

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services****[Document Identifier: CMS-NEW]****Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request****AGENCY:** Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) (formerly known as the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA)), Department of Health and Human Services, is publishing the following summary of proposed collections for public comment. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

Type of Information Collection Request: New Collection; *Title of Information Collection:* Assessing the Division of Information and Assistance's Customer Service for Written Responses; *Form No.:* CMS-10068 (OMB# 0938-NEW); *Use:* DIA will collect information several times during the FY'02 to assess the customer service provided via written responses. DIA will conduct the written survey through mailings that will accompany actual responses. The envelopes will be sent by Release Clerks so that the actual writer has no knowledge that a particular response is being rated.; *Frequency:* Quarterly; *Affected Public:* Individuals or Households; *Number of Respondents:* 2872; *Total Annual Responses:* *Total Annual Hours:* 287.

To obtain copies of the supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed paperwork collections referenced above, access CMS's Web site address at <http://www.hcfa.gov/regs/prdact95.htm>, or e-mail your request, including your address, phone number, OMB number, and CMS document identifier, to Paperwork@hcfa.gov, or call the Reports Clearance Office on

(410) 786-1326. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections must be mailed within 60 days of this notice directly to the CMS Paperwork Clearance Officer designated at the following address: CMS, Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs, Division of Regulations Development and Issuances, Attention: Melissa Musotto, Room N2-14-26, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

Dated: August 20, 2002.

John P. Burke, III,

Paperwork Reduction Act Team Leader, CMS Reports Clearance Officer, Office of Strategic Operations and Strategic Affairs, Division of Regulations Development and Issuances.

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BILLING CODE 4120-03-P**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES****Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services****[CMS-2136-PN]****Medicaid Program; State Allotments for Payment of Medicare Part B Premiums for Qualifying Individuals: Federal Fiscal Year 2002****AGENCY:** Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS.**ACTION:** Proposed notice.

SUMMARY: In this proposed notice, we publish our annual update on the proposed allotment we will make available to participating State agencies to pay all, or some portion of, Medicare Part B premium costs for a specified category of eligible low-income Medicare beneficiaries called qualifying individuals (QIs). These proposed expenditures, if adopted, will be made available during Federal fiscal year 2002 (beginning October 1, 2001).

DATES: We will consider comments if we receive them at the appropriate address, as provided below, no later than 5 p.m. on October 29, 2002.

ADDRESSES: In commenting, please refer to file code CMS-2136-PN. Because of staff and resource limitations, we cannot accept comments by facsimile (FAX) transmission.

Mail your comments (one original and three copies) to the following address only: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, Attention: CMS-2136-PN, P.O. Box 8010, Baltimore, MD 21244-8010.

Please allow sufficient time for mailed comments to be timely received in the

event of delivery delays. If you prefer, you may deliver (by hand or courier) your written comments (one original and three copies) to one of the following addresses: Room 443-G, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20201, or Room C5-14-03, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244. (Because access to the interior of the HHH Building is not readily available to persons without Federal Government identification, commenters are encouraged to leave their comments in the CMS drop slots located in the main lobby of the building. A stamp-in clock is available for commenters wishing to retain a proof of filing by stamping in and retaining an extra copy of the comments being filed.)

Comments mailed to the addresses indicated as appropriate for hand or courier delivery may be delayed and could be considered late.

For information on viewing public comments, see the beginning of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Nakielny, (410) 786-4466.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Inspection of Public Comments**

Comments received timely will be available for public inspection as they are received, generally beginning approximately 3 weeks after publication at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland, 21244, Monday through Friday of each week from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Members of the public who are interested in reviewing timely public comments are asked to schedule an appointment by calling (410) 786-9994.

I. Background**A. Before the Balanced Budget Act of 1997**

Before enactment of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA), section 1902(a)(10)(E) of the Social Security Act (the Act) specified that State Medicaid plans must provide Medicare cost-sharing for three groups of eligible low-income Medicare beneficiaries. These three groups include: qualified Medicare beneficiaries (QMBs), specified low-income Medicare beneficiaries (SLMBs), and qualified disabled and working individuals (QDWBs).

A QMB is an individual entitled to Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance) with an income that falls at or below the Federal poverty level and resources below \$4,000 for an individual and \$6,000 for a couple. An SLMB is an