

telephone (TTY), call the Federal Relay Service (FRS), toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On January 15, 2021, we published the notice inviting applications (NIA) for new awards for the FY 2021 Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need competition in the **Federal Register** (86 FR 4024). Under the NIA, applications were due on March 1, 2021.

We are reopening this competition for eligible applicants in Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas, for which the President has issued a disaster declaration, to allow those applicants more time to prepare and submit applications. For applicants that meet the eligibility criteria in this notice, we are reopening the competition until March 15, 2021. We are also extending the intergovernmental review deadline until May 25, 2021.

**Eligibility:** The reopening of the competition in this notice applies to eligible applicants under the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need program, Assistance Listing Number 84.200A, that are located in an area for which the President has issued an emergency declaration (see [www.fema.gov/disasters/](http://www.fema.gov/disasters/)), in Louisiana (FEMA Disaster designation 3556), Oklahoma (FEMA Disaster designation 3555), and Texas (FEMA Disaster designation 3554).

In accordance with the NIA, eligible applicants for this competition are:

- (a) Any academic department of an institution of higher education (IHE) that provides a course of study that—
  - (i) Leads to a graduate degree in an area of national need; and
  - (ii) Has been in existence for at least four years at the time of an application for a grant under this competition; or
- (b) An academic department of an IHE that—
  - (i) Satisfies the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section; and
  - (ii) Submits a joint application with one or more eligible non-degree-granting institutions that have formal arrangements for the support of doctoral dissertation research with one or more degree-granting institutions.

**Note:** All information in the NIA for this competition remains the same, except for, with respect to eligible applicants, the deadline for the transmittal of applications and the deadline for intergovernmental review.

**Program Authority:** 20 U.S.C. 1135–1135e.

**Accessible Format:** On request to the program contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, individuals with disabilities can obtain

this document and a copy of the application package in an accessible format. The Department will provide the requestor with an accessible format that may include Rich Text Format (RTF) or text format (txt), a thumb drive, an MP3 file, braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc, or other accessible format.

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**Tiwananda Burse,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management & Planning, Office of Postsecondary Education, Delegated authority to perform functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Postsecondary Education.*

[FR Doc. 2021-04485 Filed 3-3-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED-2020-SCC-0182]

### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Higher Education Act (HEA) Title II Report Cards on State Teacher Credentialing and Preparation

**AGENCY:** Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE), Department of Education (ED).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, ED is proposing a revision of a currently approved collection.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before April 5, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for proposed information collection requests should be sent within 30 days of publication of

this notice to [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this information collection request by selecting “Department of Education” under “Currently Under Review,” then check “Only Show ICR for Public Comment” checkbox. Comments may also be sent to [ICDocketmgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketmgr@ed.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Freddie Cross, (202) 453-7224.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Education (ED), in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the Department's information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. ED is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (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. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

**Title of Collection:** Higher Education Act (HEA) Title II Report Cards on State Teacher Credentialing and Preparation.

**OMB Control Number:** 1840-0744.

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

**Respondents/Affected Public:** State, Local, and Tribal Governments; Private Sector.

**Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:** 1,794.

**Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:** 267,588.

**Abstract:** This request is a revision that includes COVID-19 guidance and to approve the state report card and institution and program report cards required by the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended in 2008 by the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA).

States must report annually on criteria and assessments required for initial teacher credentials using a State Report Card (SRC), and institutions of higher education (IHEs) with teacher preparation programs (TPP), and TPPs outside of IHEs, must report on key program elements on an Institution and Program Report Card (IPRC). IHEs and TPPs outside of IHEs report annually to their states on program elements, including program numbers, type, enrollment figures, demographics, completion rates, goals and assurances to the state. States, in turn, must report on TPP elements to the Secretary of Education in addition to information on assessment pass rates, state standards, initial credential types and requirements, numbers of credentials issued, TPP classification as at-risk or low-performing. The information from states, institutions, and programs is published annually in The Secretary's Report to Congress on Teacher Quality. The Department plans to use the SRC and IPRC current instruments, unchanged, for the FY21 through FY23 data collections, in order to maintain continuity in the information available. There is no change in burden due to the addition of Institutions with Teacher Preparation Programs. The Department has included additional instruction to aid institutions in reporting data that may differ from usual data due to COVID restrictions.

Dated: March 1, 2021.

**Kate Mullan,**

*PRA Coordinator, Strategic Collections and Clearance Governance and Strategy Division, Office of Chief Data Officer, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development.*

[FR Doc. 2021-04489 Filed 3-3-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Withdrawal of Notice Inviting Applications and Cancellation of the Competition for the Equity Assistance Centers Program

**AGENCY:** Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice; withdrawal.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Education (Department) withdraws the notice inviting applications (NIA) and cancels the competition for fiscal year (FY) 2021 for the Equity Assistance Centers (EAC) program under Assistance Listing number (ALN) 84.004D. The Department intends to

announce a new competition in FY 2022.

**DATES:** The notice published at 86 FR 2653 on January 13, 2021, is withdrawn and the competition canceled as of March 4, 2021.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ed Vitelli, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 3E106, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: 202-453-6203. Email: [Edward.Vitelli@ed.gov](mailto:Edward.Vitelli@ed.gov).

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#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The EAC program is authorized under Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000c—2000c-2, 2000c-5, and the implementing regulations in 34 CFR part 270. This program awards grants through cooperative agreements to operate regional EACs that provide technical assistance (including training) at the request of school boards and other responsible governmental agencies in the preparation, adoption, and implementation of plans for the desegregation of public schools—which in this context means plans for equity (including desegregation based on race, national origin, sex, and religion)—and in the development of effective methods of coping with special educational problems occasioned by desegregation. Desegregation assistance, per 34 CFR 270.4, may include, among other activities: (1) Dissemination of information regarding effective methods of coping with special educational problems occasioned by desegregation; (2) assistance and advice in coping with these problems; and (3) training designed to improve the ability of teachers, supervisors, counselors, parents, community members, community organizations, and other elementary or secondary school personnel to deal effectively with special educational problems occasioned by desegregation. A project must provide technical assistance in all four of the desegregation assistance areas: Race, sex, national origin, and religion desegregation.

On January 13, 2021, the Department published in the **Federal Register** (86 FR 2653) an NIA for the FY 2021 EAC competition, ALN 84.004D.

On January 20, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden signed Executive Order 13985, titled “Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government.” This

Executive order directed the Federal Government to pursue a comprehensive approach to advancing equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality.

On January 20, 2021, President Biden also signed Executive Order 13988, titled “Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation.” This Executive order directed the Federal Government to prevent and combat discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation, and to fully enforce laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation.

On February 2, 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order 14012, titled “Restoring Faith in Our Legal Immigration Systems and Strengthening Integration and Inclusion Efforts for New Americans.” This Executive order directed the Federal Government to ensure that laws and policies encourage full participation by immigrants, including refugees, in our civic life; that immigration processes and other benefits are delivered effectively and efficiently; and that the Federal Government eliminates sources of fear and other barriers that prevent immigrants from accessing government services available to them.

To allow the Department the opportunity to consider how best to align the EAC program with these Executive orders, to the extent statutorily permitted, the Department is withdrawing the NIA and cancelling this competition. The Department will propose to extend the project period for current grantees to ensure the continuity of the important services provided under the program. The Department intends to announce a new EAC competition for five-year grants in FY 2022.

##### Intergovernmental Review

This program is subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79.

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