients for business facilities and community development. The regulations contain various requirements for information from the intermediaries and some requirements may cause the intermediary to require information from ultimate recipients. The information requested is vital to RBS for prudent loan servicing, credit decisions and reasonable program monitoring. The provisions of this subpart supersede conflicting provisions of any other subpart.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 3.02 hours per response.

Respondents: Non-profit corporations, public agencies, and cooperatives.

Estimated number of Respondents: 420.

Estimated number of responses per respondent: 9.96.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 12,675 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Cheryl Thompson, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, at (202) 692-0043.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of RBS, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of RBS estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments may be sent to Cheryl Thompson, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-0742. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: May 14, 1998.

Wilbur T. Peer,

Acting Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

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BILLING CODE 3410-XY-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

National Sheep Industry Improvement Center; Strategic Plan

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) announces the availability of the 1998 Strategic Plan for the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center. Section 759 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, known as the 1996 Farm Bill, requires the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center to submit a yearly strategic plan to the Secretary of Agriculture. That plan is now available to the public.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the Plan should be directed to Jay B. Wilson, Executive Director, National Sheep Industry Improvement Center, Denver Federal Center, Building 20, Room A1311, P.O. Box 281028, Lakewood, CO 80228-1028. Phone (303)-236-2858. FAX: (303)-236-7683.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jay B. Wilson at Phone (303)-236-2858 or Dr. Thomas H. Stafford, Director, Cooperative Marketing Division, Cooperative Services, RBS, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, Stop 3252, Washington, DC 20250-3252, telephone (202) 690-0368, (This is not a toll free number.) FAX 202-690-2723, or e-mail thomas.stafford@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, known as the 1996 Farm Bill, established a National Sheep Industry Improvement Center. The Center is to (1) promote strategic development activities and collaborative efforts by private and State entities to maximize the impact of Federal assistance to strengthen and enhance

production and marketing of sheep or goat products in the United States; (2) optimize the use of available human capital and resources within the sheep or goat industries; (3) provide assistance to meet the needs of the sheep or goat industry for infrastructure development, business development, production, resource development, and market and environmental research; (4) advance activities that empower and build the capacity of the United States sheep or goat industry to design unique responses to special needs of the sheep or goat industries on both a regional and national basis; and (5) adopt flexible and innovative approaches to solving the long-term needs of the United States sheep or goat industry. The Center has a Revolving Fund established in the Treasury to carry out the purposes of the Center. The Act requires the Center to submit to the Secretary an annual strategic plan for the delivery of financial assistance provided by the Center.

The strategic plan is required to identify (1) goals, methods, and a benchmark for measuring the success of carrying out the plan and how the plan relates to the national and regional goals of the Center; (2) the amount and sources of Federal and non-Federal funds that are available for carrying out the plan; (3) funding priorities; (4) selection criteria for funding; and (5) a method of distributing funding. In addition, the Plan summarizes the sheep and goat industries' needs and problems as determined from a series of public hearings.

The Board of Directors has submitted this plan to the Secretary of Agriculture and wishes to make it available to the public.

Dated: May 13, 1998.

Dayton J. Watkins,

Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

[FR Doc. 98-13471 Filed 5-20-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

Census Advisory Committees on the African American Population, on the American Indian and Alaska Native Populations, on the Asian and Pacific Islander Populations, and on the Hispanic Population

AGENCY: Bureau of the Census, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (P.L. 92-463 as amended by P.L. 94-409, P.L. 96-523, and P.L. 97-375), we are giving notice of a joint meeting followed by separate and concurrently held meetings of the Census Advisory Committee (CAC) on the African American Population, the CAC on the American Indian and Alaska Native Populations, the CAC on the Asian and Pacific Islander Populations, and the CAC on the Hispanic Population.

Each of the Committees is composed of nine members appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. They provide an organized and continuing channel of communication between the communities they represent and the Bureau of the Census on its efforts to reduce the differential in the population totals from Census 2000 and on ways that decennial census data can be disseminated to maximize their usefulness to these communities and other users.

