AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

FEDERAL REGISTER

Vol. 90 Wednesday,

No. 216 November 12, 2025

Pages 50857–50890

OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL REGISTER

The **FEDERAL REGISTER** (ISSN 0097–6326) is published daily, Monday through Friday, except official holidays, by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, under the Federal Register Act (44 U.S.C. Ch. 15) and the regulations of the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register (1 CFR Ch. I). The Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Publishing Office, is the exclusive distributor of the official edition. Periodicals postage is paid at Washington, DC.

The **FEDERAL REGISTER** provides a uniform system for making available to the public regulations and legal notices issued by Federal agencies. These include Presidential proclamations and Executive Orders, Federal agency documents having general applicability and legal effect, documents required to be published by act of Congress, and other Federal agency documents of public interest.

Documents are on file for public inspection in the Office of the Federal Register the day before they are published, unless the issuing agency requests earlier filing. For a list of documents currently on file for public inspection, see *www.federalregister.gov.*

The seal of the National Archives and Records Administration authenticates the Federal Register as the official serial publication established under the Federal Register Act. Under 44 U.S.C. 1507, the contents of the **Federal Register** shall be judicially noticed.

The **Federal Register** is published in paper and on 24x microfiche. It is also available online at no charge at *www.govinfo.gov*, a service of the U.S. Government Publishing Office.

The online edition of the **Federal Register** is issued under the authority of the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register as the official legal equivalent of the paper and microfiche editions (44 U.S.C. 4101 and 1 CFR 5.10). It is updated by 6:00 a.m. each day the **Federal Register** is published and includes both text and graphics from Volume 1, 1 (March 14, 1936) forward. For more information, contact the GPO Customer Contact Center, U.S. Government Publishing Office. Phone 202-512-1800 or 866-512-1800 (toll free). E-mail, *gpocusthelp.com.*

The annual subscription price for the **Federal Register** paper edition is $860 plus postage, or $929, for a combined **Federal Register, Federal Register** Index and List of CFR Sections Affected (LSA) subscription; the microfiche edition of the **Federal Register** including the **Federal Register** Index and LSA is $330, plus postage. Six month subscriptions are available for one-half the annual rate. The prevailing postal rates will be applied to orders according to the delivery method requested. The price of a single copy of the daily **Federal Register,** including postage, is based on the number of pages: $11 for an issue containing less than 200 pages; $22 for an issue containing 200 to 400 pages; and $33 for an issue containing more than 400 pages. Single issues of the microfiche edition may be purchased for $3 per copy, including postage. Remit check or money order, made payable to the Superintendent of Documents, or charge to your GPO Deposit Account, VISA, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover. Mail to: U.S. Government Publishing Office—New Orders, P.O. Box 979050, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000; or call toll free 1-866-512-1800, DC area 202-512-1800; or go to the U.S. Government Online Bookstore site, see *bookstore.gpo.gov.*

There are no restrictions on the republication of material appearing in the **Federal Register.**

How To Cite This Publication: Use the volume number and the page number. Example: 90 FR 12345.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Superintendent of Documents, Federal Register, U.S. Government Publishing Office, Washington, DC 20402, along with the entire mailing label from the last issue received.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND COPIES

PUBLIC

Subscriptions:

Paper or fiche **202–512–1800**
Assistance with public subscriptions **202–512–1806**

General online information **202–512–1530; 1–888–293–6498**

Single copies/back copies:

Paper or fiche **202–512–1800**
Assistance with public single copies **1–866–512–1800 (Toll-Free)**

FEDERAL AGENCIES

Subscriptions:

Assistance with Federal agency subscriptions:
Email *FRSubscriptions@nara.gov*
Phone **202–741–6000**

The Federal Register Printing Savings Act of 2017 (Pub. L. 115-120) placed restrictions on distribution of official printed copies of the daily **Federal Register** to members of Congress and Federal offices. Under this Act, the Director of the Government Publishing Office may not provide printed copies of the daily **Federal Register** unless a Member or other Federal office requests a specific issue or a subscription to the print edition. For more information on how to subscribe use the following website link: *https://www.gpo.gov/frsubs.*

Printed on recycled paper.

Contents

Federal Register
Vol. 90, No. 216
Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Reader Aids

Consult the Reader Aids section at the end of this issue for phone numbers, online resources, finding aids, and notice of recently enacted public laws.

To subscribe to the Federal Register Table of Contents electronic mailing list, go to https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USGPOOFR/subscriber/new, enter your e-mail address, then follow the instructions to join, leave, or manage your subscription.

CFR PARTS AFFECTED IN THIS ISSUE

A cumulative list of the parts affected this month can be found in the Reader Aids section at the end of this issue.

Rules and Regulations

Federal Register

Vol. 90, No. 216

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Industry and Security

15 CFR Parts 732, 734, 736, 744, and 748

[Docket No. 251106–0169]

RIN 0694–AK34

One Year Suspension of Expansion of End-User Controls for Affiliates of Certain Listed Entities

AGENCY: Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule; stay.

SUMMARY: In this final rule, the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) imposes a one-year suspension of the interim final rule, ''Expansion of End-User Controls to Cover Affiliates of Certain Listed Entities,''. The suspension is set to end November 9, 2026, absent a future extension.

DATES: Effective November 10, 2025, the amendments to 15 CFR parts 732, 734, 736, 744, and 748 in the interim final rule published at 90 FR 47201, on September 30, 2025, are stayed until November 9, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chair, End-User Review Committee, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, Phone: (202) 482–5991, Email: *ERC@bis.doc.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

A. Publication of Affiliates Rule

On September 30, 2025, the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) published the interim final rule, ''Expansion of End-User Controls to Cover Affiliates of Certain Listed Entities'' (90 FR 47201) (Affiliates Rule). Under the Affiliates Rule, any entity that is at least 50 percent owned directly or indirectly, individually or in the aggregate, by one or more entities on the Entity List, or by unlisted entities that are subject to license requirements or other restrictions based upon their ownership, is itself automatically subject to Entity List restrictions.

B. One Year Suspension of End-User Controls for Affiliates of Certain Listed Entities

In this final rule, BIS imposes a one-year suspension of the Affiliates Rule. This rule will be implemented in two phases. The first phase, effective on November 10, 2025, and ending November 9, 2026, is a one-year suspension of the Affiliates Rule. BIS is temporarily suspending all changes previously made to the EAR by the Affiliates Rule during this period. In the second phase of this final rule, effective November 10, 2026 and extending indefinitely, the changes included in the Affiliates Rule that are removed in the first stage will be added back into the EAR.

During the first phase of this final rule, BIS will continue to evaluate U.S. national security and foreign policy interests related to these non-listed foreign affiliates of listed entities.

C. Reimposition of End-User Controls for Affiliates of Certain Listed Entities

This final rule adds back into the EAR effective November 10, 2026, the license requirements and related provisions from the Affiliates Rule. These are the same changes that are described as being removed in Sections I.C of this final rule. These changes to the EAR are the same as those described in the Affiliates Rule. See the Affiliates Rule for additional background information on the addition of these changes to the EAR.

The **DATES** section of this final rule identifies the amendatory instructions that, effective November 10, 2026, will reimpose the license requirements and related provisions added to the EAR in the Affiliates Rule. Accordingly, the provisions that this final rule removes from the EAR on November 10, 2025, as described under Section I.B and II.A, will be reimposed on November 10, 2026. The **DATES** section of this final rule specifies that amendatory instructions 3, 6, 9, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 27, and 29 are effective November 10, 2026. For ease of reference, each of these amendatory instructions begins with the wording ''Effective November 10, 2026, amend,'' which will make it easier to identify these amendatory instructions in the regulatory text in this final rule. All of the other amendatory instructions in this final rule are effective on November 10, 2025.

Export Control Reform Act of 2018

On August 13, 2018, the President signed into law the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, which included ECRA (codified, as amended, at 50 U.S.C. 4801–4852). ECRA provides the legal basis for BIS's principal authorities and serves as the authority under which BIS issues this rule. In particular, and as noted elsewhere, Section 1753 of ECRA (50 U.S.C. 4812) authorizes the regulation of exports, reexports, and transfers (in-country) of items subject to U.S. jurisdiction. Further, Section 1754(a)(1)–(16) of ECRA (50 U.S.C. 4813(a)(1)–(16)) authorizes, *inter alia,* the establishment of a list of controlled items; the prohibition of unauthorized exports, reexports, and transfers (in-country); the requirement of licenses or other authorizations for exports, reexports, and transfers (in-country) of controlled items; apprising the public of changes in policy, regulations, and procedures; and any other action necessary to carry out ECRA that is not otherwise prohibited by law. Pursuant to Section 1762(a) of ECRA (50 U.S.C. 4821(a)), these changes can be imposed in an interim final rule without prior notice and comment.

Rulemaking Requirements

1. BIS has examined the impact of this rule as required by Executive Orders (E.O.) 12866 and 13563, which direct agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (*e.g.,* potential economic, environmental, public, health, and safety effects, distributive impacts, and equity). Pursuant to E.O. 12866, as amended, this final rule has not been determined to be a ''significant regulatory action.'' This final rule is not a regulatory action pursuant to E.O. 14192 because it is not significant under E.O. 12866.

2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply

with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) (PRA), unless that collection of information displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Number. This rule involves the following OMB-approved collections of information subject to the PRA:

- 0694–0088, ''Simple Network Application Process and Multipurpose Application Form,'' which carries a burden hour estimate of 29.7 minutes for a manual or electronic submission;
- 0694–0096 ''Five Year Records Retention Period,'' which carries a burden hour estimate of less than 1 minute;
- 0607–0152 ''Automated Export System (AES) Program,'' which carries a burden hour estimate of 3 minutes per electronic submission; and
- 0694–0134 ''Procedure for parties on the Entity List or the Unverified List to Request Removal or Modification of their Listing,'' which carries a burden hour estimate of 15 hours per electronic submission.

BIS estimates that these changes to suspend the license requirements and related provisions for one year will result in a one-time reduction of 245 license applications submitted during the one year to BIS under OMB Control Number 0694–0088. However, the reduction in burden falls within the existing estimates currently associated with these control numbers and the burden will be returned to the prior burden estimate once these changes are reimposed on November 10, 2026. Additional information regarding these collections of information—including all background materials—can be found at: *https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain* by using the search function to enter either the title of the collection or the OMB Control Number.

3. This rule does not contain policies with Federalism implications as that term is defined under E.O. 13132.

4. Pursuant to section 1762 of ECRA (50 U.S.C. 4821), this action is exempt from the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (5 U.S.C. 553) requirements for notice of proposed rulemaking, opportunity for public participation, and delay in effective date. This final rule did not consider public comments received on the Affiliates Rule. Public comments received on the Affiliates Rule will be considered for future, subsequent rulemakings.

5. Because neither the APA nor any other law requires that notice of proposed rulemaking and an opportunity for public comment be given for this rule, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) are not applicable. Accordingly, no Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis is required, and none has been prepared.

Julia A. Khersonsky,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Strategic Trade.

