DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[DOCKET ID: FEMA–2016–0025; OMB No. 1660–0026]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; State Administrative Plan for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, DHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Federal Emergency Management Agency, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on an extension, without change, of a currently approved information collection. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice seeks comments concerning the State Administrative Plan for the procedural guide that details how the State will administer the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before January 30, 2017.

ADDRESSES: To avoid duplicate submissions to the docket, please use only one of the following means to submit comments:

(1) Online. Submit comments at www.regulations.gov under Docket ID FEMA–2016–0025. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

(2) Mail. Submit written comments to Docket Manager, Office of Chief Counsel, DHS/FEMA, 500 C. Street SW., 8NE, Washington, DC 20472–3100.

Type of Information Collection: Extension, without change, of a currently approved information collection.

OMB Number: 1660–0026.

FEMA Forms: None.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nicole LaRosa, Grants Policy Branch, Mitigation Division, at (202) 646–3906. You may contact the Records Management Division for copies of the proposed collection of information at email address: FEMA-Information-Collections-Management@fema.dhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: FEMA regulations in 44 CFR 206.437 require development and update of the State Administrative Plan by State Grantees as a condition of receiving Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding under section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988, 42 U.S.C. 5170c. Grantees can be any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or an Indian tribal government that chooses to act as a grantee. Section 404 mandates FEMA approval of the State Administrative Plan before awarding any project grant assistance to a community or State applicant.

Collection of Information

Title: State Administrative Plan for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 512.

Comments

Comments may be submitted as indicated in the ADDRESSES caption above. Comments are solicited to (a) evaluate whether the proposed data collection is necessary for the proper performance of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) 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; (c) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) 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 submission of responses.
Dated: November 22, 2016.

Richard W. Mattison

[FR Doc. 2016–28612 Filed 11–28–16; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 9110–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
[Docket No. FR–5976–N–02]

Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act of 2016: Solicitation of Comments on Implementation of Public Housing Income Limit

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing, HUD.

ACTION: Notice for comment.

SUMMARY: On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act of 2016 (HOTMA). One of the statutory amendments made by HOTMA adds an income limit to the Public Housing program. This notice informs the public of how HUD proposes to implement that income limit and solicits comments on that methodology.

DATES: Comment Due Date: December 29, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this notice for comment. All communications must refer to the above docket number and title. There are two methods for submitting public comments:

1. Submission of Comments by Mail. Comments may be submitted by mail to the Regulations Division, Office of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW., Room 10276, Washington, DC 20410–0500.

2. Electronic Submission of Comments. Interested persons may submit comments electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov. HUD strongly encourages commenters to submit comments electronically. Electronic submission of comments allows the commenter maximum time to prepare and submit a comment, ensures timely receipt by HUD, and enables HUD to make comments immediately available to the public. Comments submitted electronically through the www.regulations.gov Web site can be viewed by other commenters and interested members of the public. Commenters should follow the instructions provided on that site to submit comments electronically.

No Facsimile Comments. Facsimile (fax) comments are not acceptable.

Public Inspection of Public Comments. All properly submitted comments and communications submitted to HUD will be available for public inspection and copying between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., weekdays, at the above address. Due to security measures at the HUD Headquarters building, an advance appointment to review the public comments must be scheduled by calling the Regulations Division at 202–708–3055 (this is not a toll-free number). Individuals with speech or hearing impairments may access this number via TTY by calling the Federal Relay Service at 800–877–8339 (this is a toll-free number). Copies of all comments submitted are available for inspection and downloading at www.regulations.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have any questions, please send an email to HOTMAquestions@hud.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On July 29, 2016, President Obama signed HOTMA into law (Pub. L. 114–201, 130 Stat. 782). Section 103 places an income limitation on a public housing tenancy for families. The law requires that after a family’s income has exceeded 120 percent of the area median income (AMI) for the most recent two consecutive annual reviews, a PHA must terminate the family’s tenancy within 6 months of the second income determination or charge the family a monthly rent equal to the greater of (1) the applicable Fair Market Rent (FMR); or (2) the amount of monthly subsidy for the unit including amounts from the operating and capital fund. A PHA must notify a family of the potential changes to monthly rent after one year of the family’s income exceeding 120 percent of the AMI. Pursuant to 24 CFR 960.503, this section does not apply to small PHAs that are renting to families with income over 120 percent of AMI. Each PHA must submit a report annually to HUD about the number of families residing in public housing with incomes exceeding the applicable income limitation and the number of families on the waiting lists for admission to public housing projects. Such reports must be publically available.

Section 103 of HOTMA sets a maximum amount of annual adjusted income for a family to occupy a public housing unit at 120 percent of the AMI. However, HUD has the ability to adjust that 120 percent if the Secretary determines that it is necessary to do so because of prevailing levels of construction costs, or unusually high or low family incomes, vacancy rates, or rental costs.

On February 3, 2016, at 81 FR 5677, HUD published an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) soliciting public input on various questions dealing with the possibility of imposing an income limit for public housing.1 HUD received 135 comments on the ANPR, from individuals, PHAs, tenant advocacy groups, and PHA associations. Some opposed an income limit, stating that public housing residents benefit from being in mixed-income developments, and that imposing an income limit that would apply to everyone would be unfair in areas with high rents or low demand for the public housing units. Other commenters supported an income limit, stating that encouraging families to move out when their income reached a certain level would allow families in the most need to move into decent and affordable units.

There were also many suggestions on how to impose an income limit. Commenters asked for a maximum income based on the AMI or a percentage over the income limits for admission into public housing. Some commenters said that incorporating local housing conditions into the income limit would be too complicated, while others stated that not taking local conditions into account would be unfair to families. Some commenters stated that families reaching an income limit should be given a few months to find new housing, while others suggested families be allowed a period of several years. Some commenters noted that having an income limit did allow families with a greater need to move in, while others wrote that forcing the highest-income tenants out would increase the amount of subsidy a PHA would pay and decrease their ability to provide affordable housing.

Some of these comments and questions were made moot by the passage of HOTMA. However, as HUD exercises the discretion available in the new statute, HUD has taken into account the views and suggestions already submitted for the ANPR in its initial methodology factoring in local housing costs. HUD is providing for 30 days of public comment.

1 The comment period was originally 30 days, but the comment period was re-opened for an additional 30 days at 81 FR 12613.