



**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

**Office of Workers' Compensation Programs**

**Proposed Extension of the Approval of Information Collection Requirements**

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a preclearance 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 (PRA95). This 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 collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs is soliciting comments concerning the proposed collection: **Rehabilitation Plan and Award (OWCP-16)**. A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the addresses section of this notice.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addresses section below on or before **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION ON THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by mail, delivery service, or by hand to Ms. Yoon Ferguson, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave., NW, Room S-3323, Washington, D.C. 20210; by fax to (202) 354-9647; or by Email to ferguson.yoon@dol.gov. Please use only one method of transmission for comments (mail/delivery, fax, or Email). Please note that comments submitted after the comment period will not be considered.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**I. Background:** The Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) is the agency responsible for administration of the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act (LHWCA), 33 USC 901 *et seq.*, and the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA), 5 USC 8101 *et seq.* Both of these acts authorize OWCP to pay for approved vocational rehabilitation services to eligible workers with work-related disabilities. In order to decide whether to approve a rehabilitation plan, OWCP must receive a copy of the plan, supporting vocational testing materials and the estimated cost to implement the plan, broken down to show the fees,

supplies, tuition and worker maintenance payments that are contemplated. OWCP also must receive the signature of the rehabilitation counselor to show that the proposed plan is appropriate. Form OWCP-16 is the standard format for the collection of this information. The regulations implementing these statutes allow for the collection of information needed for OWCP to determine if a rehabilitation plan should be approved and payment of any related expenses should be authorized. This information collection is currently approved for use through September 30, 2017.

**II. Review Focus:** The Department of Labor 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 submissions of responses.

**III. Current Actions:** The Department of Labor seeks approval for the extension of this currently approved information collection in order to determine if a rehabilitation plan should be approved and payment of any related expenses authorized.

**Type of Review:** Extension.

**Agency:** Office of Workers' Compensation Programs.

**Title:** Rehabilitation Plan and Award.

**OMB Number:** 1240-0045.

**Agency Number:** OWCP-16

**Affected Public:** Individual or households; Businesses or other for-profit

**Total Respondents:** 3,913.

**Total Responses:** 3,913.

**Time per Response:** 30 minutes

**Estimated Total Burden Hours:** 1,957.

**Total Burden Cost (capital/startup):** \$0.

**Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance):** \$0.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: July 3, 2017.

**Yoon Ferguson,**

*Agency Clearance Officer,*

*Office of Workers' Compensation Programs,*

*US Department of Labor.*

**BILLING CODE 4510-CR-P**

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