[FR Doc. 2025–19846 Filed 11–10–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–33–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Industry and Security

15 CFR Part 744

[Docket No. 251106–0170]

RIN 0694–AK07

Revisions to the Entity List

AGENCY: Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) is removing one entity from the Entity List under the destination of China, People's Republic of (China). BIS is also removing six aliases associated with a different entity on the Entity List under the destination of China. BIS has determined, based on the review of additional information, that the entities do not pose a significant risk of being or becoming involved in activities that are contrary to the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States.

DATES: This rule is effective November 10, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chair, End-User Review Committee, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, Phone: (202) 482–5991, Email: *ERC@bis.doc.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Entity List (supplement no. 4 to part 744 of the EAR (15 CFR parts 730–774)) identifies entities for which there is reasonable cause to believe, based on specific and articulable facts, have been involved, are involved, or pose a significant risk of being or becoming involved in activities contrary to the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States, pursuant to § 744.11(b) of the EAR. The EAR imposes additional license requirements on, and limits the availability of, most license exceptions for exports, reexports, and transfers (in-country) when a listed entity is a party to the transaction. The license review policy for each listed entity is identified in the ''License Review Policy'' column on the Entity List, and the impact on the availability of license exceptions is described in the relevant **Federal Register** document that added the entity to the Entity List. BIS places entities on the Entity List pursuant to part 744 (Control Policy: End-User and End-Use Based) and part 746 (Embargoes and Other Special Controls) of the EAR.

The End-User Review Committee (ERC), composed of representatives of the Departments of Commerce (Chair), State, War, Energy and, where appropriate, the Treasury, makes all decisions regarding additions to, removals from, or other modifications to the Entity List. The ERC makes all decisions to add an entry to the Entity List by majority vote and makes all decisions to remove or modify an entry by unanimous vote.

Removals From the Entity List

The ERC determined to remove Arrow China Electronics Trading Co., Ltd. and the six aliases under Arrow Electronics (Hong Kong) Co., Ltd. from the Entity List under China, based on information BIS received pursuant to § 744.16 of the EAR regarding the relationships of the aliases under this separate entry to Arrow China Electronics Trading Co., Ltd., along with commitments to enhance export compliance measures of all of these parties, and the review the ERC conducted in accordance with procedures described in supplement no. 5 to part 744 of the EAR.

Export Control Reform Act of 2018

On August 13, 2018, the President signed into law the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, which included the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (ECRA) (50 U.S.C. 4801–4852). ECRA provides the legal basis for BIS's principal authorities and serves as the authority under which BIS issues this rule. In particular, Section 1753 of ECRA (50 U.S.C. 4812) authorizes the regulation of exports, reexports, and transfers (in-country) of items subject to U.S. jurisdiction. Further, Section 1754(a)(1)–(16) of ECRA (50 U.S.C. 4813(a)(1)–(16)) authorizes, inter alia, establishing and maintaining a list of foreign persons and end uses that are determined to be a threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States pursuant to the policy set forth in Section 1752(2)(A), and restricting exports, reexports, and in-country transfers of any controlled items to any foreign person or end use so listed;

apprising the public of changes in policy, regulations, and procedures; and any other action necessary to carry out ECRA that is not otherwise prohibited by law. Pursuant to Section 1762(a) of ECRA (50 U.S.C. 4821(a)), these changes can be imposed in a final rule without prior notice and comment.

Rulemaking Requirements

1. This rule has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866. This final rule is not a regulatory action pursuant to E.O. 14192 because it is not a significant rule under E.O. 12866.

2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to or be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information, subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), unless that collection of information displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Number. This regulation involves an information collection approved by OMB under control number 0694–0088, Simplified Network Application Processing System. BIS does not anticipate a change to the burden hours associated with this collection as a result of this rule. Information regarding the collection, including all supporting materials, can be accessed at: *https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain.*

3. This rule does not contain policies with federalism implications as that term is defined in Executive Order 13132.

4. Pursuant to Section 1762 of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018, this action is exempt from the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553) requirements for notice of proposed rulemaking, opportunity for public participation, and delay in effective date.

5. Because a notice of proposed rulemaking and an opportunity for public comment are not required to be given for this rule by 5 U.S.C. 553, or by any other law, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*) are not applicable. Accordingly, no regulatory flexibility analysis is required, and none has been prepared.

List of Subjects in 15 CFR Part 744

Exports, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Terrorism.

Accordingly, part 744 of the Export Administration Regulations (15 CFR parts 730–774) is amended as follows:

PART 744—CONTROL POLICY: END-USER AND END-USE BASED

■ 1. Revise the authority citation for part 744 to read as follows:

Authority: 50 U.S.C. 4801–4852; 50 U.S.C. 4601 *et seq.;* 50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.;* 22 U.S.C. 3201 *et seq.;* 42 U.S.C. 2139a; 22 U.S.C. 7201 *et seq.;* 22 U.S.C. 7210; E.O. 12058, 43 FR 20947, 3 CFR, 1978 Comp., p. 179; E.O. 12851, 58 FR 33181, 3 CFR, 1993 Comp., p. 608; E.O. 12938, 59 FR 59099, 3 CFR, 1994 Comp., p. 950; E.O. 13026, 61 FR 58767, 3 CFR, 1996 Comp., p. 228; E.O. 13099, 63 FR 45167, 3 CFR, 1998 Comp., p. 208; E.O. 13222, 66 FR 44025, 3 CFR, 2001 Comp., p. 783; E.O. 13224, 66 FR 49079, 3 CFR, 2001 Comp., p. 786; Notice of November 7, 2024, 89 FR 88867 (November 8, 2024); Notice of August 4, 2025, 90 FR 37999 (August 6, 2025); Notice of September 8, 2025, 90 FR 43903 (September 10, 2025).

■ 2. Supplement no. 4 to part 744 is amended Under CHINA, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF by:

■ a. Removing the entry for ''Arrow China Electronics Trading Co., Ltd.''; and

■ b. Revising the entry for ''Arrow Electronics (Hong Kong) Co., Ltd''.

The revision reads as follows:

Supplement No. 4 to Part 744—Entity List

* * * * *

Country	Entity	License requirement	License review policy	**Federal Register** citation
*	*	*	*	*
CHINA, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF.	*	*	*	*
	Arrow Electronics (Hong Kong) Co., Ltd., 2/F and 3/F, Green 18, Phase 2, Hong Kong Science Park, Hong Kong; and 20/F, Tower 2, Evergreen Plaza, 88 Container Port Road, Kwai Chung, Hong Kong; Lot 204, DD105, Castle Peak Road, Yuen Long, Hong Kong; and Unit 1003, Kerry Cargo Center, 55 Wing Kei Road, Kwai Chung, Hong Kong; and Units 11001–11008E & 11001–110012W, 11th Floor, ATL Logistics Centre B, No. 8 Container Port Road South, Kwai Chung, Hong Kong; Unit 5001–5004W, 5th Floor, ATL Logistics Centre A, No. 8 Container Port Road South, Kwai Chung, Hong Kong; and Unit 5015E–5020E, 5th Floor, ATL Logistics Centre B, No. 8 Container Port Road South, Kwai Chung, Hong Kong.	For all items subject to the EAR. (See § 744.11 of the EAR).	Presumption of denial	90 FR 48193, 10/9/25. 90 FR [INSERT FR PAGE NUMBER, 10/12/25].
	*	*	*	*
*	*	*	*	*

* * * * *

Julia Khersonsky,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Strategic Trade.

[FR Doc. 2025–19858 Filed 11–10–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–33–P

Notices

Federal Register
Vol. 90, No. 216
Wednesday, November 12, 2025

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

Senior Executive Service Performance Review Board

AGENCY: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

ACTION: Notice of members of Senior Executive Service Performance Review Board.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the membership of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) Senior Executive Service (SES) Performance Review Board (PRB).

DATES: These appointments were effective on October 1, 2025.

ADDRESSES: Send comments concerning this notice to: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20004–2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Candice Starks by telephone at (202) 360–9527, or by email at *Candice.Starks@dnfsb.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 5 U.S.C. 4314(c)(1) through (5) requires each agency to establish, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Office of Personnel Management, one or more performance review boards. The PRB shall review and evaluate the initial summary rating of the senior executives' performance, the executives' responses, and the higher-level officials' comments on the initial summary rating. In addition, the PRB will recommend executive performance bonuses and pay increases.

The DNFSB is a small, independent Federal agency; therefore, some members of the DNFSB SES Performance Review Board listed in this notice are drawn from the SES ranks of other agencies.

On October 1, 2025, the following members were appointed to the PRB:

Marguerite C. Garrison, Deputy Inspector General for Administrative Investigations, U.S. Department of Defense, Office of the Inspector General

Theresa Perolini, Assistant Inspector General for Enterprise and External Affairs, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Inspector General

Troy M. Meyer, Deputy Inspector General for Overseas Contingency Operations, U.S. Department of Defense, Office of the Inspector General

Njema Frazier, Associate Technical Director—Nuclear Weapons Program, Defense Nuclear Safety Facilities Board

Omar Lopez-Santiago, Associate Technical Director—Nuclear Materials Processing and Stabilization, Defense Nuclear Safety Facilities Board

James Biggins, Deputy Executive Director for Risk and Strategy, Defense Nuclear Safety Facilities Board

These appointments were approved by the former Acting Chairman, Thomas Summers, who has since departed the DNFSB following the conclusion of his term of office. On November 6, 2025, Mary Buhler, the Executive Director of Operations, approved a revision to the PRB membership in light of the unavailability of individuals due to the government shutdown. Notice of those appointments was published in the **Federal Register** on November 10, 2025.

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 4314.

Dated: November 7, 2025.

Eric Fox,

Federal Register Liaison, Associate General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2025–19847 Filed 11–10–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3670–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Applications for New Awards; Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education—Special Projects (FIPSE—SP)

AGENCY: Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Education (Department) is issuing a notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2025 for the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education Special Projects, Assistance Listing Number 84.116J. This notice relates to the approved information collection under OMB control number 1894–0006.

DATES:

Applications Available: November 12, 2025.

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: December 3, 2025.

Deadline for Intergovernmental Review: December 12, 2025.

ADDRESSES: For the addresses for obtaining and submitting an application, please refer to our Common Instructions for Applicants to Department of Education Discretionary Grant Programs, published in the **Federal Register** on August 29, 2025 (90 FR 42234), and available at *https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/08/29/2025-16571/common-instructions-and-information-for-applicants-to-department-of-education-discretionary-grant.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stacey Slijepcevic, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW. Telephone: (202) 453–6150. Email: *Stacey.Slijepcevic@ed.gov.*

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability and wish to access telecommunications relay services, please dial 7–1–1.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Full Text of Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose of Program: The FIPSE Special Projects Program provides grants to institutions of higher education (IHEs), combinations of such institutions, and other public and private nonprofit institutions and agencies, as the Secretary deems necessary, to support innovative projects concerning one or more areas of national need identified by the Secretary. This competition focuses on supporting four areas of national need—(1) advancing the understanding of and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology in postsecondary education, (2) promoting civil discourse on college and university campuses, (3) promoting accreditation reform, and (4) supporting capacity-building for high-quality short-term programs.

