

have measure(s) over time of what beneficiaries know and understand about the Medicare program now to be able to quantify and attribute any changes to their understanding or behavior to information/education initiatives. Measuring beneficiary information needs and knowledge over time will help us to evaluate the impact of information/education and other initiatives as well as to understand how the population is changing apart from such initiatives; *Frequency*: Monthly; *Affected Public*: Individuals or households; *Number of Respondents*: 3,600; *Total Annual Responses*: 3,600; *Total Annual Hours*: 1,080.

(4) *Type of Information Collection Request*: Revision of currently approved collection; *Title of Information Collection*: Adjusted Community Rate (ACR) Proposal Medicare+Choice; *Form No.*: CMS-R-228 (OMB #0938-0742); *Use*: Under Part C of the Social Security Act (ACT), a Medicare + Choice (M + C) organization is required to offer a benefit package that is approved and priced properly to all Medicare beneficiaries residing in the service area. This form is used by M + C organization to price its benefit packages; *Frequency*: Annually; *Affected Public*: Business or other-for-profit, Not-for-profit institutions and State, Local or Tribal Government; *Number of Respondents*: 700 ; *Total Annual Responses*: 700 ; *Total Annual Hours*: 66,500.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access CMS's Web Site address at <http://cms.hhs.gov/regulations/pract/default.asp>, or E-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and CMS document identifier, to Paperwork@hcfa.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be mailed within 60 days of this notice directly to the CMS Paperwork Clearance Officer designated at the following address: CMS, Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs, Division of Regulations Development and Issuances, Attention: Dawn Willingham, Room N2-14-26, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

Dated: December 6, 2002.

Julie Brown,

Acting, Paperwork Reduction Act Team Leader, CMS Reports Clearance Officer, Office of Strategic Operations and Strategic Affairs, Division of Regulations Development and Issuances.

[FR Doc. 02-31546 Filed 12-13-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

[Document Identifier: CMS-10073, CMS-R-290, CMS-1557]

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

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) (formerly known as the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), Department of Health and Human Services, is publishing the following summary of proposed collections for public comment. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

(1) *Type of Information Collection Request*: New Collection; *Title of Information Collection*: Survey of Rural Medicare Providers Regarding Provider Education Needs; *Form No.*: CMS-10073 (OMB #0938-NEW); *Use*: The Division of Provider Education and Training, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), is requesting Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval to conduct a survey of the provider education needs of rural Medicare providers. CMS has contracted The Lewin Group to develop and field the survey instrument, analyze and synthesize the information collected, and present findings and recommendations to help CMS better understand the provider education

needs of rural providers. The study will also provide an assessment of the specific and unique education challenges faced by rural Medicare providers and the success of current education methods in meeting those challenges; *Frequency*: Other: One-time; *Affected Public*: Business or other for-profit and not-for-profit institutions; *Number of Respondents*: 1,832; *Total Annual Responses*: 1,832; *Total Annual Hours*: 608.

(2) *Type of Information Collection Request*: Extension of a currently approved collection; *Title of Information Collection*: Procedures for Making National Coverage Decisions; *Form No.*: CMS-R-0290 (OMB #0938-0776); *Use*: These information collection requirements provide the process CMS will use to make a national coverage decision for a specific item or service under sections 1862 and 1871 of the Social Security Act. This will streamline our decision making process and will increase the opportunities for public participation in making national coverage decisions; *Frequency*: Recordkeeping, other (as needed); *Affected Public*: Business or other for-profit, not-for-profit institutions; *Number of Respondents*: 200; *Total Annual Responses*: 200; *Total Annual Hours*: 8,000.

(3) *Type of Information Collection Request*: Extension of a currently approved collection; *Title of Information Collection*: Survey Report Form Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) and Supporting Regulations in 42 CFR 493.1-493.2001; *Form No.*: CMS-1557 (OMB #0938-0544); *Use*: CLIA requires the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to establish certification requirements for any laboratory that performs tests on human specimens, and to certify through the issuance of a certificate that those laboratories meet the requirements established by DHHS. The information collected on this survey form is used in the administrative pursuit of the Congressionally-mandated program with regard to regulation of laboratories participating in CLIA. In order for the State survey agency to report to CMS its findings on facility compliance with the individual standards on which CMS determines compliance, the surveyor completes the Survey Report Form. The Survey Worksheet provides space to document the surveyor's notes; *Frequency*: Biennially; *Affected Public*: Business or other for profit, not for profit institutions, and State, local or tribal government; *Number of Respondents*: 26,500; *Total Annual*

Responses: 13,250; Total Annual Hours: 6,625.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access CMS Web Site address at <http://cms.hhs.gov/regulations/prd/default.asp>, or E-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and CMS document identifier, to Paperwork@cms.hhs.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on (410) 786-1326. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be mailed within 30 days of this notice directly to the OMB desk officer: OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, Attention: Brenda Aguilar, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: December 6, 2002.

