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Executive Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Proposed Collection of Information for an Evaluation of the Implementation of Green Jobs and Health Care Training Grants; New Collection

AGENCY: Employment and Training Administration (ETA), Labor.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor (Department or DOL), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) [44 U.S.C. 3505(c)(2)(A)]. The program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of the collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed.

The proposed information collection is for an evaluation of the implementation of the Green Jobs and Health Care training grants. This evaluation is sponsored by ETA to understand the processes surrounding the design and implementation of these grants.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addressee's section below on or before October 28, 2011.

ADDRESSES: A copy of this proposed information collection request may be

obtained by contacting Savi Swick at 202-693-3382 (this is not a toll-free number) or e-mail: swick.savi@dol.gov. Comments are to be submitted to Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration, Attn: Savi Swick, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room N-5641, Washington, DC 20210. Written comments may be transmitted by facsimile to 202-693-2766 (this is not a toll-free number) or e-mailed to swick.savi@dol.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The proposed information collection is for an evaluation of the implementation of the Green Jobs and Health Care training grants. This evaluation is sponsored by ETA to understand the processes surrounding the design and implementation of four specific grant programs.

In February 2009, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) into law in an effort to preserve and create jobs, promote economic growth, and assist those impacted by the recession. The Recovery Act included funding for four Solicitations for Grant Applications (SGAs) with the goal of training workers in the skills required to be employed in specific high-growth and emerging industries including health care, energy efficiency, and renewable energy. The four SGAs are:

- Energy Training Partnership (\$100 million allocated across 25 projects)
- Pathways Out of Poverty (\$150 million for 38 projects)
- State Energy Sector Partnership and Training (\$190 million for 34 projects)
- Health Care and Other High Growth Emerging Industries (\$225 million for 55 projects).

II. Review Focus

The Department is particularly interested in comments which:

- 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;

- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

III. Current Actions

This proposed information collection will involve: (1) Collecting data from recipients of four DOL/ETA grants that provide funding to train unemployed, underemployed, dislocated, and incumbent workers for employment and to create career pathways in health care and other growing industries; (2) conducting on-site in-depth interviews with grantees and their program partner staff; (3) conducting focus groups with grant participants; and (4) administering a web/telephone survey of all grant project directors and selected program partner staff.

Agency: Employment and Training Administration.

Type of Review: New Collection.

Title of Collection: The Evaluation of The Green Jobs and Health Care Training Grants Implementation.

OMB Control Number: 1205-0NEW.

Affected Public: Community-based organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,252.

Frequency: Once at each type of collection (interviews, focus groups, survey).

Total Estimated Annual Responses: 2,252.

Estimated Average Time per Response: 31 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,186.

Total Estimated Annual Cost Burden (excluding hour costs): \$0.

Data collection activity	Number of respondents	Total burden hours	Average hourly wage rate*	Total annualized cost
In-Depth Interviews:				
a. Grant Administrator	36	36	\$44.84	\$1,614
b. Education/Training Provider Partner	72	72	25.01	1,801
c. Workforce Partner	36	36	19.48	701
d. Employer/Union Partner	72	72	31.25	2,250
e. Support Services/Other Partner	44	44	19.48	857

Data collection activity	Number of respondents	Total burden hours	Average hourly wage rate*	Total annualized cost
Subtotal—Interviews	260	260		7,223
Focus Groups:				
a. Participant Information Sheet	360	90	16.00	1,440
b. Informed Consent	360	30	16.00	480
c. Discussion	360	540	16.00	8,640
Subtotal—Focus Groups	1,080	660		10,560
Grantee Surveys:				
a. Screening Calls	152	13	44.84	583
b. Web/Telephone Survey	760	253	28.01	7,087
Subtotal—Surveys	912	266		7,670
Total	2,252	1,186	n/a	25,453

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and may be included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the final information collection request. The comments will become a matter of public record.

Dated: August 22, 2011.

Jane Oates,

Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration.

[FR Doc. 2011-22002 Filed 8-26-11; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Labor Surplus Area Classification Under Executive Orders 12073 and 10582

AGENCY: Employment and Training Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Notice

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to announce the annual list of labor surplus areas for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012.

DATES: *Effective Date:* The annual list of labor surplus areas is effective October 1, 2011, for all states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Samuel Wright, Office of Workforce Investment, Employment and Training Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room S-4231, Washington, DC 20210. Telephone: (202) 693-2870 (This is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of Labor's regulations implementing Executive Orders 12073 and 10582 are set forth at 20 CFR part 654, Subparts A and B. These

regulations require the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) to classify jurisdictions as labor surplus areas pursuant to the criteria specified in the regulations and to publish annually a list of labor surplus areas.

Pursuant to those regulations, ETA is hereby publishing the annual list of labor surplus areas.

In addition, the regulations provide exceptional circumstance criteria for classifying labor surplus areas when catastrophic events, such as natural disasters, plant closings, and contract cancellations are expected to have a long-term impact on labor market area conditions, discounting temporary or seasonal factors.

Eligible Labor Surplus Areas

A Labor Surplus Area (LSA) is a civil jurisdiction that has a civilian average annual unemployment rate during the previous two calendar years of 20 percent or more above the average annual civilian unemployment rate for all states during the same 24-month reference period. Only official unemployment estimates provided to ETA by the Bureau of Labor Statistics are used in making these classifications. The average unemployment rate for all states includes data for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The basic LSA classification criteria include a "floor unemployment rate" (6.0%) and a "ceiling unemployment rate" (10.0%). Civil jurisdictions are defined as follows:

(a) A city of at least 25,000 population on the basis of the most recently available estimates from the Bureau of the Census; or

(b) A town or township in the States of Michigan, New Jersey, New York, or Pennsylvania of 25,000 or more population and which possess powers and functions similar to those of cities; or

(c) A county, except those counties which contain any type of civil jurisdictions defined in A or B above and a county in the States of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island; or

(d) A "balance of county" consisting of a county less any component cities and townships identified in paragraphs A or B above; or

(e) A county equivalent which is a town in the States of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, or a municipio in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Procedures for Classifying Labor Surplus Areas

The Department of Labor (DOL) issues the labor surplus area list on a fiscal year basis. The list becomes effective each October 1 and remains in effect through the following September 30. The reference period used in preparing the current list was January 2009 through December 2010. The national average unemployment rate during this period was 9.5 percent. Twenty percent higher than the national unemployment rate is 11.4 percent. Since the ceiling unemployment rate is 10.0 percent, the qualifying rate is 10.0 percent. Therefore, areas included on the FY 2012 labor surplus area list had an average unemployment rate of 10.0 percent or above during the reference period. When a civil jurisdiction is part of a county and meets the unemployment qualifier as a labor surplus area, then the balance of county will be used if the balance of county also meets the unemployment criteria of a labor surplus area. The FY 2012 labor surplus area list and the list of labor surplus areas in Puerto Rico can be accessed at the ETA's LSA website at <http://www.doleta.gov/programs/lsa.cfm>.