In order to support these four crucial needs, this competition includes seven absolute priorities under which applicants can apply: two priorities dedicated to advancing the understanding and use of AI in postsecondary education (Absolute Priorities 1 and 2), one priority dedicated to promoting civil discourse on college and university campuses (Absolute Priority 3), two priorities within promoting accreditation reform (Absolute Priorities 4 and 5), and two priorities for capacity-building for high-quality short-term programs (Absolute Priorities 6 and 7). The Department intends to award $50 million to advance AI in Education, $60 million to promote civil discourse on college and university campuses, $7 million to support accreditation reform, and $50 million for high-quality short-term programs. The Department may adjust these estimates based on interest and quality of applications.

Background: Section 744 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), authorizes the Secretary to make grants to institutions of higher education, or consortia thereof, and such other public agencies and nonprofit organizations as the Secretary deems necessary for innovative projects concerning one or more areas of particular national need identified by the Secretary. Section 744(c) identifies a list of minimum areas of national need, and this is the first competition under section 744(c)(2) as revised by Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA). In order to ensure timely grant awards, the Secretary has decided to forgo public comment on the priorities in accordance with section 437(d)(1) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA).

Advancing the Understanding and Use of AI in Postsecondary Education: President Trump's Executive Order *Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence,* Executive Order 14179 (Jan. 23, 2025), says ''[w]ith the right Government policies, we can solidify our position as the global leader in AI and secure a brighter future for all Americans.'' In July 2025, the Department took steps to support American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence by publishing the Proposed Priority and Definitions on Advancing Artificial Intelligence in Education (90 FR 34203). As noted in this Notice of Proposed Priority, ''[AI] is rapidly reshaping the future of education, work, learning, and daily life. As AI becomes more integrated into the tools and systems that shape elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education, it is increasingly important for students to develop AI literacy. A strong foundation in AI literacy will help ensure students are prepared to navigate and contribute to a society where these technologies play a growing role in decision-making, communication, innovation, and career readiness.'' In alignment with Executive Order 14179 and in recognition of the potential for AI to improve postsecondary teaching and learning, the Secretary has identified using artificial intelligence to support opportunities in postsecondary education as a particular area of national need. Additionally, President Trump's Executive Order *Advancing Artificial Intelligence Education for American Youth,* Executive Order 14277 (Apr. 23, 2025), highlights the role postsecondary education can play by better preparing future and current teachers to teach and use AI, noting that ''[b]y establishing a strong framework that integrates early student exposure with comprehensive teacher training and other resources for workforce development, we can ensure that every American has the opportunity to learn about AI from the earliest stages of their educational journey through postsecondary education, fostering a culture of innovation and critical thinking that will solidify our Nation's leadership in the AI-driven future.''

Promoting Civil Discourse on College and University Campuses: Protesters have increasingly exercised disruptive tactics, including shouting down speakers (the heckler's veto) and blocking access to campus events, on our Nation's college and university campuses. Civil discourse at America's colleges and universities has been undermined by campus takeovers, violent riots, and even a recent high-profile political assassination. The core mission of our educational institutions—the pursuit of truth—requires that individuals be able to state their views freely and fully, without fear. It requires that students and faculty accept that people will inevitably disagree on controversial issues of the utmost importance and complexity. Pursuing truth requires the recognition that students and faculty benefit from engaging with those who disagree with us with honesty, dignity, and respect. This priority supports projects that are designed to promote civil discourse on college and university campuses through activities such as seminars, speaker series, conferences, debates, workshop training events, visiting professorships and other focused learning opportunities that include and promote a range of views and embrace dialogue and understanding. For students to have access to the best learning opportunities, learning environments must welcome and engage viewpoint diversity in a manner that values thoughtful debate and freedom of speech. This funding will provide an opportunity to support the cultivation of such environments on college and university campuses nationwide. The competitive preference priorities within this Absolute Priority are based on the Department's position that guidance and coordination from independent and interdisciplinary academic units dedicated to promoting civic thought have the potential to increase the effectiveness of these initiatives.

Promoting Accreditation Reform: Institutions of higher education must be accredited to receive title IV funding under the HEA, such as federal student loans and Pell Grants. The current accreditation process, both institutional and programmatic/specialized, is unnecessarily costly for colleges and universities, typically requiring tens of thousands of personnel hours and hundreds of thousands of dollars each year, expenses that are ultimately borne by students. For example, two universities classified as having very high research activity reported FY 2024 accreditation compliance costs of $12 million and $27 million, respectively.[1]

In addition to being costly and burdensome, the accreditation process in many cases does not improve institutional or program quality. Oftentimes, institutions are required to jump through an extensive set of bureaucratic hoops that have little to do with improving student outcomes or educational quality.[2] Many institutions and members of the public view the accreditation process as primarily a compliance exercise, rather than one focused on enhancing student outcomes.

Although institutions are permitted to change their accrediting agency under 34 CFR 600.11, the substantial financial

[1] Vanderbilt University & Washington University in St. Louis, (2025). ''Easing the Burden: A Framework for Federal Regulatory Reform in Higher Education.'' White Paper. *https://wustl.app.box.com/s/4rdzgs0lecy3tmfdedcx48q1jqd62poh.*

[2] Woolston, P.J., (2012). The costs of institutional accreditation: A study of direct and indirect costs. Doctoral Dissertation. *https://www.proquest.com/docview/1152182950?fromopenview=true&pq-origsite=gscholar&sourcetype=Dissertations%20&%20Theses.*

[2] Burke, L., Kissel, A. Alacbay, A., & Beltramini, K., (2023). It's Time for Congress to Dismantle the Higher Education Accreditation Cartel. Washington, DC: The Heritage Foundation. *https://www.heritage.org/education/report/its-time-congress-dismantle-the-higher-education-accreditation-cartel.*

[2] Senate HELP Committee, (2015). Higher Education Accreditation Concepts and Proposals. *https://www.help.senate.gov/imo/media/Accreditation.pdf.*

burden, logistical hurdles, and heightened scrutiny involved often discourage them from do so, even when a different accreditor may better align with the institution's needs.[3] The cost of accreditation itself is significant, encompassing staffing costs (administrator and faculty salaries and benefits), document preparation costs (professional service fees, printing, and mailing), compliance costs (meeting accreditation standards), site visits (travel, lodging, and related expenses), and direct accreditation fees (membership charges). Changing accrediting agencies often entails maintaining dual accreditation expenses for a considerable period, as institutions generally cannot allow accreditation to lapse without risking critical benefits, including eligibility for Federal financial aid and professional licensure pathways.

States and nonprofit organizations also incur substantial costs in launching new, separate and independent accreditors. These burdens inhibit new accreditors from entering the marketplace efficiently. Recent reporting suggests that the ongoing work in North Carolina and Florida to establish a new accrediting agency has been a costly enterprise, which could deter other entities from launching similar reform initiatives.[4] A lack of accreditor options hampers innovation in the higher education marketplace that could improve student outcomes, increase return on investment to families and taxpayers, and improve institutional accountability.

Collectively, these enumerated challenges make it difficult for institutions to change accreditors, either because the costs are prohibitive or there is a lack of alternatives. This funding opportunity will support institutions seeking to change accreditors, as well as emerging organizations working to become recognized accrediting agencies.

Capacity-Building for High-Quality Short-Term Programs: Not all workers need a traditional college degree to succeed in today's economy. Rather, many individuals are best served by high-value, short-term postsecondary programs closely aligned to workforce demand. These programs—which include micro-credentials, and workforce certificates—can quickly provide individuals with the skillsets they need to pursue new and expanded career opportunities or advance through a Registered Apprenticeship program.

However, short-term programs can be costly for colleges to create and administer, particularly given the need to codesign short-term postsecondary programs with employers. These costs may prevent higher education institutions from offering, creating, or expanding the size of existing short-term programs. To address these issues, this competitive grant program will provide funding to institutions of higher education to expand their capacity to offer high-value, short-term postsecondary programs.

In July 2025, the President's One Big Beautiful Bill Act, Public Law 119–21, established Workforce Pell Grants, a new program to help students pay for high-quality, short-term programs. For the award year beginning on July 1, 2026, eligible students enrolled in accredited programs at accredited postsecondary institutions that are a minimum of 8 weeks but less than 15 weeks; that are aligned to high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors or occupations; that are portable and articulable to credit to support stackability and have strong completion rates, job placement rates, and earnings outcomes will receive Federal title IV grant funding. The Workforce Pell Grants program is designed to help support students gain immediate entry into the workforce. Yet, despite this new funding stream, some students may not be able to access high-quality, short-term programs that qualify for Workforce Pell Grants because of a lack of program supply. Colleges and universities, especially those with limited resources, may struggle to offer high-quality, short-term programs at the scale that students demand, and even when they do, strict class-size caps can restrict enrollment. Developing and expanding Workforce Pell-eligible high-quality, short-term programs can be costly for institutions, as it often requires hiring additional faculty and staff as well and investing in machinery, technology, production supplies, and equipment. These costs are especially high in advanced manufacturing, healthcare, and engineering fields, where programs usually require expensive equipment that are not easily scalable. Additionally, institutions often dedicate time and resources to develop and maintain close partnerships with employers and industry organizations in order to ensure the programs are aligned with the hiring requirements of businesses and keep pace with the evolving skill demands of industry. As a result, many students who want to enroll in a short-term program may not have a nearby institution offering an eligible option.

To address these challenges, this funding opportunity will allow institutions to develop and expand high-quality, short-term programs. These funds can be utilized on activities that are directly related to developing or modifying high-quality, short-term programs that meet the requirements for Workforce Pell Grants outlined in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, as well as building capacity in existing short-term programs. Projects must be designed and executed in close collaboration with employers, to ensure that the resulting programs are responsive to industry demand.

Priorities: This notice contains seven absolute priorities across the four areas of national need established by the Secretary within this notice and two competitive preference priorities, in accordance with 34 CFR 75.105(b)(2)(vi). We are establishing these priorities for the fiscal year 2025 grant competition and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applications from this competition, in accordance with section 437(d)(1) of GEPA, 20 U.S.C. 1232(d)(1).

Absolute Priorities: For FY 2025 and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applications from this competition, these priorities are absolute priorities. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(3), we consider only applications that meet one of these priorities.

These priorities are:

Absolute Priority 1: Advancing Artificial Intelligence to Improve Educational Outcomes of Postsecondary Students.

Priority: Projects or proposals to improve academic instruction and student learning, including efforts designed to assess the learning gains made by postsecondary students (section 744(c)(2)) of the HEA), through one or more of the following:

(a) Supporting the integration of AI literacy skills and concepts into teaching and learning practices to improve educational outcomes for students, including instruction about how to use AI responsibly, and how to detect AI generated disinformation or misinformation online; and

(b) Partnering with State Educational Agencies (SEAs) or Local Educational

[3] In May 2025, the Department issued a Dear Colleague Letter eliminating unnecessary barriers for institutions seeking to change their accreditor. *https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/dear-colleague-letters/2025-04-30/changes-approval-process-changing-accrediting-agencies.*

[4] Moody, J., (2023). Florida's Accreditation Shuffle Begins. *InsideHigherEd. https://www.insidehighered.com/news/governance/accreditation/2023/08/30/flas-accreditation-shuffle-begins-one-college-gets-us.*

[4] Gretzinger, E., (2025). How UNC Led a First-of-Its-Kind Plan to Shake Up College Accreditation. *The Chronicle of Higher Education. https://www.chronicle.com/article/how-unc-led-a-first-of-its-kind-plan-to-shake-up-college-accreditation.*

Agencies (LEAs) to do one or more of the following:

(i) use AI technology to provide high-quality instructional resources, high-impact tutoring, and college and career pathway exploration, advising, and navigation to improve educational outcomes.