Julie Brown,

Acting, Paperwork Reduction Act Team Leader, CMS Reports Clearance Officer, Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs, Division of Regulations Development and Issuances.

[FR Doc. 02-31547 Filed 12-13-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-03-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Indian Health Service

Availability of Funds for Loan Repayment Program for Repayment of Health Professions Educational Loans

AGENCY: Indian Health Service, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Administration's budget request for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 includes \$11,923,500 for the Indian Health Service (IHS) Loan Repayment Program (LRP) for health professions educational loans (undergraduate) in return for full-time clinical service in Indian health programs. It is anticipated that \$11,923,500 will be available to support approximately 298 competing awards averaging \$40,000 per award.

This program announcement is subject to the appropriation of funds. This notice is being published early to coincide with the recruitment activity of the IHS, which competes with other Government and private health management organizations to employ qualified health professionals. Funds must be expended by September 30 of the fiscal year. This program is authorized by section 108 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) as amended, 25 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.* The

IHS invites potential applicants to request an application for participation in the LRP.

DATES: Applications for the FY 2003 LRP will be accepted and evaluated monthly beginning January 17, 2003, and will continue to be accepted each month thereafter until all funds are exhausted. Subsequent monthly deadline dates are scheduled for Friday of the second full week of each month. Notice of awards will be mailed on the last working day of each month.

Applicants selected for participation in the FY 2003 program cycle will be expected to being their service period no later than September 30, 2003.

Applicants shall be considered as meeting the deadline if they are either:

1. Received on or before the deadline date; or
2. Sent on or before the deadline date.

(Applicants should request a legibly dated U.S. Postal Service postmark or obtain a legibly dated receipt from a commercial carrier or U.S. Postal Service. Private metered postmarks are not acceptable as proof of timely mailing.)

Applications received after the monthly closing date will be held for consideration in the next monthly funding cycle. Applicants who do not receive funding by September 30, 2003, will be notified in writing.

For to be used for application:

Applications must be submitted on the form entitled "Application for the Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program," identified with the Office of Management and Budget approval number of OMB #0917-0014 (expires 12/31/02).

ADDRESSES: Application materials may be obtained by calling or writing to the address below. In addition, completed applications should be returned to: IHS Loan Repayment Program, 801 Thompson Avenue, Suite 120, Rockville, Maryland 20852, PH: 301/443-3396 [between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. (EST) Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays].

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Please address inquiries to Ms. Jacqueline K. Santiago, Chief, IHS Loan Repayment Program, 801 Thompson Avenue, Suite 120, Rockville, Maryland 20852, PH: 301/443-3396 [between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. (EST) Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays].

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 108 of the IHCIA, as amended by Pub. L. 100-713 and 102-573, authorizes the IHS LRP and provides in pertinent part as follows:

The Secretary, acting through the Service, shall establish a program to be known as the

Indian health Service Loan Repayment Program (hereinafter referred to as the "Loan Repayment Program") in order to assure an adequate supply of trained health professionals necessary to maintain accreditation of, and provide health care services to Indians through, Indian health programs.

Section 4(n) of the IHCIA, as amended by the Indian Health Care Improvement Technical Corrections Act of 1996, Pub. L. 104-313, provides that:

"Health Profession" means allopathic medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, geriatric medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, podiatric medicine, nursing, public health nursing, dentistry, psychiatry, osteopathy, optometry, pharmacy, psychology, public health, social work, marriage and family therapy, chiropractic medicine, environmental health and engineering, an allied health profession, or any other health profession.

For the purposes of this program, the term "Indian health program" is defined in Section 108(a)(2)(A), as follows:

* * * any health program or facility funded, in whole or in part, by the IHS for the benefit of Indians and administered:

- a. Directly by the Service; (or)
- b. By any Indian tribe or tribal or Indian organization pursuant to a contract under:

(1) The Indian Self-Determination Act; or

(2) Section 23 of the Act of April 30, 1908, (25 U.S.C. 47), popularly known as the Buy Indian Act; or

(3) By an urban Indian organization pursuant to Title V of this act.

Applicants may sign contractual agreements with the Secretary for 2 years. The IHS will repay all, or a portion of the applicant's health profession educational loans (undergraduate and graduate) for tuition expenses and reasonable educational and living expenses in amounts up to \$20,000 per year for each year of contracted service. Payments will be made annually to the participant for the purpose of repaying his/her outstanding health profession educational loans. Payment of health profession education loans will be made to the participant within 120 days, from the date the contract becomes effective.

The Secretary must approve the contract before the disbursement of loan repayments can be made to the participant. Participants will be required to fulfill their contract service agreements through full-time clinical practice at an Indian health program site determined by the Secretary. Loan repayment sites are characterized by physical, cultural, and professional isolation, and have histories of frequent