The Committees will draw on past experience with the 1990 census process and procedures, results of evaluations and research studies, and the expertise and insight of their members to provide advice and recommendations during the research and development, design, planning, and implementation phases of Census 2000.

DATES: The joint meeting will convene on June 4-5, 1998. The June 4 meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 5 p.m.; the June 5 meeting will begin at 8:45 a.m. and end at 4:45 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 625 First Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Anyone wishing additional information about this meeting, or who wishes to submit written statements or questions, may contact Maxine Anderson-Brown, Committee Liaison Officer, Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Room 1649, Federal Building 3, Washington, DC 20233, telephone 301-457-2308, TDD 301-457-2540.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The agenda for the June 4 combined meeting, which will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 5 p.m., will include: (1) introductory remarks and update; (2) updates on Dress Rehearsal operations and activities and on Census 2000; (3)

observation reports on the Dress Rehearsal; and (4) advertising strategy for the Dress Rehearsal.

The four committees will meet separately and concurrently from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Joint Committee meeting will break for the concurrent meetings. The following are the June 4 agendas for the four committees.

The agenda for the CAC on the African American Population will include: (1) the election of the chair-elect; (2) the review of Committee recommendations and responses; (3) an update on constituency-building; (4) the census information centers reengineered; and (5) a review of topics for next day discussions.

The agenda for the CAC on the American Indian and Alaska Native Populations will include: (1) The review of Committee recommendations and responses; (2) the coding of American Indian Tribes; (3) statistical methodology issues; (4) an update on constituency-building; (5) a status report of state-recognized tribes; (6) the census information centers reengineered; (7) an update on census operations relating to American Indian and Alaska Natives areas; and (8) a review of topics for next day discussions.

The agenda for the CAC on the Asian and Pacific Islander Populations will include: (1) The election of chair-elect; (2) the review of Committee recommendations and responses; (3) an update on Hawaiian homelands; (4) a status report on the hiring of partnership specialists; (5) the census information centers reengineered; and (6) a review of topics for next day discussions.

The agenda for the CAC on the Hispanic Population will include: (1) the election of the chair-elect; (2) a review of Committee recommendations and responses; (3) an update on constituency-building; (4) the census information centers reengineered; and (5) a review of topics for next day discussions.

The agenda for the June 5 combined meeting, which will begin at 8:45 a.m. and end at 4:45 p.m., includes: (1) Sampling and estimation in the Dress Rehearsal and in Census 2000; (2) how do we evaluate the Dress Rehearsal and Census 2000?; (3) recruitment and hiring procedures for field operations;

(4) topic sessions on reengineered address list operation and on plans for Census 2000 data products; (5) how do we get the communities involved in Census 2000?; (6) an Advisory Committee conversation; (7) Committee recommendations; and, (8) public comment.

On June 5, the four committees will meet separately and concurrently from 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. The Joint Committee will break for these concurrent meetings. Each of the four Committees (African American Population, American Indian and Alaska Native Populations, Asian and Pacific Islander Populations, and Hispanic Population) will address draft recommendations.

All meetings are open to the public, and a brief period is set aside on June 5 during the closing session for public comment and questions. Individuals with extensive questions or statements must submit them in writing to the Census Bureau Committee Liaison Officer at least three days before the meeting.

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Census Bureau Committee Liaison Officer.

Dated: May 18, 1998.

Bradford R. Huther,

Deputy Director, Bureau of the Census.

[FR Doc. 98-13671 Filed 5-20-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Economic Development Administration

Notice of Petitions by Producing Firms for Determination of Eligibility To Apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance

AGENCY: Economic Development Administration (EDA), Commerce.

ACTION: To give firms an opportunity to comment.

Petitions have been accepted for filing on the dates indicated from the firms listed below.

LIST OF PETITION ACTION BY TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE FOR PERIOD 04/10/98-5/15/98

Firm name	Address	Date petition accepted	Product
Shepard Clothing Company, Inc.	800 Acushnet Avenue, New Bedford, MA 02741.	04/14/98	Mens and boys suits, jackets and blazers.