(ii) integrate AI-driven tools into classrooms to personalize learning, improve student outcomes, and support differentiated instruction. This integration may include, but is not limited to, adaptive learning technologies, virtual teaching assistants, tutoring, and data analytics tools to support student progress.

(iii) utilize AI in the classroom and/or for school operation efficiency, including but not limited to: improving teacher training and evaluation, reducing time-intensive administrative tasks, or improving instruction or services for students with disabilities.

Absolute Priority 2: Ensuring Future Educators and Students Have Foundational Exposure to AI and Computer Science.

Priority: Projects or proposals to leverage AI to improve teacher preparation by doing one or more of the following:

(a) Deliver AI and computer science credentials in rural communities;

(b) Embed AI and computer science into an institution of higher education's general preservice or in-service teacher professional development or teacher preparation programs;

(c) Provide additional support for teacher preparation programs that are preparing future computer science educators in K–12 education;

(d) Expand offerings of AI and computer science courses as part of an institution of higher education's general education and/or core curriculum;

(e) Provide resources and support for the use of AI in teacher preparation programs;

(f) Partner with SEAs and/or LEAs to provide resources to K–12 students in foundational computer science and AI literacy, including through professional development for educators; and

(g) Partner with SEAs and/or LEAs to encourage the provision of dual-enrollment course opportunities so that students can earn postsecondary credentials and industry-recognized credentials in AI coursework concurrent with their high school education.

Absolute Priority 3: Promoting Civil Discourse on College and University Campuses.

Priority: Projects that are designed to promote civil discourse on college and university campuses through activities such as seminars, speaker series, conferences, debates, workshops training events, and other focused learning opportunities that include a range of views and embrace dialogue and understanding. These projects may include visiting faculty specifically supporting the development and delivery of these activities and contributing to the viewpoint diversity of the broader campus intellectual environment.

Competitive Preference Priorities: Within this absolute priority, we give competitive preference to applications that address the following priorities. Under 34 CFR 75.105(c)(2)(i), we award an additional ten points to an application that meets each of these priorities.

Competitive Preference Priority 1: Civic Institutes at Institutions of Higher Education. (0 or 10 points).

Priority: Projects implemented by, or in partnership with, institutions of higher education that have established independent academic units dedicated to civic thought, constitutional studies, American history, and economic liberty. These institutes should demonstrate a sustained commitment to robust civil discourse, the liberal arts, and the study of American history and politics through primary documents.

Competitive Preference Priority 2: Non-IHE Nonprofit Organizations That Educate Students to Promote Freedom and Engage in Civil Discourse. (0 or 10 points).

Priority: Projects implemented by, or in partnership with, private nonprofit organizations that do not meet the HEA definition of an institution of higher education and that educate students to promote freedom and engage in civil discourse. These entities must demonstrate experience working with higher education institutions on matters of civil discourse.

Absolute Priority 4: Supporting Institutions in Changing Accrediting Agencies.

Priority: Activities that directly support college and university efforts to change their current accrediting agency. These activities may include, but are not limited to, staffing costs necessary to support a change in accreditors, document preparation costs, site-visit costs, and direct accreditation fees (limited to the initial term of accreditation up to 5 years).

Absolute Priority 5: Supporting the Creation of New Accrediting Agencies.

Priority: Projects that support the development and launch of new accrediting agencies seeking, or intending to seek, recognition from the Department under 20 U.S.C. 1099b. Eligible activities may include convenings, development of accreditation standards and review processes, stakeholder and expert consultations, meeting and travel costs, technology and data system development, personnel costs, administrative expenses, and other costs directly related to establishing and operating a recognized accrediting agency.

Absolute Priority 6: Creation of New High-Quality Short-Term Programs.

Priority: Activities that directly support the development of new high-quality, short-term programs at institutions of higher education, including engaging employers, developing talent marketplaces, and integrating work-based learning components into short-term postsecondary programs. High-quality, short-term programs are defined as programs that meet the eligibility requirements of the Workforce Pell Grants program in Section 83002(b) of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, including program length requirements and alignment with high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors or occupations, as determined by the Governor in the State in which the institution is located. This funding opportunity may be used to cover institutional costs associated with hiring program faculty and staff; purchasing equipment, machinery, production supplies and technology; coordinating with employers, State Workforce Development Boards, and other stakeholders, including convenings, meetings, and travel costs; improving classrooms, laboratories, and other instructional facilities; developing or enhancing partnerships with employers to facilitate industry alignment; improving data collection and reporting capabilities to support Workforce Pell eligibility determinations; and meeting administrative expenses related to the design and development of new programs, including expenses related to data collection and validation.

Activities must be designed and executed in close collaboration with employers, to ensure that the resulting programs are responsive to industry demand.

Absolute Priority 7: Expansion of Existing High-Quality Short-Term Programs.

Priority: Activities that directly support the expansion of existing high-quality, short-term programs, including reforms to existing programs to meet Workforce Pell Grants eligibility requirements in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. Such activities should also include engaging employers, developing talent marketplaces, and integrating work-based learning components into short-term postsecondary programs. This funding opportunity may be used to cover institutional costs associated with hiring additional faculty and staff to increase program capacity; purchasing additional equipment, machinery, production supplies, and technology; enhancing partnerships with employers to facilitate industry alignment; improving data collection and reporting capabilities to support Workforce Pell eligibility determinations; expanding the frequency of new student cohorts; or programmatic reforms needed to meet program requirements under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

Waiver of Proposed Rulemaking: Under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553), the Department generally offers interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed priorities. Section 437(d)(1) of GEPA, however, allows the Secretary to exempt from rulemaking requirements regulations governing the first grant competition under a new or substantially revised program authority.

This is the first grant competition for this specific program (FIPSE Special Projects) under section 744(c)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended by the HEOA and, therefore, this competition qualifies for this exemption. In order to ensure timely grant awards, the Secretary has decided to forgo public comment on the priorities in accordance with section 437(d)(1) of GEPA. These priorities will apply to grants awarded under this competition in FY 2025 and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applications from this competition.

Definitions: The terms ''baseline,'' ''continuous improvement,'' ''evaluation,'' ''evidence-building,'' ''nonprofit,'' ''performance measure,'' ''performance target,'' ''quality data,'' ''relevant outcome'' are defined in 34 CFR 77.1. Institution of higher education has the meaning as defined in section 101 of the HEA. ''Artificial intelligence'' or ''AI'' has the meaning set forth in 15 U.S.C. 9401(3). ''Work-based learning'' has the meaning set forth in 20 U.S.C. 2302(55). In accordance with section 437(d)(1) of GEPA, we are establishing a definition for ''Computer Science'' and ''Talent Marketplace.''

Artificial intelligence (AI) literacy means the technical knowledge, durable skills, and future ready attitudes required to thrive in a world influenced by AI. It enables learners to engage, create with, manage, and design AI, while critically evaluating its benefits, risks, and implications.

Baseline means the starting point from which performance is measured and targets are set.

Computer science means the study of computers and algorithmic processes, including their principles, their hardware and software designs, theories, computational thinking, coding, analytics, applications, machine learning, and Artificial Intelligence (AI). Computer science often includes computer programming or coding as a tool to create software, including applications, games, websites, and tools to manage or manipulate data; or development and management of computer hardware and the other electronics related to sharing, securing, and using digital information. In addition to coding, the expanding field of computer science emphasizes computational thinking and interdisciplinary problem-solving to equip students with the skills and abilities necessary to apply computation to the digital world. Computer science does not involve using computers for everyday tasks, such as browsing the internet or using tools like word processors, spreadsheets, or presentation software. Instead, it focuses on creating and developing technology, not just utilizing it.

Continuous improvement means using plans for collecting and analyzing data about a project component's implementation and outcomes (including the pace and extent to which project outcomes are being met) to inform necessary changes throughout the project. These plans may include strategies to gather ongoing feedback from participants and stakeholders on the implementation of the project component.

Evaluation means an assessment using systematic data collection and analysis of one or more programs, policies, practices, and organizations intended to assess their implementation, outcomes, effectiveness, or efficiency.

Evidence-building means a systematic plan for identifying and answering questions relevant to programs and policies through performance measurement, exploratory studies, or program evaluation.

In-demand Industry Sector or Occupation, as defined in section 3(23) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), means (i) an industry sector that has a substantial current or potential impact (including through jobs that lead to economic self-sufficiency and opportunities for advancement) on the State, regional, or local economy, as appropriate, and that contributes to the growth or stability of other supporting businesses, or the growth of other industry sectors; or (ii) an occupation that currently has or is projected to have a number of positions (including positions that lead to economic self-sufficiency and opportunities for advancement) in an industry sector so as to have a significant impact on the State, regional, or local economy, as appropriate.

Nonprofit, as applied to an agency, organization, or institution, means that it is owned and operated by one or more corporations or associations whose net earnings do not benefit, and cannot lawfully benefit, any private shareholder or entity.

Performance measure means any quantitative indicator, statistic, or metric used to gauge program or project performance.

Performance target means a level of performance that an applicant would seek to meet during the course of a project or as a result of a project.

Quality data encompasses utility, objectivity, and integrity of the information. ''Utility'' refers to how the data will be used, either for its intended use or other uses. ''Objectivity'' refers to data being accurate, complete, reliable, and unbiased. ''Integrity'' refers to the protection of data from being manipulated.

Relevant outcome means the student outcome(s) or other outcome(s) the key project component is designed to improve, consistent with the specific goals of the program.

Talent marketplace means a digital, interconnected system of technologies maintained by a State or State Workforce Agency, as defined at 29 U.S.C. 3225a(a)(8), that

(a) is publicly available;

(b) includes an integrated:

(i) Learning and Employment Record;

(ii) Credential Registry; and

(iii) Skill-Based Job Description generator;

(c) utilizes artificial intelligence to enable students and jobseekers, employers, and education and training providers to transform, transcribe, and transact earned learning assertions, job descriptions, and degree and non-degree credentials into discrete competency statements; and

(d) may be curated into interoperable individual records of achievement and learning and employment recommendations.

Work-based learning is used in accordance with 20 U.S.C. 2302(55), to mean sustained interactions with industry or community professionals in real workplace settings, to the extent practicable, or simulated environments at an educational institution that foster in-depth, firsthand engagement with the tasks required in a given career field, that are aligned to curriculum and instruction.

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1138; 20 U.S.C. 1138c.

Note: Projects will be awarded and must be operated in a manner consistent with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the Federal civil rights laws.

