

of the Institute's funding opportunities, the Investigator-Initiated Solicitation invites applicants to submit proposals that will help NIJ address general themes related to criminal justice. While the solicitation offers examples of general areas of interest, research themes and topic areas are to be constructed by the applicant. In this way, investigator-initiated research and development proposals differ from those defined in directed solicitations.

Funding levels for the Investigator-Initiated Solicitation generally range from \$25,000 to \$300,000 and the Institute promotes research collaborations with other Federal agencies and private foundations. Both small grant applications (requests for less than \$50,000) and other grant applications (requests for \$50,000 or more) will be considered.

NIJ is firmly committed to the competitive process for awarding grants. All proposals are subjected to an independent, peer-review panel evaluation. Panel members possess academic, practitioner, technical, and operational expertise in the proposed subject areas. The solicitation welcomes proposals from applicants representing both the social sciences and the physical sciences.

Interested organizations should call the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) at 1-800-851-3420 to obtain a copy of "Solicitation for Investigator-Initiated Research, 1998" (refer to document no. SL000240). For World Wide Web access, connect to either NIJ at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm>, or the NCJRS Justice Information Center at <http://www.ncjrs.org/fedgrant.htm#nij>.

Jeremy Travis,

Director, National Institute of Justice.

[FR Doc. 98-7005 Filed 3-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-18-P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

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) [44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)]. 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 Employment and Training Administration is soliciting comments concerning the proposed consolidation and renewal of Job Corps applicant forms. A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the addressee section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addressee section below on or before May 18, 1998.

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.

ADDRESSES: June P. Veach, Office of Job Corps, 200 Constitution Avenue N.W., Room N-4507, Washington, D.C. 20210. E-Mail Internet Address: Veachj@doleta.gov; Telephone number: (202) 219-5556 (This is not a toll-free number); Fax number: (202) 219-5183 (This is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Job Corps program is designed to serve disadvantaged young women and men, 16 through 24, who are in need of additional vocational, educational and social skills training, and other support services in order to gain meaningful employment, return to school or enter the Armed Forces. Authorized by the

Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), Job Corps is operated by the Department of Labor through a nationwide network of 115 Job Corps centers. The program is primarily a residential program operating 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, with non-resident enrollees limited by legislation to 20 percent of national enrollment. These centers presently accommodate more than 40,000 students. To ensure that the centers are filled with youth who are disadvantaged as well as capable of and committed to doing the work necessary to achieve the benefits of Job Corps, certain eligibility requirements have been established by the legislation.

The purpose of this collection is to gather information from applicants to the program in order to determine their eligibility for Job Corps. These forms are critical to the screening process. They are the initial forms completed by the Job Corps admissions counselors for each applicant.

The ETA 652, Job Corps Data Sheet, is used to obtain information for screening and enrollment purposes to determine eligibility for the Job Corps program in accordance with Title IV-B of the Job Training Partnership Act. It is prepared electronically by the admissions counselor for each applicant. It also provides demographic characteristics for program reporting purposes. Data for the form are collected by interview. The information collected determines eligibility in regard to age, legal U.S. residency, family income/welfare status, school status, behavioral problems (if any), parental consent, and child care needs of each applicant.

The ETA 655, Statement from Courts or Other Agencies, and ETA 655A, Statement from Institution, collect essential information for determining an applicant's eligibility. They are used to document past behavior problems for all applicants, as well as provide a basis for projecting future behavior. If this information were not obtained, serious problems could result from enrolling potentially dangerous individuals in Job Corps, which is a residential program. This could have legal implications for the Federal government.

The ETA 682, Child Care Certification, is used to certify an applicant's arrangements for care of a dependent child(ren) while the applicant is in Job Corps.

II. Current Actions

The following Job Corps application forms have expired. It was anticipated that the change to electronic collection would be completed much more quickly than has happened. The final version was not completed until January 1998.

Job Corps has continued to collect application data because it was necessary to the application process that youth receiving training on Job Corps centers be eligible for the benefits provided. No harm has been done while the forms were expired. No reports have been submitted and/or developed for Congress during the period.

