

Total burden hours for this request—5,916.

4. *Information Collections conducted by State Disability Determination Services (DDS) on Behalf of SSA—20 CFR, subpart P, 404.1503a, 404.1512, 404.1513, 404.1514 404.1517, 404.1519; 20 CFR subpart Q, 404.1613, 404.1614, 404.1624; 20 CFR subpart I, 416.903a, 416.912, 416.913, 416.914, 416.917, 416.919 and 20 CFR subpart J, 416.1013, 416.1024, 416.1014–0960–0555.* The State DDS's collect certain information to administer SSA's disability program. The information collected is as follows: (1) Medical evidence of record (MER)—DDS's use MER information to determine a person's physical and/or mental status prior to making a disability determination; (2) consultative exam (CE) medical evidence—DDS's use CE medical evidence to make disability determinations when the claimant's own medical sources cannot or will not provide the information; (3) CE claimant forms—The DDS's request that claimants complete and authorization form for the release of consultative exam information to a personal physician and to complete and appointment form to confirm scheduled CE appointments; (4) CE provider information—DDS's use the CE provider information to verify medical providers' credentials and licenses before hiring them to conduct CEs; (5) activities of daily living (ADL)—this information and other medical evidence are part of the evidentiary documentation used by the DDS's in evaluating a person's disability; and (6) pain information—this information is used by the DDS's to assess the effects of symptoms on functioning for determining disability. The respondents are medical providers, other sources of MER and disability claimants.

Type of Request: Extension of an OMB-approved information collection.

(1) MER (Respondents-Medical Providers and Other Sources)

Number of Responses: 6,052,494.
Frequency of Response: Unknown.
Average Burden Per Response: 15 minutes.
Estimated Annual Burden: 1,513,124.

(2) CE Medical Evidence (Respondents-Medical Providers)

Number of Responses: 1,640,269.
Frequency of Response: Unknown.
Average Burden Per Response: 30 minutes.
Estimated Annual Burden: 820,135 hours.

(3) CE Forms (Respondents—Claimants)

	Appointment form	Medical release
Number of Respondents	820,134	1,640,269
Frequency of Response	1	1
Average Burden Per Response	5	5
Estimated Annual Burden (in hours)	68,345	136,689

(4) CE Providers (Respondents—Medical Providers)

Number of Responses: 3,000.
Frequency of Response: 1.
Average Burden: 20 minutes.
Estimated Annual Burden: 1,000 hours.

(5) ADL Forms (Respondents—Claimants)

Number of Responses: 2,000,000.
Frequency of Response: 1.
Average Burden Per Response: 15 minutes.
Estimated Annual Burden: 500,000 hours.

(6) Pain Forms (Respondents—Claimants)

Number of Responses: 1,000,000.
Frequency of Response: 1.
Average Burden Per Response: 15 minutes.
Estimated Annual Burden: 250,000 hours.

II. Notice of OMB Approval

As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507), the Social Security Administration (SSA) is providing notice of OMB's approval of the following information collections:

1. 20 CFR 404 subpart J & 416 subpart N—Video Teleconferencing Appearances before Administrative Law Judges, associated form SSA—504. The OMB Number is 0960–0671, which expires November 30, 2004.

2. 20 CFR parts 404.617 and 416.327—Claimant Identification Pilot Project. The OMB Number is 0960–0664, which expires May 31, 2006.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, persons are not required to respond to an information collection unless it displays a valid Office of Management and Budget control number.

Dated: July 25, 2003.

Elizabeth A. Davidson,

Reports Clearance Officer, Social Security Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4429]

Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs: Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI)

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Notice.

Introduction

The Office of Partnership Initiative (NEA/PI), announces an open competition for proposals for the production, distribution, and placement of Arabic-language early reading books throughout the Middle East. Multiple awards may be made from this announcement.

Purpose

The purpose of this program is to respond to the urgent need for options in primary and basic Arabic-language literacy for young Arabic-speaking readers in the Middle East. The primary objective is to provide access to Arabic-language reading materials for young readers, and provide accompanying preparatory teacher training and curriculum materials to maximize the effectiveness of the reading materials in the classroom.

Background

This program for Arabic reading books has evolved from the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, Office of Partnership Initiative, NEA/PI. NEA/PI coordinates the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI). A primary component of MEPI is a focus on Education. To bridge the "knowledge gap," MEPI seeks to improve the quality, quantity, and relevance of education in the Middle East (to include North Africa and the Gulf) through the implementation of programs that highlight, inter alia, improved digital readiness and increased literacy, especially for girls. More information about MEPI can be found at: <http://www.state.gov/p/nea/rt/mepi>.

In the context of the Education component of MEPI, President Bush announced plans to launch a major new effort to provide resources for the Arabic translation of early reading books for use in primary schools in the region. The program is intended to encourage independent reading, thinking, and analytical skills in young readers; train teachers; engage parents and local communities in the support of independent reading by young readers; and, provide sustainable resources for classrooms. This Notice seeks to initiate the MEPI Arabic-language early reading program, with a beginning focus on