Applicable Regulations: (a) The Education Department General Administrative Regulations in 34 CFR parts 75, 77, 79, 82, 84, 86, 97, 98, and 99. (b) The Office of Management and Budget Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) in 2 CFR part 180, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3485. (c) The Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards in 2 CFR part 200, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3474.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Discretionary grants.

Estimated Available Funds: $167,000,000.

Of this amount, we estimate allocating across the areas of national need and absolute priorities as follows:

- Advancing AI in Education (Absolute Priorities 1 and 2)—$50,000,000, including $25,000,000 under Absolute Priority 1 and $25,000,000 under Absolute Priority 2.
- Promoting Civil Discourse (Absolute Priority 3)—$60,000,000.
- Promoting Accreditation Reform (Absolute Priorities 4 and 5)—$7,000,000, including $3,500,000 under Absolute Priority 4 and $3,500,000 under Absolute Priority 5.
- Capacity-building for high-quality, short-term programs (Absolute Priorities 6 and 7)—$50,000,000, including $25,000,000 under Absolute Priority 6 and $25,000,000 under Absolute Priority 7.

Contingent upon the availability of funds and the quality of applications, we may make additional awards in subsequent years from the list of unfunded applications from this competition.

Estimated Range of Awards (for the 48-month project period):

Absolute Priorities 1 and 2: $1,000,000–$4,000,000
Absolute Priority 3: $1,000,000–$4,000,000
Absolute Priorities 4 and 5: $600,000–$1,000,000
Absolute Priorities 6 and 7: $1,000,000–$4,000,000

Estimated Average Size of Awards (for the 48-month project period):

Absolute Priorities 1 and 2: $2,000,000
Absolute Priority 3: $2,000,000
Absolute Priorities 4 and 5: $800,000
Absolute Priorities 6 and 7: $2,000,000

Maximum Award: We will not make an award exceeding the following amounts for each of these priorities for the entire project period of 48 months:

Absolute Priorities 1 and 2: $4,000,000
Absolute Priority 3: $4,000,000
Absolute Priorities 4 and 5: $1,000,000
Absolute Priorities 6 and 7: $4,000,000

Estimated Number of Awards:

Absolute Priorities 1 and 2: 25
Absolute Priority 3: 30
Absolute Priorities 4 and 5: 9
Absolute Priorities 6 and 7: 25.

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Project Period: Up to 48 months.

III. Eligibility Information

1. *Eligible Applicants:* Institutions of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the HEA), consortia of such institutions, and other public and private nonprofit institutions and agencies including State higher education agencies as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1003(22). An eligible entity may submit only one (1) grant application under an area of national need as the lead applicant. An entity can be included as a partner in multiple applications.

Note: The eligible entity may apply to all four (4) areas of national need as the lead applicant but must submit a separate grant application for each area of national need.

Note: An applicant that is a nonprofit organization may, under 34 CFR 75.51, demonstrate its nonprofit status by providing: (1) proof that the Internal Revenue Service currently recognizes the applicant as an organization to which contributions are tax deductible under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; (2) a statement from a State taxing body or the State attorney general certifying that the organization is a nonprofit organization operating within the State and that no part of its net earnings may lawfully benefit any private shareholder or individual; (3) a certified copy of the applicant's certificate of incorporation or similar document if it clearly establishes the nonprofit status of the applicant; or (4) any item described above if that item applies to a State or national parent organization, together with a statement by the State or parent organization that the applicant is a local nonprofit affiliate.

2. a. *Cost Sharing or Matching:* This program does not require cost sharing or matching.

b. *Supplement-Not-Supplant:* This program does not involve supplement-not-supplant funding requirements.

c. *Indirect Cost Rate Information:* This program uses the waiver authority of section 437(d)(1) of GEPA to limit a grantee's indirect cost reimbursement to 8 percent of a modified total direct cost base. We are establishing this indirect cost limit for the FY 2025 grant competition and any subsequent year in which we make awards from the list of unfunded applications from this competition in accordance with section 437(d)(1) of GEPA. For more information regarding indirect costs, or to obtain a negotiated indirect cost rate, please see *www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocfo/intro.html*.

d. *Administrative Cost Limitation:* This program does not include any program-specific limitation on administrative expenses. All administrative expenses must be reasonable and necessary and conform to Cost Principles described in 2 CFR part 200 subpart E of the Uniform Guidance.

3. *Subgrantees:* Under 34 CFR 75.708(b) and (c), a grantee under this competition may award subgrants to directly carry out project activities described in its application to the following types of entities: IHEs and public and private nonprofit institutions and agencies including State higher education agencies as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1003(22).

IV. Application and Submission Information

1. *Application Submission Instructions:* Applicants are required to follow the Common Instructions for Applicants to Department of Education Discretionary Grant Programs, published in the **Federal Register** on August 29, 2025 (90 FR 42234), and available at *https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/08/29/2025-16571/common-instructions-and-information-for-applicants-to-department-of-education-discretionary-grant,* which contain requirements and information on how to submit an application.

2. *Intergovernmental Review:* This program is subject to Executive Order 12372 and the regulations in 34 CFR part 79. Information about Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs under Executive Order 12372 is in the application package for this program. Please note that, under 34 CFR 79.8(a), we have shortened the standard 60-day intergovernmental review period in order to make awards by the end of the period of availability of the funds on December 31, 2025.

3. *Funding Restrictions:* We reference regulations outlining funding

restrictions in the *Applicable Regulations* section of this notice.

4. *Recommended Page Limit:* The application narrative is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. We recommend that you (1) limit the application narrative to no more than 35 pages (2) use the Standards outlined in the Common Instructions.

• **Note:** The Budget Information-Non-Construction Programs Form (ED 524) Sections A–C are not the same as the narrative response to the Budget section of the selection criteria.

5. *Program Profile:* Applicants must indicate in the abstract which area of national need the application addresses, how the proposed project meets the absolute priorities, and, if applicable, the competitive preference priorities. The abstract narrative should identify the partner entities the applicant will be working with, the target population (*e.g.,* faculty, staff, students, etc.), the proposed activities to be conducted during the 4-year performance period, and the anticipated results.

V. Application Review Information

1. *Selection Criteria:* The selection criteria for this competition are from 34 CFR 75.210. Applicants should address each of the selection criteria separately for each proposed activity. The selection criteria are worth a total of 100 points; the maximum score for each criterion is noted in parentheses.

(a) *Significance.* (Maximum 30 points)

(1) The Secretary considers the significance of the proposed project.

(2) In determining the significance of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(i) The extent to which the proposed project is innovative and likely to be more effective compared to other efforts to address a similar problem. (Up to 15 points)

(ii) The importance or magnitude of the results or outcomes likely to be attained by the proposed project, especially contributions toward improving teaching practice and student learning and achievement. (Up to 15 points)

(b) *Quality of the project design.* (Maximum 45 points)

The Secretary considers the quality of the design of the proposed project. In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) The extent to which the proposed project will integrate with or build on similar or related efforts to improve relevant outcomes (as defined in this notice), using existing funding streams from other programs or policies supported by community, State, and Federal resources. (up to 15 points)

(2) The extent to which the design for implementing and evaluating the proposed project will result in information to guide possible replication of project activities or strategies, including valid and reliable information about the effectiveness of the approach or strategies employed by the project. (up to 15 points)

(3) The extent to which the proposed development efforts include adequate quality controls, continuous improvement efforts, and as appropriate, repeated testing of products. (up to 15 points)

(c) *Quality of the management plan.* (Maximum to 10 points)

The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project. In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.

(d) *Quality of the project evaluation or other evidence building.* (Maximum to 15 points)

The Secretary considers the quality of the evaluation to be conducted of the proposed project. In determining the quality of the evaluation, the Secretary considers the following factors:

(1) The extent to which the methods of evaluation are thorough, feasible, and appropriate to the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the proposed project. (up to 5 points)

(2) The extent to which the methods of evaluation or other evidence-building will provide performance feedback and provide formative, diagnostic, or interim data that is a periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes. (up to 5 points)

(3) The extent to which the evaluation will provide guidance about effective strategies suitable for replication or testing and potential implementation in other settings. (up to 5 points).

2. *Review and Selection Process:* We remind potential applicants that in reviewing applications in any discretionary grant competition, the Secretary may consider, under 34 CFR 75.217, information outside the rank order of applications, including: the information in each application; and any other information—

(1) Relevant to a criterion, priority, or other requirement that applies to the selection of applications for new grants;

(2) Concerning the applicant's performance and use of funds under a previous award under any Department program; and

(3) Concerning the applicant's failure under any Department program to submit a performance report or its submission of a performance report of unacceptable quality.

Before making awards, Department staff will screen applications submitted in accordance with the requirements in this notice to determine whether applications have met eligibility and other requirements, including whether an application may fail to meet the ''General Terms and Conditions'' applicable to awarded funds referenced elsewhere within this notice. This screening process may occur at various stages of the review and selection process. Applicants that are determined to be ineligible will not receive a grant, regardless of the whether the application was included in the peer review process. Applications not selected for funding will be informed of the Secretary's decision in accordance with 34 CFR 75.218.

Peer reviewers will read, prepare a written evaluation of, and score the assigned applications, using the selection criteria provided in this notice.

In the event there are two or more applications with the same final score within the same Absolute Priority, and there are insufficient funds to fully support each of these applications, the Department will apply the following procedure to determine which application or applications will receive an award:

First Tiebreaker: The first tiebreaker will be the highest average score for the selection criterion ''Quality of the Project Design''. If a tie remains, the second tiebreaker will be utilized.

Second Tiebreaker: The second tiebreaker will be the highest average score for the selection criterion ''Significance.'' If a tie remains, the third tiebreaker will be utilized.

Third Tiebreaker: The third tiebreaker will be the applicant that promotes equitable geographic distribution of FIPSE–SP grantees.

3. *Risk Assessment and Specific Conditions:* Consistent with 2 CFR 200.206, before awarding grants under this competition the Department conducts a review of the risks posed by applicants. Under 2 CFR 200.208, the Secretary may impose specific conditions and, under 2 CFR 3474.10, in appropriate circumstances, high-risk conditions on a grant if the applicant or grantee is not financially stable; has a history of unsatisfactory performance;

has a financial or other management system that does not meet the standards in 2 CFR part 200, subpart D; has not fulfilled the conditions of a prior grant; or is otherwise not responsible.

4. *Integrity and Performance System:* If you are selected under this competition to receive an award that over the course of the project period may exceed the simplified acquisition threshold (currently $350,000), under 2 CFR 200.206(a)(2) we must make a judgment about your integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards—that is, the risk posed by you as an applicant—before we make an award. In doing so, we must consider any information about you that is in the integrity and performance system (currently referred to as the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)), accessible through the System for Award Management. You may review and comment on any information about yourself that a Federal agency previously entered and that is currently in FAPIIS.

Please note that, if the total value of your currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from the Federal Government exceeds $10,000,000, the reporting requirements in 2 CFR part 200, Appendix XII, require you to report certain integrity information to FAPIIS semiannually. Please review the requirements in 2 CFR part 200, Appendix XII, if this grant plus all the other Federal funds you receive exceed $10,000,000.