Job Corps has now implemented electronic collection of data during the Job Corps application process. We request that the following forms used in the application process be reinstated and consolidated under OMB 1205-0025:

- ETA 652, Job Corps Data Sheet (1205-0025);
- ETA 655, Statement from Court or Other Agency (1205-0026);
- ETA 655A, Statement from Institution (1205-0026); and

- ETA 682, Child Care Certification (1205-0033).

The ETA 682 was previously included with the ETA 653, Health Questionnaire, in 1205-0033, but was removed from that collection by OMB at Job Corps' request. In addition, 6 items from the ETA 660, Request for Readmission, in 1205-0031, have been moved to the ETA 652. The remainder of the form is not necessary to the application process and we are requesting that the ETA 660 be canceled as a separate form.

The overall result of these actions will be a reduction in paperwork burden hours and a streamlined electronic application. One other application form used to collect data for determining eligibility to Job Corps is the ETA 653, Health Questionnaire, which has previously been approved under 1205-0033. This will remain as a separate

collection for OMB approval purposes, although it is collected electronically with the above forms at the time of application.

Type of Review: Reinstatement with change.

Agency: Employment and Training Administration

Title: Application Data Collection.

OMB Numbers: 1205-0025.

Agency Numbers: ETA 652, ETA 655, ETA 655A, and ETA 682.

Recordkeeping: Applicant is not required to retain records; admissions counselors or contractor main offices are required to retain records of applicants who enroll in the program for 3 years from date of application.

Affected Public: Individuals who apply to Job Corps; Business or other for-profit/Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Cite/Reference/Form/etc:

Title	Total respondents	Frequency	Average time per respondent	Burden
Job Corps Application ETA 652	103,000	1/person25	25,750
Statement from Court ETA 655	103,000	1/person25	25,750
Statement from Institution ETA 655A	10,300	On occasion25	2,575
Child Care Certification ETA 682	7,000	On occasion15	1,050
Total				55,125

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): When the electronic system was initially piloted and implemented in 1996, the start-up costs totaled \$2,680,000, including \$2,000,000 for 925 computer workstations, \$480,000 for training Job Corps admissions counselors and center staff and, in 1997, \$200,000 for replacements and memory upgrades. These were one-time-only costs.

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintaining): Operating and maintenance services associated with these forms are contracted yearly by the Federal government with outreach and admissions contractors, according to designated recruiting areas. This is one of the many functions the contractors perform for which precise costs cannot be identified. Based on past experience, however, the annual cost for contractor staff and related costs is estimated to be about \$771,750. With the addition of \$283,894 for the value of applicant time based on a minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour, the total burden cost is \$1,055,644.

Comments submitted in response to this comment request 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: March 10, 1998.

Mary H. Silva,

National Director, Job Corps.

[FR Doc. 98-7019 Filed 3-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Job Training Partnership Act, Title III, Demonstration Program: Dislocated Worker Technology Demonstration Program

AGENCY: Employment and Training Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Funds and Solicitation for Grant Applications (SGA).

SUMMARY: All information required to submit a grant application is contained in this announcement. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration (ETA), announces a demonstration program to test the ability of the workforce development system to partner with employers,

training providers and others to train dislocated workers in the skills necessary to obtain work requiring high technology skills in occupations and industry settings with long-term growth potential. The program will be funded with Secretary's National Reserve funds appropriated for Title III of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) and administered in accordance with 29 CFR Part 95 and 97 as applicable.

This notice provides information on the process that eligible entities must use to apply for these demonstration funds and how grantees will be selected. It is anticipated that up to \$6 million will be available for funding demonstration projects covered by this solicitation, with no award being more than \$750,000.

DATES: The closing date for receipt of proposals is April 30, 1998 at 2 p.m. (Eastern Time).

ADDRESSES: Applications shall be mailed to: U.S. Department of Labor; Employment and Training Administration; Division of Acquisition and Assistance; Attention: B. Yvonne Harrell, Reference: SGA/DAA 98-006; 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room S-4203; Washington, DC 20210.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: B. Yvonne Harrell, Division of Acquisition