

business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible.

In 2015, Congress instructed the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a nationwide disparity and availability study on the availability and use of small businesses owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals and veteran-owned small businesses in publicly funded intercity rail passenger transportation projects.

The report for the study was provided to Congress in 2022. The report noted a gap in data available for analysis to determine if there is any disparity in rail transportation grant awards. To address the data gap identified in the report, FRA is proposing to add new form, FRA F 6180.281 titled, Small Business (SB) Commitments/Awards and Payments. The proposed data collection will address this gap and aid future considerations of the application of the DBE program.

The purpose of FRA F 6180.281 is to collect data from grant recipients to determine the amount of dollars from FRA grants and contracts that flow to small, women-owned and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE). This would identify all prime contractors, sub-contractors, consultants, and vendors that FRA grant recipients worked with and on which they spent grant funds. Additionally, the proposed new form, FRA F 6180.281 "SB Commitments/Awards and Payments" would be used by FRA to carry out its oversight responsibilities of non-Federal entities receiving grant funds.

This collection of information aligns with DOT's Strategic Goal of Equity as it supports establishing economic equity for small businesses owned by disadvantaged individuals and promoting development opportunities.

Type of Request: Approval of a new collection of information.

Affected Public: Generally, includes States and local governments and railroads.

Form(s): FRA F 6180.281.

Respondent Universe: 140 grant recipients.

Frequency of Submission: Annually.

Total Estimated Annual Responses: 140.

Total Estimated Annual Burden: 49,980 hours.

Total Estimated Annual Burden Hour Dollar Cost Equivalent: \$2,289,584.

FRA informs all interested parties that it may not conduct or sponsor, and a respondent is not required to respond to, a collection of information that does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520.

Christopher S. Van Nostrand,

Deputy Chief Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2024–23921 Filed 10–16–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900–0717]

Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review: Child Care Provider Information—For the Child Care Subsidy Program

AGENCY: Human Resources and Administration/Operations, Security, and Preparedness (HRA/OSP), Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, this notice announces that the Human Resources and Administration/Operations, Security, and Preparedness (HRA/OSP), Department of Veterans Affairs, will submit the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden, and it includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent by November 18, 2024.

ADDRESSES: To submit comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection, please type the following link into your browser: www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain, select "Currently under Review—Open for Public Comments", then search the list for the information collection by Title or "OMB Control No. 2900–0717." **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** VA PRA information: Maribel Aponte, 202–461–8900, vacopaperworkreduct@va.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Child Care Provider Information—For the Child Care Subsidy Program.

OMB Control Number: 2900–0717
<https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAsearch>.

Type of Review: Reinstatement with change of a previously approved collection.

Abstract: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) needs to collect information from child care providers to

determine employee eligibility to participate in the VA Child Care Subsidy Program.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published at 89 FR 56477, July 9, 2024.

Affected Public: Individuals or Households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 937 Hours.

Estimated Average Burden per Respondent: 15 Minutes.

Frequency of Response: On Occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 4,500.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*

Maribel Aponte,

VA PRA Clearance Officer, Office of Enterprise and Integration, Data Governance Analytics, Department of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2024–23925 Filed 10–16–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Cost of Living Adjustments

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As required by the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2023, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is hereby giving notice of Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) in certain benefit rates. These COLAs affect the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Program. The rate of the adjustment is tied to the increase in Social Security benefits, effective December 1, 2023, as announced by the Social Security Administration (SSA). SSA has announced an increase of 3.2%.

DATES: The increases in amounts became effective December 1, 2023.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gabrielle Mancuso, Lead Management and Program Analyst, Pension and Fiduciary Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420; 202–632–8862. This is not a toll-free number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the provisions of Public Law 118–6, VA is required to increase, effective December 1, 2023, the benefit rates of DIC programs by the same percentage as

increases in the benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act. VA is required to publish notice of the increased rates in the **Federal Register**. SSA has announced a 3.2% COLA increase in Social Security benefits effective December 1, 2023. Therefore, applying the same percentage, the following increased rates for the DIC program became effective December 1, 2023:

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Monthly Payment Rates

DIC Payable to a Surviving Spouse—Veteran Death on or After January 1, 1993

Basic Monthly Rate: \$1,612.75.

