



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED-2020-SCC-0127]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and approval; Comment Request; PLUS Adverse Credit Reconsideration Loan Counseling

AGENCY: Federal Student Aid, Department of Education (ED).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, ED is proposing a revision of a currently approved collection.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for proposed information collection requests should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection request by selecting “Department of Education” under “Currently Under Review,” then check “Only Show ICR for Public Comment” checkbox.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Beth Grebeldinger, 202-377-4018.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of Education (ED), in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public’s reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the Department’s information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. ED is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

Title of Collection: PLUS Adverse Credit Reconsideration Loan Counseling

OMB Control Number: 1845-0129

Type of Review: A revision of a currently approved collection.

Respondents / Affected Public: Individuals or Households

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 142,824

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 107,119

Abstract: Section 428B(a)(1)(A) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), provides that to be eligible to receive a Federal PLUS Loan under the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program, the applicant must not have an adverse credit history, as determined pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Secretary. In accordance with section 455(a)(1) of the HEA, this same eligibility requirement applies to applicants for PLUS loans under the Direct Loan Program. Since July 1, 2010 there have been no new FFEL Program loans originated and the Direct Loan Program is the only Federal loan program that offers Federal PLUS Loans.

The adverse credit history section of the eligibility regulations in 34 CFR §685.200 (b) and (c) were updated in 2014 by the Department of Education (the Department) when a review of and a change to the regulations was made. Specifically, an applicant for a PLUS loan who is determined to have an adverse credit history must complete loan counseling offered by the Secretary before receiving the Federal PLUS loan.

The Department is requesting a revision to the information collection regarding the adverse credit history regulations in 34 CFR §685.200 (b) and (c) and the burden these changes create for Federal PLUS loan borrowers, both parent and graduate/professional students.

Dated: October 21, 2020.

Kate Mullan,
*PRA Coordinator,
Strategic Collections and Clearance,
Governance and Strategy Division,
Office of Chief Data Officer,
Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development.*

[FR Doc. 2020-23659 Filed: 10/23/2020 8:45 am; Publication Date: 10/26/2020]