

dated November 9, 1995, are being amended to make policy changes approved by the Secretary. Specifically, the Notice is to reflect that the Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH) will make proposed findings of research misconduct and administrative actions in response to allegations of research misconduct involving research conducted or supported by components of the Public Health Service (PHS); that direct investigations, previously conducted by ORI, will be conducted by components of the PHS for intramural research and by the Office of Inspector General for extramural research; and that role and structure of ORI will be changed to focus more on preventing misconduct and promoting research integrity through expanded education programs. The changes are as follows:

I. Amend Chapter AC.20 Functions, paragraph A. "Office of Public Health and Science," paragraph titled, "The Immediate Office (ACA)" by adding the following new clause:

(1) Proposes findings of research misconduct and administrative actions in response to allegations of research misconduct involving research conducted or supported by the Public Health Service (PHS) OPDIVs, including reversal of an institution's no misconduct finding or opening of a new investigation.

II. Under Section AC.20 Function, delete, paragraph E. "Office of Research Integrity (ACF)" in its entirety, and replace with the following:

E. Office of Research Integrity (ACF)—The Director reports to the Secretary and will: (1) Oversee and direct Public Health Service (PHS) research integrity activities on behalf of the Secretary with the exception of the regulatory research integrity activities of the Food and Drug Administration; (2) recommend to the Assistant Secretary for Health for decision, findings of research misconduct and administrative actions in connection with research conducted or supported by the PHS; (3) coordinate the development of research integrity policies designed to ensure that subjects of investigations and whistleblowers are treated fairly, including clear specification of what constitutes misconduct, a fair hearing process, appropriate time limits on pursuing allegations, and specific whistleblower protections; (4) manage the financial resources and provide overall administrative guidance in carrying out the activities; and (5) oversee and direct the research misconduct and integrity activities of the office, including the oversight of research misconduct inquiries and investigations, education and training in the responsible conduct

of research, activities designed to promote research integrity and prevent misconduct, and research and evaluation programs.

1. Division of Education and Integrity (ACF2)—The Director and staff: (1) develop and implement, in consultation with the PHS OPDIVs, activities and programs for PHS intramural and extramural research to teach the responsible conduct of research, promote research integrity, prevent research misconduct, and to enable the extramural institutions and PHS OPDIVs to respond effectively to allegations of research misconduct; (2) coordinate the dissemination of research integrity policies, procedures, and regulations; (3) conduct policy analyses, evaluations, and research to improve DHHS research integrity policies and procedures and build the knowledge base in research misconduct, research integrity, and prevention; (4) develop (in consultation with the PHS OPDIVs) policies, procedures, and regulations for review by the Director, Office of Research Integrity, and recommendations to the Secretary; (5) administer programs for: approval of institutional assurances; response to Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act requests; review and approval of intramural and extramural policies and procedures; and response to allegations of whistleblower retaliation.

2. Division of Investigative Oversight (ACF3)—The Director and staff: (1) review and monitor investigations conducted by applicant and awardee institutions and intramural research programs; (2) evaluate investigations and investigatory findings of awardee and applicant institutions, intramural research programs, and the Office of Inspector General and develop and recommend to the ORI Director, findings of research misconduct and proposal administrative actions against those who committed misconduct; (3) assist the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) in preparing and presenting cases in hearings before the Research Integrity Adjudications Panel of the DHHS Department Appeals Board; (4) provide information on DHHS policies and procedures, as requested, to individuals who have made an allegation or have been accused of research misconduct; and (5) establish and implement a program of advice and technical assistance to entities that conduct inquiries and investigations, or otherwise respond to allegations of research misconduct.

III. Under Chapter AC, Section ACF-30, Delegations of Authority—All delegations and redelegations of authority to the Assistant Secretary for

Health and officials of the Office of Research Integrity that were in effect prior to the effective date of this reorganization shall continue in effect pending further redelegation.

Dated: April 14, 2000.

Betsy D'Jamos,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Management and Budget.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4562-N-05]

Notice of Proposed Information Collection for Public Comment: Assessing the Effectiveness of HUD2020 Management Reforms—Public Knowledge of Fair Housing Issues

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection requirement described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

DATES: July 11, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and should be sent to: Reports Liaison Officer, Office of Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW, Room 8226, Washington, DC 20410.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul B. Dornan, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20410; telephone (202) 708-0574, extension 4486 (this is not a toll-free number). Copies of the proposed data collection instruments and other available documents may be obtained from Mr. Dornan.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department will submit the proposed information collection to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended).

This Notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affecting agencies concerning the proposed collection of information to: (1) Evaluate whether the proposed

collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond; including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

This Notice also lists the following information:

Title of Proposal: Assessing the Effectiveness of HUD2020 Management Reforms.

Description of the need for the information and proposed use: The Department is conducting under contract an assessment of the impact of the management reforms that the Department has implemented collectively under the name "HUD2020". As part of this analysis, the Department proposes to undertake biennial surveys of public knowledge of fair housing issues and law. These surveys will permit the Department to gauge HUD's performance against its goal of ensuring equal opportunity in housing for all Americans and, in particular, the objective of increasing the share of the American population with adequate awareness of fair housing law. The proposed information collection will include the baseline survey and the first follow-on administration of the survey two years thereafter.

Members of affected public: A sample generalizable to and representative of the nation's adult population.

Estimation of the total numbers of hours needed to prepare the information collection including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response: The researchers will administer a baseline survey to 1500 randomly selected members of the American adult population; two years thereafter, the same survey will be administered to another sample of 1500 from the same universe; the surveys are expected to last 7 minutes each, for a total of 175 hours of response each time and, therefore, a total of 350 hours.

Status of the proposed information collection: Pending OMB approval.

Authority: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: May 4, 2000.

Lawrence L. Thompson,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4562-0901]

Notice of Proposed Information Collection for Public Comment: Assessing the Effectiveness of HUD2020 Management Reforms—Fair Housing Opinions

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection requirement described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

DATES: *Comments Due Date:* July 11, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and should be sent to: Reports Liaison Officer, Office of Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Room 8226, Washington, DC 20410.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul B. Dornan, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20410; telephone (202) 708-0574, extension 4486 (this is not a toll-free number). Copies of the proposed data collection instruments and other available documents may be obtained from Mr. Dornan.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department will submit the proposed information collection to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended).

This Notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affecting agencies concerning the proposed collection of information to: (1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the

burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond; including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

This Notice also lists the following information:

Title of Proposal: Assessing the Effectiveness of HUD 2020 Management Reforms.

Description of the need for the information and proposed use: The Department is conducting under contract an assessment of the impact of the management reforms that the Department has implemented collectively under the name "HUD2020". As part of that assessment, the Department proposes to survey the opinions of the people and organizations HUD works with to implement its programs, in particular, local elected officials, housing agency community development directors, Fair Housing Assistance Program agencies, owners of HUD-assisted multifamily projects and nonprofit organizations concerning the effect of the HUD2020 reforms.

Members of affected public: Members of the following groups selected by random assignment: Local chief elected officials; community development directors; housing authority directors; owners of HUD-assisted multifamily housing projects; representatives of nonprofit organizations; and fair housing assistance program agency directors.

Estimation of the total numbers of hours needed to prepare the information collection including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response: The researchers will survey representatives of the partner groups once for the baseline survey. 4,000 participants will be surveyed in all; the surveys are expected to last 10 minutes. This constitutes a total burden hour estimate of 666⅔ burden hours.

Status of the proposed information collection: Pending OMB approval.

Authority: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: May 4, 2000.

Lawrence L. Thompson,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development.

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