

implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372). Copies of the EA and FONSI are available from the individual listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 7701–7772 and 7781–7786; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

Done in Washington, DC, this 20th day of July 2006.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E6–11939 Filed 7–25–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Notice of Request for Collection of Public Information With the Use of a Survey

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comments requested.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Housing Service's (RHS) intention to request clearance for continuation of information collection to measure the quality of loan servicing provided by the RHS, Centralized Servicing Center (CSC) in St. Louis, MO.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by September 25, 2006, to be assured of consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Terrie Barton, Customer Service Branch Chief, Centralized Servicing Center, 1520 Market Street, Room 3622, St. Louis, Missouri 63103, phone (314) 206–2108, e-mail: Terrie.barton@stl.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Rural Development—Customer Satisfaction Survey.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: RHS, provides insured loans to low- and moderate-income applicants located in rural geographic areas to assist them in obtaining decent, sanitary and safe dwellings. RHS currently processes loan originations through approximately 700 Field Offices. The CSC provides support to the Field Offices and is responsible for loan servicing functions for RHS program borrowers. The CSC was established to achieve a high level of customer service and operating efficiency. The CSC has

established a fully integrated call center and is able to provide borrowers with convenient access to their loan account information.

To facilitate CSC's mission and in an effort to continuously improve its services, a survey has been developed that will measure the change in quality of service that borrower's receive when they contact the CSC. Two previous surveys have been completed under prior authorization. Respondents will only need to report information on a one-time basis.

The results of the survey will provide a general satisfaction level among borrowers throughout the nation. The data analysis will provide comparisons to prior surveys and reveal areas of increased satisfaction as well as areas in need of improvement. CSC's goal is to continuously improve program delivery, accessibility and overall customer service satisfaction. A follow up survey will be conducted in 18–24 months, but may or may not be sent to the same initial respondents. Additionally, in accordance with Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), the survey will enable CSC to measure the results and overall effectiveness of customer services provided as well as implement action plans and measure improvements.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 minutes per response.

Respondents: Borrowers who have a Rural Housing Program services loan.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 6,000.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Number of Responses: 6,000.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,000 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Cheryl Thompson, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division at (202) 692–0043.

Comments: Comments are invited on: (a) 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; (b) the accuracy of agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to 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. Comments may be sent to Cheryl Thompson, Regulations and Paperwork Management Branch, Support Services Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0742, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250–0742. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: July 20, 2006.

Russell T. Davis,

Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

[FR Doc. E6–11946 Filed 7–25–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–XV–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Agency: Bureau of Industry and Security.

Title: BIS Program Evaluation.

Agency Form Number: N/A.

OMB Approval Number: 0694–0125.

Type of Request: Renewal of an existing collection.

Burden: 500 hours.

Average Time per Response: 10 minutes per response.

Number of Respondents: 3,000 respondents.

Needs and Uses: This survey capability is needed by BIS seminar instructors for seminar programs conducted throughout the year. Seminar participants will be asked to evaluate seminar content and to provide input for future programs. Their responses will provide useful and practical information that BIS can use to determine whether or not it is providing a quality program and gives BIS information useful to making recommended improvements.

Affected Public: Individuals, businesses or other for-profit institutions.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

OMB Desk Officer: David Rostker.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Diana Hynek, DOC Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482–

0266, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to David Rostker, OMB Desk Officer, e-mail address, David_Rostker@omb.eop.gov, or fax number, (202) 395-7285.

Dated: July 20, 2006.

Madeleine Clayton,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E6-11906 Filed 7-25-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Minority Business Development Agency

[Docket No: 00724217-6195-12]

Solicitation of Applications for the Minority Business Enterprise Center (MBEC) (Formerly Minority Business Development Center (MBDC))

AGENCY: Minority Business Development Agency, DOC.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Executive Order 11625 and 15 U.S.C. Section 1512, the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is soliciting competitive applications from organizations to operate a Minority Business Enterprise Center (MBEC) (formerly Minority Business Development Center). This is not a grant program to help start a business. Applications submitted must be to operate a Minority Business Enterprise Center and to provide business consultation to eligible minority clients. Applications that do not meet these requirements will be rejected. The MBEC will provide services in the outlined geographic areas (refer to **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this Notice).

