

damages caused by heavy rainfall and flooding from Tropical Storm Barry that began on August 2, 2001. Applications for loans for physical damage as a result of this disaster may be filed until the close of business on October 22, 2001 and for economic injury until the close of business on May 21, 2002 at the address listed below or other locally announced locations: U.S. Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 2 Office; One Baltimore Place, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30308.

The interest rates are:

For Physical Damage

Homeowners With Credit Available Elsewhere—6.625%
Homeowners Without Credit Available Elsewhere—3.312%
Businesses With Credit Available Elsewhere—8.000%
Businesses and Non-Profit Organizations Without Credit Available Elsewhere—4.000%
Others (Including Non-Profit Organizations) With Credit Available Elsewhere—7.125%

For Economic Injury

Businesses and Small Agricultural Cooperatives Without Credit Available Elsewhere—4.000%

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 336011 and for economic injury the number assigned is 9M3900.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008)

Dated: August 21, 2001.

Hector V. Barreto,
Administrator.

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

National Small Business Development Centers Advisory Board; Public Meeting

The National Small Business Development Center Advisory Board will hold a public meeting at 9 a.m. est on Thursday, Sept. 13, 2001 in the Windsor Room of the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 300 Reunion Boulevard, Dallas, Texas, to discuss such matters as may be presented by members, staff of the Small Business Administration, or others present. Anyone wishing to make an oral presentation to the Board must contact Ellen Thrasher, Designated Federal Officer, in writing by letter or fax no later than September 4, 2001, in order to be put on the agenda. Ellen Thrasher, Deputy Associate Administrator, U.S. Small Business

Administration, Office of Small Business Development Centers, 409 Third Street, SW., 4th Floor, Washington, DC 20416 phone (202) 205-6766 fax (202) 205-7727.

Steve Tupper,

SBA Committee Management Officer.

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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Request and Comment Request

The Social Security Administration (SSA) publishes a list of information collection packages that will require clearance by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in compliance with Pub Law 104-13 effective October 1, 1995, The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. SSA is soliciting comments on the accuracy of the agency's burden estimate; the need for the information; its practical utility; ways to enhance its quality, utility and clarity; and on ways to minimize burden on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Written comments and recommendations regarding the information collection(s) should be submitted to the OMB Desk Officer and the SSA Reports Clearance Officer and at the following addresses:

(OMB): Office of Management and Budget, Attn: Desk Officer for SSA, New Executive Office Building, Room 10230, 725 17th St., NW., Washington, DC 20503.

(SSA): Social Security Administration, DCFAM, Attn: Frederick W. Brickenkamp, 1-A-21 Operations Bldg., 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235.

I. The information collection listed below will be submitted to OMB within 60 days from the date of this notice. Therefore, your comments should be submitted to SSA within 60 days from the date of this publication. You can obtain copies of the collection instruments by calling the SSA Reports Clearance Officer at 410-965-4145, or by writing to him at the address listed above.

1. *Statement Regarding Students' School Attendance—0960-0113.* Form SSA-2434 is used by the Social Security Administration to determine student entitlement status of the children of coal miners, children of their widows or the brothers of deceased miners eligible for Black Lung benefits. This form collects

information from students about to attain age 18, for the express purpose of evaluating their continuing eligibility for program benefits under the Federal Mine Safety Act of 1977. The respondents are entitled black lung children of coal miner's or their widow, or the brother of deceased black lung coal miners.

Number of Respondents: 50.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 10 minutes.

Estimated Annual Burden: 8 hours.

II. The information collections listed below have been submitted to OMB for clearance. Your comments on the information collections would be most useful if received by OMB and SSA within 30 days from the date of this publication. You can obtain a copy of the OMB clearance package by calling the SSA Reports Clearance Officer on (410) 965-4145, or by writing to him at the address listed above.

1. *Employee Identification*

Statement—0960-0473. The information collected on Form SSA-4156 is needed in scrambled earnings situations when two or more individuals have used the same social security number (SSN), or when an employer (or employers) have reported earnings for two or more employees under the same SSN. The information on the form is used to help identify the individual (and the SSN) to whom the earnings belong. The respondents are employers who have reported erroneous wages.

Number of Respondents: 4,750.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 10 minutes.

Estimated Average Burden: 792 hours.

