

\* Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

\* Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

\* 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, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

**ADDRESSES:** Mark Wolkow, Department of Labor, Room S-4502 Frances Perkins Building, 200 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20210; 202-219-8184 x123 (phone); 202-219-4975 (fax); mwolkow@dol.gov (email).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background

The Debt Collection Act of 1982 and the Federal Claims Collection Standards, as implemented in the Department by 29 CFR Part 20, require Federal agencies to afford debtors the opportunity to exercise certain rights before the agency reports a debt to a credit bureau or makes an administrative offset. In the exercise of these rights, the debtor may be asked to provide a written explanation of the basis for disputing the amount or existence of a debt alleged owed the agency. A debtor may also be required to provide asset, income, liability, or other information necessary for the agency to determine the debtor's ability to repay the debt, including any interest, penalties and administrative costs assessed.

Information provided by the debtor will be evaluated by the agency official responsible for collection of the debt in order to reconsider his/her initial decision with regard to the existence or amount of the debt. Information concerning the debtor's assets, income, liabilities, etc., will be used by the agency official responsible for collection of the debt to determine whether the agency's action with regard to administrative offset or the assessment of interest, administrative costs or penalties would create undue financial hardship for the debtor, or to determine whether the agency should accept the debtor's proposed repayment schedule.

If a debtor disputes or asks for reconsideration of the agency's determination concerning the debt, the debtor will be required to provide the information or documentation necessary

to state his/her case. Presumably, the agency's initial determination would not change without the submission of new information.

Information concerning the debtor's assets, income, liabilities, etc., would typically not be available to the agency unless submitted by the debtor.

##### II. Current Actions

Failure of the agency to request the information described would either violate the debtor's rights under the Debt Collection Act of 1982 or limit the agency's ability to collect outstanding debts.

If a debtor wishes to appeal an agency action based on undue financial hardship, he/she may be asked to submit information on his/her assets, income, liabilities, or other information considered necessary by the agency official for evaluating the appeal. Use of the information will be explained to the debtor when it is requested; consent to use the information for the specified purpose will be implied from the debtor's submission of the information.

*Type of Review:* Extension without change.

*Agency:* Office of the Chief Financial Officer.

*Title:* Disclosure of Information to Credit Reporting Agencies; Administrative Offset; Interest penalties and Administrative Costs.

*OMB Number:* 1225-0030.

*Agency Number:* N/A.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; businesses or other for-profit; not-for-profit institutions; small business or organizations; farms; Federal employees.

*Cite/Reference/Form/etc:* It is estimated that 10% of the individuals and organizations indebted to the Department will contest the proposed collection action and will request an administrative review and/or appeal an action based on undue financial hardship. In some cases the debtor will make one request, but not the other. However, in most cases, it is expected that the debtor will request both actions—first, administrative review of the determination of indebtedness, and second, relief because of undue financial hardship.

Annual burden was estimated based on a review of debtor responses to similar requests for information. Debtors typically respond in 1-2 page letters, supplemented by copies of documents. Letters are most often typewritten. Annual burden is based on a 1¾ hour time allotment to prepare and type a letter. Debtors will not be asked to respond on a form.

*Estimated Total Burden Hours:* 12,250

*Estimated Total Burden Cost*

Estimated annual cost to the Federal Government: \$734,650.

Estimated annual cost to the respondents: \$239,890.

Comments submitted in response to this comment request will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: October 31, 1996.

Michael N. Griffin,

*Acting Deputy Chief Financial Officer.*

[FR Doc. 96-28654 Filed 11-6-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-23-M

#### Office of the Secretary

##### President's Committee on Employment of People With Disabilities: Notice of Availability of Funds and a Solicitation for Grant Applications

**AGENCY:** President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, Labor.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of funds and a solicitation for grant applications for a five-year grant (FY 1997-2002) for the performance of the Job Accommodation Network (JAN), a service of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities.

**SUMMARY:** This notice sets forth the application procedures for a grant for JAN, a free consulting, information and referral service on job accommodation in its twelfth year of operation. The Job Accommodation Network receives inquiries from the public by telephone, mail, electronic mail, FAX and other means. In response, JAN supplies individualized information to employers, people with disabilities, service providers and other publics. Currently, JAN processes an average of 3,600 toll-free telephone calls per month. JAN is also a key national repository of data on job accommodation.

The Job Accommodation Network is a service of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. The President's Committee is a federal agency which has been in existence since 1947 and was more recently reauthorized by Executive Order 12640, dated May 10, 1988, to maximize employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

In accordance with Executive Order 12640 and by arrangement between the Chairman of the President's Committee

and the U.S. Department of Labor, the U.S. Department of Labor provides administrative and logistical support.

This solicitation for grant application (SGA) is open to any organization or institution (except those on the federal debarment list) that has a proven record of providing programs and services that contribute to the employability of people with disabilities and that is capable of performing the program requirements listed in the SGA.

Five objectives are listed in the SGA. They are: (1) Personalized Service, (2) Electronic Services, (3) Enhancing the National Leadership of JAN within the Disability Information and Referral System, (4) Marketing job Accommodation Network Services, and (5) Support the Activities of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities.

