

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 483 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), requires the Secretary, "in cooperation with agencies and organizations involved in providing student financial assistance," to "produce, distribute and process free of charge a common financial reporting form to be used to determine the need and eligibility of a student under" the title IV, HEA Programs. This form is the FAFSA. In addition, section 483 authorizes the Secretary to include non-financial data items that assist States in awarding State student financial assistance.

The draft 2004–2005 FAFSA (posted to the IFAP website) incorporates suggestions from the community to simplify the FAFSA form, reducing the number of questions from 104 to 97. These suggestions included: Reducing the five enrollment status questions to one question; combining the two questions regarding the highest school the applicant's parents completed into one question, and removing the two questions asking if the applicant is interested in loans or work-study. The Secretary requests comments on ways to further simplify the application for students, parents, and schools.

In particular, the Secretary seeks comments on simplifying the FAFSA through use of the FAFSA on the Web product. The Secretary is considering adding capability to FAFSA on the Web to permit applicants to skip questions not required by their state of residence or for EFC determination. For example, if an applicant's state does not require question 18, enrollment status, FAFSA on the Web would not present question 18 to the applicant. The Secretary is also considering removing the early analysis option from the web application.

The Secretary is publishing this request for comment under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.* Under that Act, ED must obtain the review and approval of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) before it may use a form to collect information. However, under procedure for obtaining approval from OMB, ED must first obtain public comment of the proposed form, and to obtain that comment, ED must publish this notice in the **Federal Register**.

In addition to comments requested above, to accommodate the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, the Secretary is interested in receiving comments with regard to the following matters: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department, (2) will this information be processed and used

in a timely manner, (3) is the estimate of burden accurate, (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected, and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: February 28, 2003.

John D. Tressler,

*Leader, Regulatory Management Group,
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

Federal Student Aid

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Title: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (JS).

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: Individuals or household (primary).

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 13,985,297.

Burden Hours: 7,770,355.

Abstract: The FAFSA collects identifying and financial information about a student applies for title IV, Higher Education Act (HEA) Program funds. This information is used to calculate the student's expected family contribution, which is used to determine a student's financial need. The information is also used to determine the student's eligibility for grants and loans under the title IV, HEA Programs. It is further used for determining a student's eligibility for State and institutional financial aid programs.

Written requests for information should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202–4651 or to the e-mail address Vivian.reese@ed.gov. Requests may also be faxed to 202–708–9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Joseph Schubart at his e-mail address Joe.Schubart@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No. 84.364A]

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education; Improving Literacy Through School Libraries Program (LSL); Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

Purpose of Program: The purpose of this program is to improve student literacy skills and academic achievement by providing students with

increased access to up-to-date school library materials; a well-equipped, technologically advanced school library media center; and well-trained, professionally certified school library media specialists.

Eligible Applicants: Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) in which at least 20 percent of the students served by the LEA are from families with incomes below the poverty line. (20 U.S.C. 6383). A list of LEAs with their family poverty rates is posted on the web at: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/LSL>.

Deadline for Notification of Intent to Apply for Funding: We strongly encourage each potential applicant to notify us by March 28, 2003, of your intent to submit an application for funding. We will be able to develop a more efficient process for reviewing grant applications if we have an estimate of the number of entities that intend to apply for funding under this competition. Notifications should be sent by e-mail to the following Internet address: LSL@ed.gov.

Please put "Notice of Intent" in the subject line. Applicants that fail to provide this e-mail notification may still apply for funding.

Applications Available: March 6, 2003.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: April 28, 2003.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: June 27, 2003.

Estimated Available Funds: \$12,000,000.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$20,000 to \$350,000.

Estimated Average Size of Awards: \$75,000.

Note: The size of the awards will be commensurate with the nature and scope of the work proposed and the number of schools to be served.

Estimated Number of Awards: 75–100.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: 12 months.

Page Limit: The application must include the following sections: title page form (ED 424), one-page abstract, program narrative, budget summary form (ED 524) with budget narrative, individual resumes (up to 3 pages each) for project directors and other key personnel, statement of equitable access (GEPA 427), and other required forms and assurances as described in the application package. Please note that this program is a competitive discretionary grant program, so it is essential that your program narrative address the selection criteria that