5. *In General:* In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget's guidance located at 2 CFR part 200, all applicable Federal laws, and relevant Executive guidance, the Department will review and consider applications for funding pursuant to this notice inviting applications in accordance with:

(a) Selecting recipients most likely to be successful in delivering results based on the program objectives through an objective process of evaluating Federal award applications (2 CFR 200.205);

(b) Prohibiting the purchase of certain telecommunication and video surveillance services or equipment in alignment with section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2019 (Pub. L. 115–232) (2 CFR 200.216);

(c) Providing a preference, to the extent permitted by law, to maximize use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States (2 CFR 200.322); and

(d) Terminating agreements in whole or in part to the greatest extent authorized by law if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities (2 CFR 200.340).

VI. Award Administration Information

1. *General terms and conditions:* If you are awarded a grant under this competition, you must ensure and may be required to demonstrate that Federal funds will not be used under this project in any manner that violates the United States Constitution, Title VI or Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d *et seq.* or 42 U.S.C. 2000e *et seq.*), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 *et seq.*), section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794), the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6101 *et seq.*), Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12131 *et seq.*), the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act of 2001 (20 U.S.C. 7905), section 117 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1011f), or other applicable Federal law. To the extent that a grantee uses grant funds for such unallowable activities, the Department may take appropriate enforcement action including under section 451 of GEPA, including the potential recovery of funds under section 452 of GEPA, or may pursue termination under 2 CFR 200.340. The Grant Award Notification document accompanying your award may contain further terms and conditions, as necessary to ensure grantee compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and administrative priorities.

2. *Award Notices:* If your application is successful, we notify your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators and send you a Grant Award Notification (GAN); or we may send you an email containing a link to access an electronic version of your GAN. We may also notify you informally.

If your application is not evaluated or not selected for funding, we notify you.

3. *Open Licensing Requirements:* Unless an exception applies, if you are awarded a grant under this competition, you will be required to openly license to the public grant deliverables created in whole, or in part, with Department grant funds and that constitute new copyrightable works. When the deliverable consists of modifications to pre-existing works, the license extends only to those modifications that can be separately identified and only to the extent that open licensing is permitted under the terms of any licenses or other legal restrictions on the use of pre-existing works. Additionally, a grantee or subgrantee that is awarded competitive grant funds must have a plan to disseminate these public grant deliverables. This dissemination plan can be developed and submitted after your application has been reviewed and selected for funding. For additional information on the open licensing requirements please refer to 2 CFR 3474.20.

4. *Reporting:* (a) If you apply for a grant under this competition, you must ensure that you have in place the necessary processes and systems to comply with the reporting requirements in 2 CFR part 170 should you receive funding under the competition. See the standards in 2 CFR 170.105 to determine whether you are covered by 2 CFR part 170.

(b) At the end of your project period, you must submit a final performance report, including financial information, as directed by the Secretary. If you receive a multiyear award, you must submit an annual performance report that provides the most current performance and financial expenditure information as directed by the Secretary under 34 CFR 75.118. The Secretary may also require more frequent performance reports under 34 CFR 75.720(c). For specific requirements on reporting, please go to *www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/appforms.html.*

5. *Performance Measures:* For the purpose of Department reporting under 34 CFR 75.110, the Department has established a set of performance measures for this competition:

Project-Specific Performance Measures: Applicants must propose project-specific performance measures and performance targets (both as defined in this notice) consistent with the objectives of the proposed project. Applications must provide the following information as directed under 34 CFR 75.110(b) and (c):

(1) Project-specific performance measures. How each proposed project-specific performance measure would: accurately measure the performance of the project; and be used to inform continuous improvement of the project.

(2) Baseline (as defined in this notice) data. (i) Why each proposed baseline is valid and reliable, including an assessment of the quality data used to establish the baseline; or (ii) if the applicant has determined that there are no established baseline data for a particular performance measure, an explanation of why there is no established baseline and of how and when, during the project period, the applicant would establish a valid baseline for the performance measure.

(3) Performance targets. Why each proposed performance target is ambitious yet achievable compared to

the baseline for the performance measure and when, during the project period, the applicant would meet the performance target(s).

All grantees must submit an annual performance report with information that is responsive to these performance measures.

6. *Continuation Awards:* In making a continuation award under 34 CFR 75.253, the Secretary considers, among other things: whether a grantee has made substantial progress in achieving the goals and objectives of the project; whether the grantee has expended funds in a manner that is consistent with its approved application and budget; and, if the Secretary has established performance measurement requirements, whether the grantee has made substantial progress in achieving the performance targets in the grantee's approved application, or whether the continuation of the project is in the best interest of the Federal Government.

In making a continuation award, the Secretary also considers whether the grantee is operating in compliance with the assurances in its approved application, including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23).

VII. Other Information

Accessible Format: On request to the program contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, individuals with disabilities can obtain this document and a copy of the application package in an accessible format. The Department will provide the requestor with an accessible format that may include Rich Text Format (RTF) or text format (txt), a thumb drive, an MP3 file, braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc, or other accessible format.

Electronic Access to This Document: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. You may access the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations at *www.govinfo.gov.* You may also access documents of the Department published in the **Federal Register** by using the article search feature at *www.federalregister.gov.*

David Barker,

Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education.

[FR Doc. 2025–19843 Filed 11–10–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Notice of Proposals To Engage in or To Acquire Companies Engaged in Permissible Nonbanking Activities

The companies listed in this notice have given notice under section 4 of the Bank Holding Company Act (12 U.S.C. 1843) (BHC Act) and Regulation Y, (12 CFR part 225) to engage de novo, or to acquire or control voting securities or assets of a company, including the companies listed below, that engages either directly or through a subsidiary or other company, in a nonbanking activity that is listed in § 225.28 of Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.28) or that the Board has determined by Order to be closely related to banking and permissible for bank holding companies. Unless otherwise noted, these activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

The public portions of the applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, if any, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank(s) indicated below and at the offices of the Board of Governors. This information may also be obtained on an expedited basis, upon request, by contacting the appropriate Federal Reserve Bank and from the Board's Freedom of Information Office at *https://www.federalreserve.gov/foia/request.htm.* Interested persons may express their views in writing on the question whether the proposal complies with the standards of section 4 of the BHC Act.

Comments received are subject to public disclosure. In general, comments received will be made available without change and will not be modified to remove personal or business information including confidential, contact, or other identifying information. Comments should not include any information such as confidential information that would not be appropriate for public disclosure.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding the applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors, Benjamin W. McDonough, Deputy Secretary of the Board, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20551–0001, not later than November 28, 2025.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta (Erien O. Terry, Assistant Vice President) 1000 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30309. Comments can also be sent electronically to *Applications.Comments@atl.frb.org:*

1. *Education Loan Finance, Inc., Knoxville, Tennessee, and its subsidiary, Southeast Bancorp, Inc., Farragut, Tennessee;* to engage de novo in data processing activities through a proposed new wholly-owned subsidiary, OpenETX, Farragut, Tennessee, pursuant to section 225.28(b)(14) of the Board's Regulation Y.

2. *Credicorp LTD., Hamilton, Bermuda;* to retain voting shares of Credicorp Capital USA, Inc., Miami, Florida, and thereby indirectly retain voting shares of its wholly owned subsidiaries Credicorp Capital Advisors LLC, Miami, Florida, and Credicorp Capital, LLC, Coral Gables, Florida, and thereby continue to engage in riskless principal transactions pursuant to section 225.28(b)(7)(ii) of the Board's Regulation Y.

B. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (Mark Nagle, Assistant Vice President) 90 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55480–0291. Comments can also be sent electronically to *MA@mpls.frb.org:*

1. *Broadway Bancshares, Inc., Gilbert, Minnesota;* to engage de novo in tax-preparation services pursuant to section 225.28(b)(6)(vi), management consulting pursuant to section 225.28(b)(9)(i), and data processing activities pursuant to section 225.28(b)(14), all of the Board's Regulation Y.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Michele Taylor Fennell,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 2025–19856 Filed 11–10–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE; P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841 *et seq.*) (BHC Act), Regulation Y (12 CFR part 225), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The public portions of the applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, if any, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank(s) indicated below and at the offices of the Board of Governors. This information may also be obtained on an expedited basis, upon request, by contacting the appropriate Federal Reserve Bank and from the Board's Freedom of Information Office at *https://www.federalreserve.gov/foia/request.htm.* Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)).

Comments received are subject to public disclosure. In general, comments received will be made available without change and will not be modified to remove personal or business information including confidential, contact, or other identifying information. Comments should not include any information such as confidential information that would not be appropriate for public disclosure.

Comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors, Benjamin W. McDonough, Deputy Secretary of the Board, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20551–0001, not later than December 12, 2025.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Boston (Prabal Chakrabarti, Executive Vice President) 600 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02210–2204. Comments can also be sent electronically to *BOS.SRC.Applications.Comments@bos.frb.org:*

1. *1850 Financial MHC and 1850 Financial Inc., both of Ware, Massachusetts;* to become bank holding companies by acquiring Country Bank for Savings, Ware, Massachusetts (''CBS''), upon the conversion of CBS from mutual to stock form.

B. Federal Reserve Bank of New York (Keith Goodwin, Head of Bank Applications) 33 Liberty Street, New York, New York 10045–0001. Comments can also be sent electronically to *Comments.applications@ny.frb.org:*

1. *UBS Group AG and UBS AG, both of Zurich, Switzerland, and UBS Americas Holding LLC and UBS Americas Inc., both of New York, New York,* to become bank holding companies by acquiring UBS Bank USA, Salt Lake City, Utah, upon the conversion of UBS Bank USA from a state-chartered industrial bank to a national bank.

C. Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland (Jenni M. Frazer, Vice President) 1455 East Sixth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44101–2566. Comments can also be sent electronically to *Comments.applications@clev.frb.org:*

1. *Fifth Third Bancorp and Fifth Third Financial Corporation, both of Cincinnati, Ohio;* to acquire Comerica Incorporated, and thereby indirectly acquire Comerica Holdings, Incorporated, both of Dallas, Texas, and thereby indirectly acquire Comerica Bank, Dallas, Texas, and Comerica Bank & Trust, National Association, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

D. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta [(Erien O. Terry, Assistant Vice President) 1000 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30309; Comments can also be sent electronically to *Applications.Comments@atl.frb.org:*

1. *Fleur Capital Corporation, Simmesport, Louisiana;* to become a bank holding company by acquiring Simmesport State Bank, Simmesport, Louisiana.

2. *Recap Financial Ventures, LLC, Franklin, Tennessee;* to become a bank holding company by acquiring Lineage Financial Network, Inc., and thereby indirectly acquiring Lineage Bank, both of Franklin, Tennessee.

E. Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (Colette A. Fried, Assistant Vice President) 230 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60690–1414. Comments can also be sent electronically to *Comments.applications@chi.frb.org:*

1. *Mercantile Bank Corporation, Grand Rapids, Michigan;* to acquire Eastern Michigan Financial Corporation, and thereby indirectly acquire Eastern Michigan Bank, both of Croswell, Michigan.