2. *Plan for Achieving Self-Support—0960-0559.* The information on form SSA-545 is collected by SSA when a Supplemental Security Income (SSI) applicant/recipient desires to use available income and resources to obtain education and/or training in order to become self-supportive. The information is used to evaluate the recipient's plan for achieving self-support to determine whether the plan may be approved under the provisions of the SSI program. The respondents are SSI applicants/recipients who are blind or disabled.

Number of Respondents: 7,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.

Average Burden Per Response: 2 hours.

Estimated Average Burden: 14,000 hours.

3. *Electronic Death Registration Survey—0960-0625.* Section 205(r) requires the Social Security Administration (SSA) to enter into

agreements with States to obtain death records. Sections 202(a)(1)–(h)(1) require SSA to terminate Retirement, Survivors and Disability benefits upon the death of the beneficiary. This survey will measure the States' readiness to implement electronic death registration processes, which will result in SSA getting death information more timely and accurately to terminate benefits as required by law. The respondents are State Vital Records Directors.

Number of Respondents: 55.

Frequency of Response: 1.
Average Burden Per Response: 30 minutes.
Estimated Annual Burden: 28 hours.
4. Request for a Deceased Individual's Social Security Record, SSA-711; You Can Make Your Payment by Credit Card for a Deceased Individual's Social Security Record, SSA-714—0960–NEW. Form SSA-711 is used by SSA to fulfill requests from members of the public who apply for a microprint of the SS-5, Application for Social Security Card, for a deceased individual. SSA provides

this information in response to a request from an individual conducting genealogical research. The information collected on Form SSA-714 is used by SSA to process credit card payments from members of the public who request a microprint of the SS-5 in conjunction with the service provided by the Agency through the SSA-711. Respondents to the SSA-711 and 714 are members of the public who request a microprint of the SS-5 of a deceased individual for genealogical research.

	Respondents	Frequency of response	Average burden per response (min)	Estimated annual burden
SSA-711	320,000	1	7	37,333
SSA-714	50,000	1	7	5,833
Total burden hours				43,166

5. Statement for Determining Continuing Eligibility for Supplemental Security Income Payments—Adult, Form SSA-3988–TEST; Statement for Determining Continuing Eligibility for Supplemental Security Income Payments—Child, Form SSA-3987–TEST—0960–NEW.

Background

The Social Security Act mandates periodic redeterminations of the non-medical factors that relate to the SSI recipients' continuing eligibility for SSI payments. Recent SSA studies have indicated that as many as $\frac{2}{3}$ of all scheduled redeterminations completed,

with the assistance of a SSA employee, did not result in any change in circumstances that affected payment. Therefore, SSA will conduct a limited test to determine whether a less intrusive and labor intensive redetermination process could result in significant operational savings and a decrease in recipient inconvenience, while timely obtaining the accurate data needed to determine continuing eligibility through the process.

The Collection

A limited test of forms SSA-3988–TEST and SSA-3987–TEST will be used to determine whether SSI recipients

have met and continue to meet all statutory and regulatory non-medical requirements for SSI eligibility, and whether they have been and are still receiving the correct payment amount. The SSA-3988–TEST and SSA-3987–TEST are designed as self-help forms that will be mailed to recipients or to their representative payees for completion and return to SSA. The test objectives are to determine the public's ability to understand and accurately complete the test forms. The respondents are recipients of SSI benefits or their representatives.

	Respondents	Frequency of response	Average burden per response (min)	Estimated annual burden
SSA-3988–TEST	13,600	1	20	4,533
SSA-3987–TEST	2,400	1	20	800
Total burden hours				5,333

6. Request for the Correction of Earning Records—0960–0029. Form SSA-7008 is used by individual wage earners to request SSA's review, and if necessary, correction of the Agency's master record of their earnings. The respondents are individuals who question SSA's record of their earnings.

Number of Respondents: 375,000.
Frequency of Response: 1.
Average Burden Per Response: 10 minutes.
Estimated Annual Burden: 62,500 hours.
7. Statement of Agricultural Employer (Years prior to 1988); Statement of Agricultural Employer (1988 and

Later)—0960–0036. The information on Forms SSA-1002 and SSA-1003 is used by the Social Security Administration (SSA) to resolve discrepancies when farm workers have alleged that their employers did not report their wages or reported them incorrectly. The respondents are agricultural employers.

