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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-5832-N-02]

**60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection:
Comment Request
CDBG Urban County Qualification/
Requalification Processes**

AGENCY: Office of Community Planning and Development, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection requirement described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

DATES: Comments Due Date: **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB Control Number and should be sent to: Colette Pollard, Departmental Paperwork Reduction Act Officer, QDAM, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW, Room 4160, Washington, DC 20410; telephone: 202-708-3400 (this is not a toll-free number) or e-mail Ms. Pollard for a copy of the proposed form and other available information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gloria Coates, Community Planning and Development Specialist, Entitlement Communities Division, Office of Block Grant Assistance, 451 7th Street, SW, Room 7282, Washington, DC 20410; telephone (202) 708-1577 (this is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice informs the public that HUD is seeking approval from OMB for the information collection described in section A.

A. Overview of Information Collection

Title of Information Collection: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Urban County Qualification/Requalification Processes.

OMB Approval Number: 2506-0170.

Type of Request: Existing collection number will expire May 31, 2015.

Form Numbers: N/A.

Description of the Need for the Information and Proposed Use: The Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, at sections 102(a)(6) and 102(e) requires that any county seeking qualification as an urban county notify each unit of general local government within the county that such unit may enter into a cooperation agreement to participate in the CDBG program as part of the county. Section 102(d) of the statute specifies that the period of qualification will be three years. Based on these statutory provisions, counties seeking qualification or requalification as urban counties under the CDBG program must provide information to HUD every three years identifying the units of general local governments (UGLGs) within the county participating as a part of the county for purposes of receiving CDBG funds. The

population of UGLGs for each eligible urban county is used in HUD's allocation of CDBG funds for all entitlement and State CDBG grantees.

New York towns undertook a similar process every three years. However, after consultation with program counsel, it was determined that a requalification process for New York towns is unnecessary because the units of general local government in New York towns do not have the same statutory notice rights (under section 102(e) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974) as units of general local government participating in an urban county. In addition, each New York town has automatic renewing agreements with the incorporated units of general local governments contained within their boundaries. Therefore, it is presumed that all incorporated units of general local government will continue to participate in the New York towns in which they are located unless Headquarters is notified to the contrary.

Respondents: Urban counties that are eligible as entitlement grantees of the CDBG program.

Estimation Number of Respondents: There are currently 185 qualified urban counties participating in the CDBG program that must requalify every three years.

Frequency of Response: On average, two new counties qualify each year. The burden on new counties is greater than for existing counties that requalify. The Department estimates new grantees use, on average, 100 hours to review instructions, contact communities in the county, prepare and review agreements, obtain legal opinions, have agreements executed at the local and county level, and prepare and transmit copies of required documents to HUD. The Department estimates that counties that are requalifying use, on average, 60 hours to complete these actions. The time savings on

B. Solicitation of Public Comment

This notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected parties concerning the collection of information described in Section A on the following:

(1) 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;

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

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

(4) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond; including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

HUD encourages interested parties to submit comment in response to these questions.

C. Authority: Section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 35.

Dated: January 29, 2015.

Clifford Taffet,
General Deputy Secretary for Community
Planning and Development.

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