The MBEC Program requires MBEC staff to provide standardized business assistance services (as outlined in the Federal Funding Opportunity Announcement) to minority firms with \$500,000 or more in annual revenues and/or "rapid growth-potential" minority businesses ("Strategic Growth Initiative" or "SGI" firms) directly; to develop a network of strategic partnerships; and to provide strategic business consulting. This is a fee for service program, therefore, the MBEC is required to charge client fees.

These requirements will be used to generate increased results with respect to financing and contracts awarded to minority-owned firms and thus, are a key component of this program.

The MBEC Program will concentrate on serving SGI firms capable of generating significant employment and long-term economic growth. The MBEC Program shall leverage telecommunications technology, including the Internet, and a variety of online computer-based resources to dramatically increase the level of service that the MBEC can provide to minority-owned firms.

DATES: The closing date for receipt of applications is September 20, 2006. Completed applications must be received by MBDA no later than 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Savings Time at the address below for paper submission or at <http://www.Grants.gov> for electronic submission. The due date and time is the same for electronic submissions as it is for paper submissions. The date that applications will be deemed to have been submitted electronically shall be the date and time received at Grants.gov. Applicants should save and print the proof of submission they receive from Grants.gov. Applications received after the closing date and time will not be considered. Anticipated time for processing is one hundred fifty (150) days from the date of publication of this Announcement. MBDA anticipates that awards for the MBEC program will be made with a start date of January 1, 2007.

Pre-Application Conference: A pre-application teleconference will be held on August 17, 2006, in connection with this solicitation Announcement. The pre-application conference will be available on MBDA's Portal (MBDA Portal) at <http://www.mbda.gov>. Interested parties to the pre-application conference must register at MBDA's Portal at least 24 hours in advance of the event.

ADDRESSES:

(1)(a) Paper Submission—If Mailed: If the application is mailed/shipped overnight by the applicant or its representative, one (1) signed original plus two (2) copies of the application must be submitted. Completed application packages must be mailed to: Office of Business Development—MBEC Program, Office of Executive Secretariat, HCHB, Room 5063, Minority Business Development Agency, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230. U.S. Department of Commerce delivery policies for Federal Express, UPS, and DHL overnight

services require the packages to be sent to the address above.

(1)(b) Paper Submission—If Hand-Delivered: If the application is hand-delivered by the applicant or his/her representative, one (1) signed original plus two (2) copies of the application must be delivered to: U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency, Office of Business Development—MBEC Program (extension 1940), HCHB, Room 1874, Entrance #10, 15th Street, NW., Washington, DC (Between Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues). U.S. Department of Commerce "hand-delivery" policies state that Federal Express, UPS, and DHL overnight services submitted to the address listed above (Entrance #10) cannot be accepted. These policies should be taken into consideration when utilizing their services. MBDA will not accept applications that are submitted by the deadline but rejected due to Departmental hand-delivery policies. The applicant must adhere to these policies in order for his/her application to receive consideration for award.

(2) Electronic Submission: Applicants are encouraged to submit their proposal electronically at <http://www.Grants.gov>. Electronic submissions should be made in accordance with the instructions available at Grants.gov (see <http://www.grants.gov/ForApplicants> for detailed information). MBDA strongly recommends that applicants not wait until the application deadline date to begin the application process through Grants.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, please visit MBDA's Minority Business Internet Portal at <http://www.mbda.gov>. Paper applications and Standard Forms may be obtained by contacting the MBDA National Enterprise Center (NEC) for the area where the Applicant is located (See Agency Contacts section) or visiting MBDA's Portal at <http://www.mbda.gov>. Standard Forms 424, 424A, 424B, and SF-LLL can also be obtained at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants>, or <http://www.Grants.gov>. Forms CD-511 and CD-346 may be obtained at <http://www.doc.gov/forms>.

Responsibility for ensuring that applications are complete and received BY MBDA on time is the sole responsibility of the Applicant.

Agency Contacts:

1. Office of Business Development, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Room 5073, Washington, DC 20230. Contact: Efrain Gonzalez, Program Manager at 202-482-1940.