	Respondents	Frequency of response	Average burden per response (min)	Estimated annual burden
SSA-1002	75,000	1	10	12,500

	Respondents	Frequency of response	Average burden per response (min)	Estimated annual burden
SSA-1003	50,000	1	30	25,000
Total burden hours	37,500

Dated: August 24, 2001.

Frederick W. Brickenkamp,

Reports Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3759]

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Request for Grant Proposals: School Connectivity Project for Southeast Europe

SUMMARY: The Youth Programs Division, Office of Citizen Exchanges, of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for the School Connectivity Project for Southeast Europe. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c) may submit proposals to expand the educational opportunities available to secondary school students in Southeast Europe by providing access to the Internet and training them in its use for the purpose of generating a cross-border dialogue among youth in Southeast Europe and the United States. The Southeast European countries involved will be Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, and Romania. Serbia, Montenegro, and Kosovo may be added at a later date, pending available funding. The initial amount of the award will be \$915,000.

Program Information

Overview

The School Connectivity Project for Southeast Europe will promote e-education in this region under the framework of the electronic Southeast Europe (e-SEE) Stability Pact initiative. This initiative aims to develop the digital economy in SEE and focus on creating an enabling Information Technology (IT) environment, promoting greater transparency among governments and fostering the use of IT in education. The project has also been designed to respond to the important need to introduce the youth of this region to a broad range of ideas about civil society while enhancing the use of

IT. Secondary school students and teachers need to focus on areas that promote reconciliation and mutual understanding. The Internet can provide a wealth of information about democratic societies and a vital forum for the exchange of views within the region and with students and teachers in the United States. Through this program, secondary schools will be able to incorporate cross-border discussions on several key themes into their curricular offerings and to improve general education with Internet resources and access to information under the guidance of specially trained teachers.

The goals of this program are:

- (1) To enhance the use of the Internet in secondary schools while promoting inter-ethnic dialogue among schools in different countries of Southeast Europe through projects exploring a common theme;
- (2) To engage American and Southeast European schools in multi-partite linkages to expand the dialogue, promote mutual understanding, and benefit from the expertise of others;
- (3) To support youth in their communications with each other and to facilitate their joint project work; and
- (4) To generate personal and institutional ties among students, educators, and their schools across borders.

The main components of this program are as follows:

- Recruiting and selecting secondary schools across Southeast Europe (SEE) and in the United States in a competitive, transparent process. Schools without Internet connections and those that are outside the capital cities shall be given priority.
- Selecting U.S. schools for participation in international dialogue.
- Providing access to the Internet to the SEE schools, including making sites suitable for a computer center, installing hardware and cabling, and ensuring connectivity.
- Providing training for faculty in the selected schools on the use of the Internet for research and discussion and on the development of projects on common themes. These faculty members will in turn provide training to teachers and students in their schools.

• Matching students and teachers at SEE with their counterparts within the region, with U.S. schools, and possibly schools from other Western countries.

• Facilitating joint telecurriculum projects among the students on the themes of shared history and culture. Project staff would help teachers and youth select topics, facilitate action planning and evaluative processes for their projects, provide guidance, help them hone research skills, and assist with the development of a final product for widespread dissemination.

• Setting up and maintaining an on-line vehicle for disseminating information and encouraging interaction with the administrator.

• Providing regional seminars for participating youth. Seminars will allow for face-to-face discussion of the project content, will enable them to take a more active role in designing on-line projects for their schools, will further their training in the use of the Internet, and will train teens on peer teaching techniques.

Guidelines

This grant should begin on or about December 1, 2001, subject to availability of funds. The grant period should be 24 months. A general timetable is outlined in the Project Objectives, Goals, and Implementation (POGI) document of this solicitation.

The number of schools that can be included in this project will be depend on the technological capacity of the schools selected through the open competition. Some schools may have quite a few computers available for student use, many with Internet access. Other schools may have few, if any, computers and what they have may need upgrading. Other international donor programs in Southeast Europe have equipped some schools with computers and Internet access; those schools are welcome to participate in the training and telecurriculum projects of this program. This variation in technological capability will affect not only the connectivity phase of the project, but also the on-line discussion and project phase, as faculty and students will vary widely in their technological expertise. Applicants should propose carefully considered