

submission of medical documentation mandatory rather than optional.

The estimate of burden for the Physician's Certification form is as follows:

Type of respondent	Number of respondents	Responses per respondent	Number of responses	Hours per response	Total burden hours
Borrower	100	1	100	5 min	8
Physician	100	1	100	30 min	50
Loan Holder	32	3.1	100	10 min	17
Total	232	.....	300	.....	75

Send comments to Patricia Royston, HRSA Reports Clearance Officer, Room 14-36, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857. Written comments should be received within 60 days of this notice.

Dated: November 21, 1997.

Jane Harrison,

Acting Director, Division of Policy Review and Coordination.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

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

Periodically, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) publishes abstracts of information collection requests under review by the Office of Management and Budget, in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C.

Chapter 35). To request a copy of the clearance requests submitted to OMB for review, call the HRSA Reports Clearance Office on (301) 443-1129.

The following request has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for review under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995:

Proposed Project: The Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program Application (OMB No. 0915-0140)

Extension and Revision—This is a request for extension and revision of Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of the application form for the Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program (NELRP). The NELRP is authorized by 42 U.S.C. 297(n) (section 846 of the Public Health Service Act).

Under the NELRP, registered nurses are offered the opportunity to enter into a contractual agreement with the Secretary, under which the Public Health Service agrees to repay the nurses' indebtedness for nursing education. In exchange, the nurses agree to serve for a specified period of time in certain types of health facilities identified in the statute.

Nurse educational loan repayment contracts will be approved by the Secretary for eligible nurses who have incurred previous monetary indebtedness by accepting a loan for nursing education costs from a bank, credit union, savings and loan association, insurance company, Government agency or program, school, or other lender that meets NELRP criteria.

Approval is requested for the application form. The application form requires information from two types of respondents:

a. Applicants must provide information on the proposed service site and on all nursing education loans for which reimbursement is requested, and

b. Lenders must provide information on loan status for all loans accepted for repayment.

Two items are being added to the application form: race/ethnicity of the applicant (for statistical purposes only); and citizenship status. The estimates of average burden to complete the forms remains the same. Burden estimates are as follows:

Form/Regulatory requirement	Number of respondents	Responses per respondent	Hours per response	Total burden hours
NELRP Application	2,200	1	1	2,200
Loan Verification Form	*50	1	.25	13
Total	2,250	.....	.....	2,213

* The remainder of the loans are verified through credit reports.

Written comments and recommendations concerning the proposed information collection should be sent on or before December 29, 1997 to: Laura Oliven, Human Resources and Housing Branch, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, D.C. 20503.

Dated: November 21, 1997.

Jane Harrison,

Acting Director, Division of Policy Review and Coordination.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

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

Periodically, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) publishes abstracts of information collection requests under review by the Office of Management and Budget, in

compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). To request a copy of the clearance requests submitted to OMB for review, call the HRSA Reports Clearance Office on (301) 443-1129.

The following request has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for review under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995:

Proposed Project: Deferment Request Form for NHSC and NHH Scholarship Programs (OMB NO. 0915-0179) Extension, No Change

We are requesting an extension of the OMB clearance for the Deferment Request Form and associated reporting requirements for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Scholarship Program and the Native Hawaiian Health (NHH) Scholarship Program. The NHSC/NHH Scholarship Programs are authorized by Section 338A and Section 338K of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act. The requirements for obligated service, found in Section 338C of the PHS Act, include provisions for

deferment of the service obligation under certain circumstances.

Under these programs, allopathic physicians, osteopathic physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, physician assistants, and, if needed by the NHSC or NHH program, students of other health professions (including mental health professionals) are offered the opportunity to enter into a contractual agreement with the Secretary under which the Public Health Service agrees to pay the total school tuition, required fees and a stipend for living expenses. In exchange, the scholarship recipient agrees to provide full-time clinical services at a site in a federally designated Health Professions Shortage Areas (HPSA) of the United States. NHH scholarship recipients must be native Hawaiians and are assigned to sites in Hawaii. The minimum service obligation is 2 years.

Once scholarship recipients have completed their academic requirements, the law requires that selected types of

recipients be allowed to defer their service obligation in order to complete an approved internship, residency, or other advanced clinical training.

The Deferment Request Form provides the information necessary for considering the period and type of training for which deferment of the service obligation will be approved for physicians and dentists.

In addition, these programs have two other reporting requirements for which no forms have been developed, including:

- (1) Individuals who are in a deferment status are required to submit requests in writing for modifications to the deferment (e.g., extension of deferment or change of residency programs); and
- (2) Dentists, who can either begin their service obligation immediately after graduation or can be deferred for up to three years, are required to notify the program in writing of their *intent* to request deferment.

The estimated burden on respondents is as follows:

Type of report	Number of respondents	Responses per respondent	Hours per response	Total burden hours
Deferment Form	600	1	.5	300
Requests for Change of Deferment and Letters of Intent	100	1	1	100
Total	700	.....	.....	400

Written comments and recommendations concerning the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of this notice to: Laura Oliven, Human Resources and Housing Branch, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, D.C. 20503.

Dated: November 21, 1997.

Jane Harrison,

Acting Director, Division of Policy Review and Coordination.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

Final Program Requirements and Review Criteria for a Cooperative Agreement for a Center for Health Workforce Distribution Studies: A Federal-State Partnership Cooperative Agreement Program for Fiscal Year 1997

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announces that applications will be accepted for a fiscal year (FY) 1997 Cooperative Agreement for a Center for Health Workforce Distribution Studies: A Federal-State Partnership Cooperative Agreement Program. The cooperative agreement will be funded under the authority of section 792 (42 USC 295k) of the Public Health Service Act, which authorizes research on health professions personnel.

Research and studies for this cooperative agreement program will focus on the workforce distributional aspects of the legislation at the state

(one or a few states) level for allied health personnel, dentists, nurses, physicians, and public health personnel as specified below.

Purpose

The purpose of this cooperative agreement for a Center for Health Workforce Distribution Studies is to support research and analysis at the State level for one State or a few States only, including issues regarding the impact of federal initiatives aimed at improving the training of health professionals and meeting national workforce goals pertaining to:

(1) Allied health data and distributional issues consistent with the (1995) recommendations of the National Commission on Allied Health and in close coordination with the activities of the Allied Health Data Collaborative Project;

(2) Distribution of dentists, with emphasis on trends relating to educational background (for example, those with postdoctoral training in advanced general dentistry and/or public health dentistry) and practice in settings principally serving residents of medically underserved communities;