2. *University Bancorp, Inc., Ann Arbor, Michigan,* to acquire 8.93 percent of the voting shares of Greater Pacific Bancshares, and thereby indirectly acquire voting shares of Bank of Whittier, National Association, both of Whittier, California.

F. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (Holly A. Rieser, Senior Manager) P.O. Box 442, St. Louis, Missouri 63166–2034. Comments can also be sent electronically to *Comments.applications@stls.frb.org:*

1. *Reliable Community Bancshares, Inc., Perryville, Missouri;* to acquire M1 Bancshares, Inc., and thereby indirectly acquire M1 Bank, both of Clayton, Missouri. In connection with that transaction, BN1 Acquisition Corp., Perryville, Missouri, a subsidiary of Reliable Community Bancshares, Inc., would become a bank holding company by merging with M1 Bancshares, Inc., and thereby indirectly acquiring M1 Bank.

G. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (Mark Nagle, Assistant Vice President) 90 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55480–0291. Comments can also be sent electronically to *MA@mpls.frb.org:*

1. *Stearns Financial Services, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan and its subsidiary Stearns Financial Services, Inc., both of Saint Cloud, Minnesota;* to acquire One American Financial Corporation, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and thereby indirectly acquire One American Bank, Centerville, South Dakota.

H. Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City (Jeffrey Imgarten, Assistant Vice President) 1 Memorial Drive, Kansas City, Missouri 64198–0001. Comments can also be sent electronically to *KCApplicationComments@kc.frb.org:*

1. *Integra BG, LLC, Jackson, Wyoming;* to become a bank holding company by acquiring UCSB Financial Corporation, and thereby indirectly acquiring Uinta Bank, both of Mountain View, Wyoming.

2. *National Bank Holdings Corporation, Greenwood Village, Colorado;* to merge with Vista Bancshares, Inc., and thereby indirectly acquire Vista Bank, both of Dallas, Texas.

I. Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas (Lindsey Wieck, Director, Mergers & Acquisitions) 2200 North Pearl Street, Dallas, Texas 75201–2272. Comments can also be sent electronically to *Comments.applications@dal.frb.org:*

1. *Prosperity Bancshares, Inc., Houston, Texas;* to merge with Southwest Bancshares, Inc., and thereby indirectly acquire Texas Partners Bank, both of San Antonio, Texas.

2. *Cornerstone Capital Bancorp, Inc., Houston, Texas;* to acquire Peoples Bancorp, Inc., and thereby indirectly acquire Peoples Bank, both of Lubbock, Texas.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Michele Taylor Fennell,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 2025–19855 Filed 11–10–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210–01–P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Change in Bank Control Notices; Acquisitions of Shares of a Savings and Loan Holding Company

The notificants listed below have applied under the Change in Bank Control Act (''Act'') (12 U.S.C. 1817(j)) and of the Board's Regulation LL (12 CFR 238.31) to acquire shares of a savings and loan holding company. The factors that are considered in acting on the notices are set forth in paragraph 7 of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(j)(7)).

The public portions of the applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, if any, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank(s) indicated below and at the offices of the Board of Governors. This information may also be obtained on an expedited basis, upon request, by contacting the appropriate Federal Reserve Bank and from the Board's Freedom of Information Office at *https://www.federalreserve.gov/foia/request.htm.* Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in paragraph 7 of the Act.

Comments received are subject to public disclosure. In general, comments received will be made available without change and will not be modified to remove personal or business information including confidential, contact, or other identifying information. Comments should not include any information such as confidential information that would not be appropriate for public disclosure.

Comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors, Benjamin W. McDonough, Deputy Secretary of the Board, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20551–0001, not later than November 28, 2025.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia (William Spaniel, Senior Vice President) 100 North 6th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19105–1521. Comments can also be sent electronically to *comments.applications@phil.frb.org:*

1. *Exploration Capital Fund, LP, Exploration Capital General Partner, LLC, Exploration Capital, LLC, all of Salt Lake City, Utah; and Stephen Gustin, Vineyard, Utah;* as a group acting in concert, to acquire additional voting shares of Gouverneur Bancorp, Inc., and thereby indirectly acquire voting shares of Gouverneur Savings and Loan Association, which controls GS&L Municipal Bank, all of Gouverneur, New York.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Michele Taylor Fennell,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 2025–19854 Filed 11–10–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210–01–P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Change in Bank Control Notices; Acquisitions of Shares of a Bank or Bank Holding Company

The notificants listed below have applied under the Change in Bank Control Act (Act) (12 U.S.C. 1817(j)) and § 225.41 of the Board's Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.41) to acquire shares of a bank or bank holding company. The factors that are considered in acting on the applications are set forth in paragraph 7 of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(j)(7)).

The public portions of the applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, if any, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank(s) indicated below and at the offices of the Board of Governors. This information may also be obtained on an expedited basis, upon request, by contacting the appropriate Federal Reserve Bank and from the Board's Freedom of Information Office at *https://www.federalreserve.gov/foia/request.htm.* Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in paragraph 7 of the Act.

Comments received are subject to public disclosure. In general, comments received will be made available without change and will not be modified to remove personal or business information including confidential, contact, or other identifying information. Comments should not include any information such as confidential information that would not be appropriate for public disclosure.

Comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors, Benjamin W. McDonough, Deputy Secretary of the Board, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20551–0001, not later than November 28, 2025.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland (Jenni M. Frazer, Vice President) 1455 East Sixth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44101–2566. Comments can also be sent electronically to *Comments.applications@clev.frb.org:*

1. *Larry Lindamood, individually, and as trustee of The Lindamood Family Trust and the lntervivos Trust of Marvin A. Lindamood, all of New Lexington, Ohio; Maeanna Lindamood, New Lexington, Ohio, as trustee of The Lindamood Family Trust; Patricia Weese, New Lexington, Ohio, individually, and as trustee of the Intervivos Trust of Marvin A. Lindamood; Ashley Nash and Christopher Weese, New Lexington, Ohio; and Phillip Weese, San Diego, California;* as a group acting in concert, to retain voting shares of Peoples National Bancshares, Inc., and thereby indirectly retain voting shares of Peoples State Bank, both of New Lexington, Ohio.

B. Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (Colette A. Fried, Assistant Vice President) 230 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60690–1414. Comments can also be sent electronically to *Comments.applications@chi.frb.org:*

1. *The Leon J. Mizeur Roth IRA; the Leon J. Mizeur IRA; the Leon J. Mizeur Trust, Leon J. Mizeur, as trustee; Robert T. Mizeur; the Robert T. Mizeur IRA; the Ellen A. Mizeur Trust, Ellen A. Mizeur, as trustee; Mary Mizeur; Peter J. Bolt; Lisa A. Bolt; Susan C. Faivre; Samual T. Faivre; Seth J. Faivre; Ella C. Faivre; Andrew Bolt; Daniel Bolt; Mary C. Mizeur; Anne K. Mizeur; and other minor children, all of Springfield, Illinois;* as a group acting in concert, to retain voting shares of First Illinois Corporation, and thereby indirectly retain voting shares of HPB Holdings, Inc., and Hickory Point Bank and Trust, both of Decatur, Illinois.

2. *Todd M. Madson, Jefferson, Iowa, as voting proxy for Cheri S. Delay, Jefferson, Iowa; Mark S. Larson, Rushford, Minnesota; Pamela S. Larson, Nashville, Tennessee; Lucas J. Lautner, Urbandale, Iowa; Michael T. Licht, Fort Dodge, Iowa; Bret A. Madson, Jefferson, Iowa; the Marie A. Madson Trust, Marie A. Madson, as trustee, both of Fairfax Station, Virginia; Roxanne L. Madson, Lee's Summit, Missouri; and Debra L. Swift, Warren, Connecticut;* to retain voting shares of Security Financial, Inc., Farnhamville, Iowa, and thereby indirectly retain voting shares of Security Savings Bank, Gowrie, Iowa.

Additionally, the Todd M. Madson Trust, Todd M. Madson, as trustee, both of Jefferson, Iowa; to acquire voting shares and together with the aforementioned persons, to join the Lane-Madson Control Group, a group acting in concert, to acquire voting shares of Security Financial, Inc., and thereby indirectly acquire voting shares of Security Savings Bank.

3. *Rexann L. Brant Revocable Trust, Rexann L. Brant as trustee, both of Paullina, Iowa;* to join the Leng Family Group, a group acting in concert, to retain voting shares of Capital Bancshares, Inc., and thereby indirectly retain voting shares of Savings Bank, both of Primghar, Iowa.

4. *The Family Trust created under the Mary E. Lensing Revocable Bank Stock Trust, Marion, Iowa; Hills Bank and Trust Company, as co-trustee, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and Clair J. Lensing, individually and as co-trustee, Marion, Iowa;* to join the Lensing Family Control Group, a group acting in concert, to retain voting shares of Fayette Bancorporation, Marion, Iowa, and thereby indirectly retain voting shares of Maynard Savings Bank, Maynard, Iowa.

5. *Brian David Reichter, Hawkeye, Iowa, individually, and as co-trustee of The Bank 1st Employee Stock Ownership Plan (''ESOP''), West Union,*

Iowa; Tobin Lee Britt, individually, and as co-trustee of ESOP, Shannon Sue Schissel, as co-trustee of ESOP, both of West Union, Iowa; Kimberly Kay Reichter, Hawkeye, Iowa; and Cheryl Ann Reichter, Elkader, Iowa; as a group acting in concert, to acquire voting shares of FNB BanShares, Inc., and thereby indirectly acquire voting shares of Bank 1st, both of West Union, Iowa.

C. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis (Holly A. Rieser, Senior Manager) P.O. Box 442, St. Louis, Missouri 63166–2034. Comments can also be sent electronically to *Comments.applications@stls.frb.org:*

1. *The John W. Waller GST Exempt Trust FBO John Thomas Waller dated July 2, 2004, John Thomas Waller as trustee, both of Sullivan, Missouri; the John W. Waller GST Exempt Trust FBO Matthew James Waller dated July 2, 2004, Matthew James Waller as trustee, both of Manchester, Missouri; the John W. Waller GST Exempt Trust FBO Timothy Scott Waller dated July 2, 2004, Timothy Scott Waller as trustee, both of Sullivan, Missouri; the John W. Waller GST Exempt Trust FBO Cody John Waller dated July 2, 2004, and the John W. Waller GST Non-Exempt Trust FBO Cody John Waller dated July 2, 2004, Cody John Waller as trustee, all of Bourbon, Missouri;* to join the Waller Family Control Group, a group acting in concert, to acquire voting shares of Saint Clair Bancshares, Inc., and thereby indirectly acquire voting shares of Farmers and Merchants Bank of St. Clair, both of St. Clair, Missouri.

2. *Maribeth Moore Frazer, Warren, Arkansas;* to acquire voting shares of Warren Bank and Trust Company, Warren, Arkansas.

D. Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City (Jeffrey Imgarten, Assistant Vice President) 1 Memorial Drive, Kansas City, Missouri 64198–0001. Comments can also be sent electronically to *KCApplicationComments@kc.frb.org:*

1. *Andrew R. Clements and Aaron M. Clements, both of Elmwood, Nebraska;* to acquire voting shares of American Exchange Company, and thereby indirectly acquire voting shares of American Exchange Bank, both of Elmwood, Nebraska.