**DATE:** The closing date for receipt of a completed application package in response to this notice is January 24, 1997. Applications received after that time will be considered for award only if they are postmarked by the United States Postal Service five days or more before the closing date, or if it is determined that the application was sent by U.S. Postal Service Express Mail Next Day Service no later than 5:00 p.m., January 22d.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lisa Harvey, Office of Procurement Services, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave., NW., Room N-5416, Washington, DC 20210. Ms. Harvey will mail the SGA's to requesters. In addition, the entire SGA is available on the website of the President's Committee: <http://www.pcepd.gov/current/jamnsqa.htm>.

Signed at Washington, D.C., this 1st day of November 1996.

John Lancaster,

*Executive Director, President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities.*

[FR Doc. 96-28655 Filed 11-6-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-23-M

## Employment and Training Administration

### Federal-State Unemployment Compensation Program: Unemployment Insurance Program Letters Interpreting Federal Unemployment Insurance Law

The Employment and Training Administration interprets Federal law requirements pertaining to unemployment compensation as part of its role in the administration of the Federal-State unemployment

compensation program. These interpretations are issued in Unemployment Insurance Program Letters (UIPLs) to the State Employment Security Agencies (SESAs). The UIPL described below is published in the Federal Register in order to inform the public.

#### UIPL 30-96

This UIPL is being issued to clarify the distinction between "work-relief" and "work-training" for purposes of coverage under the unemployment compensation (UC) program. This UIPL broadens the interpretation previously issued in 1986 in UIPL 15-86 and will not require any change to State UC laws. (It should be noted that the footnote in that UIPL incorrectly characterizes two court cases as UC cases. A program letter correcting this will be issued at a later date.)

#### UIPL 37-96

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), P.L. 104-193, was enacted on August 22, 1996. This legislation, popularly known as the welfare reform bill, made several changes which affect the UC program. Specifically, the PRWORA: establishes New Hire Directories at both the State and National levels; requires that certain UC information be provided to State/National New Hire Directories; requires that States collect quarterly wage reports from State and local governmental entities and "labor organizations;" authorizes State and local child support enforcement agencies to disclose UC data to an agent; requires State and local child support agencies to obtain access to UC information for establishing paternity and other purposes; affects the eligibility of aliens; and, addresses the intercept of food stamp overissuances.

This UIPL provides information on these amendments and advises States of those instances where amendments to State UC law are needed to meet Federal UC law requirements. This UIPL does not, however, address those amendments relating to the eligibility of aliens. After completing its analysis of the amendments relating to aliens, the Department will issue guidance to the States as appropriate.

Dated: November 4, 1996.

Timothy M. Barnicle,  
Assistant Secretary of Labor.

U.S. Department of Labor  
Employment and Training Administration,  
Washington, D.C. 20210

CLASSIFICATION: UI  
CORRESPONDENCE SYMBOL:TEUL  
DATE: August 8, 1996

DIRECTIVE: UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM LETTER NO. 30-96  
TO: ALL STATE EMPLOYMENT SECURITY AGENCIES  
FROM: MARY ANN WYRSCH, Director,  
Unemployment Insurance Service  
SUBJECT: Work-Relief and Work-Training Exclusion

1. *Purpose.* To provide an interpretation of Section 3309(b)(5) of the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA) which permits an exception to coverage requirements of Section 3304(a)(6)(A), FUTA, for services performed as part of an unemployment work-relief or work-training program.

2. *References.* The Internal Revenue Code, including the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA), and Unemployment Insurance Program Letter (UIPL) 15-86, dated February 13, 1986.

3. *Background.* UIPL 15-86 provided the Department's interpretation of "work-relief" and "work-training" for purposes of assisting States in determining what services may be excluded from coverage for unemployment compensation (UC). Since that UIPL did not clearly distinguish between services performed in work-relief and services performed in work-training, confusion has resulted as to what services may actually be excluded. This UIPL provides the Department's position on the difference between "work-relief" and "work-training." As this UIPL results in broadening the interpretation taken in UIPL 15-86, it will not result in States needing to amend their laws.

4. *Federal Law Requirements.* The Department has long taken the position that, because FUTA is a remedial statute aimed at overcoming the evils of unemployment, it is to be liberally construed to effectuate its purposes and exemptions to its requirements are to be narrowly construed. This interpretation avoids "difficulties for which the remedy was devised and adroit schemes by some employers and employees to avoid the immediate burdens at the expense of the benefits sought by the legislation."<sup>1</sup>

Section 3304(a)(6)(A), FUTA, requires that each State pay UC based on services performed for certain governmental entities and nonprofit organizations. Specifically, Section 3304(a)(6)(A) requires coverage of services to which Section 3309(a)(1) applies. Section 3309(a)(1) applies to services excluded from the term "employment" solely by reason of either Section 3306(c)(7) or (8), FUTA. Section 3306(c)(7) pertains to services performed for a "State, or any political subdivision thereof. \* \* \*" Section 3306(c)(8) pertains to services performed for "religious, charitable, educational, or other organization described in section 501(c)(3)" of the Internal Revenue Code. Exclusions

<sup>1</sup> These interpretations were stated on page 5 of Supplement #5—Questions and Answers Supplementing Draft Language and Commentary to Implement the Unemployment Compensation Amendments of 1976—P.L. 94-566, dated November 13, 1978. Several Federal court decisions, including two cases involving UC, *United States v. Silk*, 331 U.S. 704, 712 (1947) and *Farming, Inc. v. Manning*, 219 F.2d 779, 782 (3d Cir., 1955), are illustrative of this position.