

sources (e.g., community groups, local businesses) to help it monitor its progress?

(e) How is the bank's tracking system managed and operated, e.g., at what level of bank management does accountability for the system reside, how many bank employees staff the system, etc.?

(f) How is progress reported to the bank's board of directors?

(g) Does the bank make available to its customers or to the general public information about its progress toward meeting its CRA commitment? If so, how does the bank communicate that information?

5. If the bank has no tracking system in place, how does the bank measure its progress toward achieving its CRA commitment?

(End of proposed CRA Commitment Survey)

*Type of Review:* New collection.

*Affected Public:* Businesses.

*Number of Respondents:* 50 respondents.

*Total Annual Responses:* 50 responses.

*Frequency of Response:* One time only.

*Total Annual Burden:* 100 hours.

#### Comments

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on:

(a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility;

(b) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information;

(c) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;

(d) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and

(e) Estimates of capital or startup costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Dated: September 10, 1998.

**Karen Solomon,**

*Director, Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division.*

[FR Doc. 98-24863 Filed 9-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-33-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Office of Thrift Supervision

#### Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed and continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Today, the Office of Thrift Supervision within the Department of the Treasury solicits comments on the information collection entitled Minority Thrift Certification Form.

**DATES:** Submit written comments on or before November 16, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to Manager, Dissemination Branch, Records Management and Information Policy, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20552, Attention 1550-0096. Hand deliver comments to 1700 G Street, NW. from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on business days. Send facsimile transmissions to FAX Number (202) 906-7755 or (202) 906-6956 (if the comment is over 25 pages). E-mail to public.info@ots.treas.gov and include your name and telephone number. Interested persons may inspect comments at 1700 G Street, NW., from 9:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. on business days.

Interested persons may also inspect copies of the Form with instructions at 1700 G Street, NW., from 9:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. on business days or from PubliFax, OTS' Fax-on-Demand system, at (202) 906-5660.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Caryn Stein, Compliance Policy, Supervision, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20552, (202) 906-7020.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Minority Thrift Certification Form.

*OMB Number:* 1550-0096.

*Form Number:* OTS Form 1661.

*Abstract:* This information is needed to help OTS maintain a reliable source of information regarding the universe of minority-owned thrifts, in accordance with our responsibilities under Section 308 of FIRREA.

*Current Actions:* OTS proposes to renew this information collection without revision.

*Type of Review:* Renewal of an already approved collection.

*Affected Public:* Business or For Profit.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 36.

*Estimated Time Per Respondent:* .5 average hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 18 hours.

*Request for Comments:* The OTS will summarize comments submitted in response to this notice or will include these comments in its request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. The OTS invites comment on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Dated: September 11, 1998.

**Catherine C. M. Teti,**

*Director, Records Management and Information Policy.*

[FR Doc. 98-24892 Filed 9-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6720-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Office of Thrift Supervision

#### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

September 11, 1998.

The Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS) has submitted the following public information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. Interested persons may obtain copies of the submission(s) by calling the OTS Clearance Officer listed. Send comments regarding this information collection to the OMB reviewer listed and to the OTS Clearance Officer, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20552.

*OMB Number:* 1550-0085.

*Form Number:* OTS Form 1602.

*Type of Review:* Renewal of an already approved collection.

*Title:* Ongoing Customer Survey for Interpretive Opinions.

*Description:* This information collection is needed to obtain feedback on the quality of opinions produced by the Office of Thrift Supervision in order

to meet the goals of the National Performance Review with respect to improving customer service on a long-term basis.

*Respondents:* Savings and Loan Associations and Savings Banks.

*Estimated Number of Reporters:* 35.

*Estimated Burden Hours Per Reporter:* .25 average hours.

*Frequency of Response:* 1.

*Estimated Total Reporting Burden:* 8.75 hours.

*Clearance Officer:* Colleen M. Devine, (202) 906-6025, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 Street, N. W., Washington, D.C. 20552.

