

ACTION: Notice.**SUMMARY:** Veterans Benefits

Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before September 29, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Comments must be submitted through www.regulations.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Program-Specific information: Kendra McCleave, 202-461-9568, kendra.mccleave@va.gov.

VA PRA information: Dorothy Glasgow, 202-461-1084, VAPRA@va.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995, Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA. With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA'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 respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Title: 21P-0969, Income and Asset Statement in Support of Claim for Pension or Parents' Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (D.I.C.).

OMB Control Number: 2900-0829. <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAsearch> (Once at this link, you can enter the OMB Control Number to find the historical versions of this Information Collection).

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: VA Form 21P-0969 allows claimants and beneficiaries to report unreimbursed medical expenses to reduce their countable income for

needs-based benefit programs, such as VA Pension and Parents' Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). These expenses are deducted from otherwise countable income to determine eligibility for income-based benefits and the rate payable. Veteran Service Representatives use the information on the form to adjust benefits.

Affected Public: Individuals and households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 22,917 hours.

Estimated Average Burden per Respondent: 30 minutes.

Frequency of Response: One time.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 55,000.

(Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*)

Shunda Willis,

Alternate, VA PRA Clearance Officer, Office of Information Technology/Data Governance Analytics, Department of Veterans Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Rehabilitation Research, Development, and Translation (RRDT) Scientific Merit Review Board; Federal Register Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C. Ch. 10, that a meeting of the RRDT Scientific Merit Review Board (Board) will be held August 19, 2026, from 1-1:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST), via Webex. The meeting will be open to the public from 1-1:10 p.m. EST. The remainder of the meeting, from 1:10-1:30 p.m. EST, will be closed to the public and used for scientific review and discussion, examination of, and reference to the research applications. Discussions will involve staff and consultant critiques of research proposals. Discussions will also cover the scientific merit of each proposal and the qualifications of the personnel conducting the studies, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Additionally, premature disclosure of research information could significantly obstruct implementation of proposed agency action regarding the research proposals. Therefore, portions of the Board meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4), (6), and (9)(B).

The objective of the Board is to provide for the impartial selection of the most meritorious research projects for

support by VA research funds and to offer advice for research program officials on program priorities and policies. The ultimate objective of the Board is to ensure through recommendations that the VA Office of Research and Development (ORD) RRDT portfolio advances scientific knowledge and fosters innovations to maximize Veterans' functional independence, quality of life, and participation in their lives and community.

The Board evaluates and advises the Acting Deputy Chief Research and Development Officer (Deputy CRADO) for Investigators, Scientific Review, and Management, and the Acting ORD CRADO, on strategies, goals, and direction to support emerging issues and topics in Veteran health care through research and the scientific and technical merit, mission relevance, and protection of human and animal subjects of rehabilitation research proposals. The Board does not consider grants, contracts, or other forms of extramural research.

Members of the public may attend the open portion of the meeting from 1-1:10 p.m. EST via Webex (in listen-only mode, as the time-limited agenda does not allow for public comment or presentations). To attend the open portion of the meeting, the public may dial the Webex phone number (1-833-558-0712) and enter the meeting access code (2825 167 1146).

Written comments from members of the public should be sent to Kristy Benton-Grover, Designated Federal Officer, RRDT, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, or to Kristy.Benton-Grover@va.gov, at least 5 days before the meeting. The written public comments will be shared with the Board members. The public may not attend the closed portion of the meeting.

Dated: July 29, 2026.

LaTonya L. Small,

Federal Advisory Committee Management Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0059]

Agency Information Collection Activity: Statement of Person Claiming to Have Stood in Relation of Parent

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.