

information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: May 17, 2001.

Garrick R. Shear,

*IRS Reports Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 01-13065 Filed 5-22-01; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0300]

### Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

**AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C., 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs, has submitted 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; it includes the actual data collection instrument.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before June 22, 2001.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR A COPY OF THE SUBMISSION CONTACT:** Denise McLamb, Information Management Service (045A4), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-8030, FAX (202) 273-5981 or e-mail [denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov](mailto:denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov). Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0300."

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** Veterans Application for Assistance in Acquiring Special Housing Adaptations, VA Form 26-4555d.

**OMB Control Number:** 2900-0300.

**Type of Review:** Extension of a currently approved collection.

**Abstract:** VA Form 26-4555d is used by disabled veterans in applying for special housing and adaptations to dwellings. Grants are available to assist disabled veterans in making adaptations

to their current residences or one, which they intend to live in as long as the veteran or a member of the veteran's family owns the home. It also provides information for use in approving or disapproving a veteran's application for a grant.

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 on October 17, 2000, on page 61380.

**Affected Public:** Individuals or households.

**Estimated Annual Burden:** 25 hours.

**Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:** 20 minutes.

**Frequency of Response:** On occasion.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 75.

Send comments and recommendations concerning any aspect of the information collection to VA's OMB Desk Officer, OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503, (202) 395-7316. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0300" in any correspondence.

Dated: May 4, 2001.

Donald L. Neilson,

*Director, Information Management Service.*

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BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS

### Office of Research and Development; Department of Veterans Affairs Human Research Protection Accreditation Program

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice of draft accreditation standards.

**SUMMARY:** This notice informs interested parties that draft standards for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Human Research Protection Accreditation Program (VAHRPAP) will be available for public comment on the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Web site: [www.ncqa.org](http://www.ncqa.org).

**DATES:** The public comment period will start May 16, 2001, and will continue through June 1, 2001.

**ADDRESS:** The preferred method for receiving comments is as a Microsoft Word file attached to an e-mail message. The e-mail message should be sent to [VAHRPAP@ncqa.org](mailto:VAHRPAP@ncqa.org) and have "Public

Comment" in the subject line. Please include your name, organizational affiliation and telephone number in any e-mail correspondence.

Mail written comments (one original and three copies) to the following address: NCQA, Attn: VAHRPAP, 2000 L Street, NW., Suite 500, Washington, DC 20036. If you sent your comments by e-mail, please do not send duplicate comments by mail.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Veterans Affairs awarded a five-year contract to the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) to conduct an accreditation program, the first of its kind, to help to ensure that VA medical centers are complying with VA and other applicable Federal regulations for the protection of human subjects of research. NCQA is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to improving health care quality, with 10 years of experience in accrediting and certifying health care programs. NCQA will partner with Medical Care Management Corporation (MCMC) to design the program and to recruit, credential and schedule surveyors. MCMC has established a large panel of experienced clinical researchers who evaluate the appropriateness of experimental treatments, conduct technology assessments and review research protocols.

VA conducts biomedical, health services, and rehabilitation research to improve the health care delivered to the Nation's veterans. The Office of Research and Development (ORD) has developed policies, consistent with the Common Rule and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations, to safeguard human subjects in research. Also, as part of its responsibilities in protecting human subjects, VA's Office of Research Compliance and Assurance (ORCA) collaborates with the Office of Research and Development in carrying out this accreditation contract, and will analyze trends from the accreditation reports for continuing quality improvement. The VA Human Research Protection Accreditation Program (VAHRPAP) will provide a routine external evaluation of compliance with VA and other Federal policies.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** For further information about the accreditation program, contact NCQA Customer Service, at (202) 955-5697. For questions about the Department of Veterans Affairs human subjects protection policies or programs, call Brenda Cuccherini, PhD, VA Office of Research and Development, at (202) 408-3614.