*OMB Reviewer:* Alexander Hunt, (202) 395-7860, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503.

**Catherine C. M. Teti,**

*Director, Records Management and Information Policy.*

[FR Doc. 98-24891 Filed 9-16-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6720-01-P

## UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

### NIS REAC (Newly Independent States Regional Educational Advising Coordinator)

**ACTION:** Request for proposals.

**SUMMARY:** The Advising and Student Services Branch of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c)(3)-1 may submit proposals for candidates for the position of regional educational advising coordinator (REAC) in the NIS region. Ideally based in Moscow, the REAC would work to support and assist in the professional development of advising centers in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. The REAC is the primary source of information related to educational advising for advisers in the field. In addition to responding to individual queries and supervising the distribution of a regional newsletter, the REAC would travel to advising centers to assist the organizations and staff responsible for those centers to operate them efficiently. The REAC would be responsible for maintain the network of advisers, for the coordination of training programs for NIS advisers, which may

include an annual conference, and for the facilitation of communication between and among advising centers, posts, and E/ASA in Washington.

Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Pub. L. 87-256, as amended, also known as the Fulbright-Hays Act. The purpose of the Act is "to enable the Government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries . . . ; to strengthen the ties which unite us with other nations by demonstrating the educational and cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the people of the United States and other nations . . . and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world."

Programs and projects must conform with Agency requirements and guidelines outlined in the Solicitation Package. USIA projects and programs are subject to the availability of funds.

*Announcement Title and Number:* All communications with USIA concerning this RFP should refer to the announcement's title and reference number E/ASA-99-06.

*Deadline for Proposals:* All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, DC time on Monday, October 26, 1998. Faxed documents will not be accepted at any time. Documents postmarked by the due date but received at a later date will not be accepted.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The Advising and Student Services Branch, E/ASA, U.S. Information Agency, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20547, telephone: (202) 619-5434, fax: (202) 401-1433, email: ssheehan@usia.gov, to request a Solicitation Package containing more detailed criteria. Please request required application forms and standard guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal budget.

*To Download a Solicitation Package Via Internet:* The entire Solicitation Package may be downloaded from USIA's website at <http://www.usia.gov/education/rfps>. Please read all information before downloading.

*To Receive a Solicitation Package Via Fax on Demand:* The entire Solicitation Package may be received via the Bureau's "Grants Information Fax on Demand System", which is accessed by calling 202/401-7616. Please request a "Catalog" of available documents and

order numbers when first entering the system.

Please specify USIA Program Officer Sharen Sheehan on all inquiries and correspondences. Interested applicants should read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before sending inquiries or submitting proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, Agency staff may not discuss this competition in any way with applicants until the Bureau proposal review process has been completed.

*Submissions:* Applicants must follow all instructions given in the Solicitation Package. The original and eight copies of the application should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/ASA-99-06, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 336, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547.

### Diversity, Freedom and Democracy Guidelines

Pursuant to the Bureau's authorizing legislation, programs must maintain a non-political character and should be balanced and representative of the diversity of American political, social, and cultural life. "Diversity" should be interpreted in the broadest sense and encompass differences including, but not limited to ethnicity, race, gender, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, and physical challenges. Applicants are strongly encouraged to adhere to the advancement of this principle both in program administration and in program content. Please refer to the review criteria under the "Support for Diversity" section for specific suggestions on incorporating diversity into the total proposal. Pub. L. 104-319 provides that "in carrying out programs of educational and cultural exchange in countries whose people do not fully enjoy freedom and democracy," USIA "shall take appropriate steps to provide opportunities for participation in such programs to human rights and democracy leaders of such countries." Proposals should account for advancement of this goal in their program contents, to the full extent deemed feasible.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Overview

The overall goal for the NIS Regional Educational Advising Coordinator (REAC) is to develop and strengthen the network of USIA-Supported overseas educational advising centers and to provide leadership and expertise in educational advising issues to advising centers and USIS posts. The REAC will be responsible for providing on-site technical assistance and training to