If at the time of the Veteran's death, the Veteran was in receipt of or entitled to receive compensation for a service-connected disability rated totally disabling (including a rating based on individual unemployability) for a continuous period of at least 8 years immediately preceding death AND the surviving spouse was married to the Veteran for those same 8 years, add: \$342.46.

For each dependent child under the age of 18, add: \$399.54.

If the surviving spouse is entitled to Aid and Attendance benefits, add \$399.54.

If the surviving spouse is entitled to Housebound benefits, add \$181.17.

If the surviving spouse has one or more children under the age of 18 on the award per 38 U.S.C. 1311(f), add the 2-year transitional benefit of \$342.00.

DIC Payable to a Surviving Spouse—Veteran Death Prior to January 1, 1993

| Veteran paygrade | Amount payable |
|------------------|----------------|
| E-1(f) | \$1,612.75 |
| E-2(f) | 1,612.75 |

| Veteran paygrade | Amount payable |
|------------------|----------------|
| E-3(a,f) | 1,612.75 |
| E-4(f) | 1,612.75 |
| E-5(f) | 1,612.75 |
| E-6(f) | 1,612.75 |
| E-7(g) | 1,668.49 |
| E-8(g) | 1,761.43 |
| E-9(g) | 1,837.07 |
| E-9(b) | 1,983.09 |
| W-1(g) | 1,703.03 |
| W-2(g) | 1,770.71 |
| W-3(g) | 1,822.47 |
| W-4(g) | 1,928.66 |
| O-1(g) | 1,703.03 |
| O-2(g) | 1,761.43 |
| O-3(g) | 1,882.19 |
| O-4 | 1,995.01 |
| O-5 | 2,195.47 |
| O-6 | 2,475.55 |
| O-7 | 2,671.96 |
| O-8 | 2,934.81 |
| O-9 | 3,139.21 |
| O-10 | 3,443.18 |
| O-10(c) | 3,695.39 |

(a) Surviving spouse of Aviation Cadet or other service not covered by this table is paid the DIC rate for enlisted E-3.

(b) Veteran who served as Sgt. Major of the Army or Marine Corps, Senior Enlisted Advisor of the Navy, Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force, or Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, or as Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard.

(c) Veteran who served as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Chief of Staff of the Army or Air Force, Chief of Naval Operations, Commandant of the Marine Corps, or as Commandant of the Coast Guard.

(d) If surviving spouse is entitled to aid and attendance, add \$399.54; if entitled to housebound, add \$187.17.

(e) Add \$399.54 for each child under 18.

(f) Add \$342.46 if Veteran rated totally disabled for 8 continuous years

prior to death and surviving spouse was married to Veteran those same 8 years.

(g) Base rate is \$1,955.21 if Veteran rated totally disabled 8 continuous years prior to death and surviving spouse was married to Veteran those same 8 years.

DIC Payable to Children

Surviving Spouse Entitled

For each child over the age of 18 who is attending an approved course of education, the rate is \$338.49.

For each child over the age of 18 who is helpless, the rate is \$680.94.

No Surviving Spouse Entitled

| Number of children | Total payable | Each child's share |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1 | \$680.94 | \$680.94 |
| 2 | 979.58 | 489.79 |
| 3 | 1,238.63 | 426.09 |

For each additional child, add \$242.91 to the total payable amount to be paid in equal shares to each child.

For each additional helpless child over 18, add \$399.54 to the amount payable to the helpless child.

Signing Authority

Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, signed and approved this document on October 8, 2024, and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Luvenia Potts,

Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy & Management, Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.

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