

information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: May 2, 1997.

Garrick R. Shear,

IRS Reports Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Forms 7018 and 7018-A

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Form 7018, Employer's Order Blank for Forms, and Form 7018-A, Employer's Order Blank for 1998 Forms.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before July 7, 1997 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection should be directed to Carol Savage, (202) 622-3945, Internal Revenue Service, room 5569, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Form 7018, Employer's Order Blank for Forms, and Form 7018-A, Employer's Order Blank for 1998 Forms.
OMB Number: 1545-1059.

Form Number: Forms 7018 and 7018A.

Abstract: Forms 7018 and 7018-A allow taxpayers who must file information returns a systematic way to order information tax forms materials.

Current Actions: Form 7018 is being redesigned as a 3-fold self-mailer postcard. It will be more user friendly because the title of each form will be placed next to the form number instead of on the back of the form. Form 941, Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return, and Form 943, Employer's Annual Tax Return for Agricultural Employees, were inadvertently omitted from the list of available forms and have now been added. Also, three new forms are being added. They are Form 1099-LTC, Long-Term Care and Accelerated Death Benefits, Form 1099-MSA, Distributions From Medical Savings Accounts, and Form 5498-MSA, Medical Savings Account Information.

Form 7018-A is being redesigned to include the title of each form next to the form number instead of on the back of the form. Three new forms are being added to the list of available forms. They are Forms 1099-LTC, 1099-MSA, and 5498-MSA.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,668,000.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 3 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 83,400.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate

of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: May 1, 1997.

Garrick R. Shear,

IRS Reports Clearance Officer.

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UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program, Administrative and Program Services; Request for Proposals

SUMMARY: The Office of Academic Programs of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c) may apply to provide administrative and program services for the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program (E/ASX). The Program administers approximately 200 one-on-one exchanges (400 participants) at the primary, secondary and community college levels between U.S. and overseas counterpart teachers from over 25 countries.

Overall grant-making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Public Law 87-256, as amended, also known as the Fulbright-Hays Act. The purpose of the Act is "to enable the Government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries * * *; to strengthen the ties which unite us with other nations by demonstrating the educational and cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the people of the United States and other nations * * * and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world." The funding authority for the program cited above is provided through the Fulbright Hays Act. Programs and projects must conform with Agency requirements and