2. *Randolph (Russ) Meacham, Jr., Ryan Meacham, Christopher Jones, and Dacia Phillips, all of Clinton, Oklahoma, and Andrew Albert, Elk City, Oklahoma;* to establish a group acting in concert; to acquire voting shares of Rocky Financial Corporation, and thereby indirectly acquire voting shares of Bank 360, both of Cordell, Oklahoma.

3. *MC Houghton Trust Dated March 3, 2025, Marcus Houghton and Corbin Houghton, as co-trustees, all of Wichita, Kansas;* to join the Houghton Family Group, a group acting in concert, to acquire voting shares of PBT Bancshares, Inc., and thereby indirectly acquire voting shares of Peoples Bank and Trust Company, both of McPherson, Kansas.

4. *Moneta Trust, St. Louis, Missouri, as trustee of the Joyce V. Hale GRAT Trust fbo Max Alan Hale Family u/a/d July 31, 2003, the JVH Orion Trust for the Max Alan Hale Family u/a/d July 8, 2011, the JVH Orion Trust for the Lisa K. Hale Family u/a/d July 8, 2011, and the JJH Credit Shelter Trust u/a/d August 4, 2023, all of Kansas City, Missouri; Dana Hale Nelson as trustee of the JVH Orion Trust for the Dana Hale Nelson Family u/a/d July 8, 2011, both of Kansas City, Missouri; Karen Hale Young, as trustee of the JVH Orion Trust for the Karen Hale Young Family u/a/d July 8, 2011, and the Joyce V. Hale GRAT f/b/o Karen Hale Young Family u/a/d July 8, 2011, all of Kansas City, Missouri; Mollie Carter, Denver, Colorado, and Roger Gallo, Kansas City, Missouri, as co-trustees of Orion VHC Trust for the benefit of the Mollie H. Carter Family u/a/d July 8, 2011, and the Wood Racket Trust, both of Kansas City, Missouri;* to join the Hale Family Control Group, a group acting in concert, to retain voting shares of FirstSun Capital Bancorp, Denver, Colorado (''FirstSun''), and thereby indirectly retain voting shares of Sunflower Bank, National Association, Dallas, Texas (''Sunflower Bank'').

In addition, The JJH Credit Shelter Trust u/a/d August 4, 2023, Innes B. Hale, Kansas City, Missouri, and Ennis A. Rios and Ambyr R. Rios, both of Manhattan, Kansas; to join the Hale Family Control Group, a group acting in concert, to acquire voting shares of FirstSun, and thereby indirectly acquire voting shares of Sunflower Bank.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Michele Taylor Fennell,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 2025–19853 Filed 11–10–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

[Docket No. BOEM–2025–0351]

Commercial Leasing for Outer Continental Shelf Minerals Offshore the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands—Request for Information and Interest

AGENCY: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Interior.

ACTION: Request for information and interest.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is initiating the first steps that could potentially lead to a lease sale for minerals on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) offshore the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) by publishing this request for information and interest (RFI). This RFI is not a final decision to lease and does not prejudge any future Secretarial decisions concerning leasing on the OCS offshore the CNMI. This RFI requests information and comments on, and indications of interest in, the leasing of OCS minerals in an area offshore the CNMI, referred to as the RFI Area, with details in section 5 ''Description of the RFI Area.'' BOEM will consider information and interest received in response to this RFI when considering whether to proceed with additional steps leading to an offer of OCS minerals for lease offshore the CNMI. Those interested in providing comments or information should provide the information requested in section 6, ''Types of Information and Comments Requested,'' of this RFI. Those interested in leasing in and around the RFI Area for OCS mineral development should provide the information described in section 7, ''Requested Information for Indications of Interest.'' BOEM may or may not offer a lease for commercial OCS mineral development offshore the CNMI after further consultations, public participation, and environmental analyses.

DATES: BOEM must receive all comments, information, and indications of interest in response to this RFI no later than December 12, 2025.

ADDRESSES: Please submit indications of interest in commercial leasing electronically via email to *Pacific.Region@boem.gov* or by hard copy by mail to the following address: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Pacific Region, Office of Strategic Resources, 760 Paseo Camarillo (CM 102), Camarillo, California 93010. If you elect to mail a hard copy, also include an electronic copy on a portable storage device. Do not submit indications of interest via the Federal eRulemaking Portal.

Please submit all other comments and information as discussed in section 6, entitled, ''Types of Information and Comments Requested,'' by either of the following two methods:

1. Federal eRulemaking Portal: *http://www.regulations.gov.* In the search box at the top of the web page, enter BOEM–2025–0351 and then click ''search.'' Follow the instructions to submit public comments and to view supporting and related materials.

2. By mail to the following address: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Pacific Region, Office of Strategic Resources, 760 Paseo Camarillo (CM 102), Camarillo, California 93010.

Treatment of confidential information is addressed in section 8 of this notice entitled, ''Protection of Privileged, Personal, or Confidential Information.'' BOEM will post all comments received on *regulations.gov,* unless the comments are labeled as confidential and BOEM determines that an exemption from disclosure applies.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Miller, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Pacific Region, Office of Strategic Resources, 760 Paseo Camarillo (CM 102), Camarillo, California 93010, at *Pacific.Region@boem.gov* or (805) 384–6305.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The OCS Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.*) declares that it is the policy of the United States that the OCS ''is a vital national resource reserve held by the Federal Government for the public, which should be made available for expeditious and orderly development, subject to environmental safeguards, in a manner which is consistent with the maintenance of competition and other national needs.'' *Id.* at 1332(3). BOEM requests information and comments from Indigenous communities, territory, state, and local governments, Federal agencies, environmental and other public interest organizations, the deep-sea mineral mining industry, other interested organizations and entities, and the public, for use in the consideration of whether to offer OCS minerals for lease offshore the CNMI. BOEM is seeking a wide array of information, including but not limited to information on the potential impact of OCS mineral exploration and development on OCS resources and the marine, coastal, and human environments. This RFI is published under the OCS Lands Act, 43 U.S.C. 1337(k)(1), and its implementing regulations at 30 CFR 581.12.

1. Public Comment Procedure

BOEM's strong preference is to receive comments via *regulations.gov,* except when a comment contains proprietary information. Comments should include the full name and address of the individual submitting the comment(s). All relevant comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on *www.regulations.gov* without change. All personal identifying information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. If you would like BOEM to withhold your personal identifying information, please state so prominently as described below in Section 8. BOEM cannot guarantee that we will be able to withhold any voluntarily submitted information. Even if BOEM withholds your information in the context of this RFI, your submission is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and if your submission is requested under the FOIA, your information will only be withheld if a determination is made that one of the FOIA's exemptions to disclosure applies. Such a determination will be made in accordance with the Department's FOIA regulations and applicable law.

2. Background Information

Section 8(k) of the OCS Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337(k)) authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to grant leases on the OCS to qualified persons offering the highest cash bonuses for minerals other than oil, gas, and sulfur on a competitive basis. The Trump Administration recognizes that an overreliance on foreign critical minerals and their derivative products could jeopardize U.S. defense capabilities, infrastructure development, and technological innovation. To support and facilitate domestic production of critical minerals, President Trump has issued a series of Executive Orders (E.O.s), including E.O. 14156, ''Declaring a National Energy Emergency'' (January 20, 2025); E.O. 14154, ''Unleashing American Energy'' (January 20, 2025); and E.O. 14285, ''Unleashing America's Offshore Critical Minerals and Resources'' (April 24, 2025). The Secretary of the Interior also issued Secretary's Order (SO) 3417, ''Addressing the National Energy Emergency,'' (February 3, 2025) and SO 3418, ''Unleashing American Energy,'' (February 3, 2025) which direct Department of the Interior (DOI) bureaus to facilitate and expedite critical mineral permitting, leasing, and ultimately development of critical minerals on the OCS.

In response to the EOs and SOs, BOEM is taking immediate action to accelerate the responsible development of OCS mineral resources, advance American leadership in associated extraction technologies, and ensure secure supply chains for U.S. defense, infrastructure, and energy sectors with the publication of this RFI.

Earlier this year, BOEM initiated the process for a potential lease sale offshore American Samoa with the publication of an RFI on Commercial Leasing for OCS minerals offshore American Samoa; please refer to the RFI (Docket No. BOEM–2025–0035) published in the **Federal Register** (90 FR 25369) on June 16, 2025, for more information. Additional information on American Samoa activities can be found at: *https://www.boem.gov/American-Samoa.*

BOEM will advance America's national security and future prosperity through the identification of and access to OCS minerals, which include those minerals identified as critical minerals by Federal statute. Pursuant to Section 7002 of the Energy Act of 2020 (Pub. L. 116–260, Division Z), critical minerals are defined as any minerals, elements, substances, or materials that are determined to be essential to the economic and national security of the United States, have a supply chain vulnerable to disruption, and play an essential role in manufacturing a product whose absence would significantly affect U.S. economic or national security. The Secretary of the Interior, through the U.S. Geological Survey, identified 50 critical minerals in February 24, 2022 (87 FR 10381). According to a 2025 Congressional Research Service report (Report No. R48302) up to 37 of these minerals may occur on the OCS. The list of critical minerals is being updated by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and may change during the publication period of this notice.

Section 50251(b) of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 expanded the definition of the OCS under the OCS Lands Act to include submerged lands within the Exclusive Economic Zone adjacent to U.S. territories and amended the OCS Lands Act by modifying the definition of ''State'' to include each of the 50 States of the Union, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the CNMI. BOEM will coordinate with the Government of the CNMI throughout the OCS mineral leasing process relating to the area proposed for leasing.

Notably, upon release of this RFI, BOEM intends to evaluate lease planning with the Government of the CNMI, relevant OCS users, and Federal agencies including, but not limited to, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and the Office of Insular Affairs; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; the U.S. Coast Guard; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and the Department of Defense. BOEM also intends to engage with the Indigenous Peoples of the CNMI, including the Chamorro and Carolinian (Refaluwasch) people, about their economic, environmental, cultural and public health concerns with OCS mineral development throughout the OCS mineral planning and leasing process. In addition, BOEM uses other information sources in its decision-making for leasing, such as available data and information on the location of marine life and habitat areas, cultural resources, transportation links, fishing areas, and other human uses.

3. BOEM's Leasing Process

BOEM will follow the steps required by 30 CFR 581.14 through 581.23 if it decides to proceed with the competitive leasing process after analyzing the responses to this RFI. Briefly, those steps are:

(1) OCS Mining Area Identification: BOEM will select tracts to be considered for offering of a lease. The selected tracts will be considered in the environmental analysis conducted for the proposed lease offering.

(2) Proposed Leasing Notice (PLN): BOEM will publish a PLN in the **Federal Register** at least 60 days before the publication of a leasing notice. The PLN will describe the areas that BOEM intends to offer for leasing; proposed primary terms of the OCS mineral leases to be offered; lease stipulations, including measures to mitigate potentially adverse impacts on the environment; and such rental, royalty, and other terms and conditions that BOEM may prescribe in the leasing notice.

(3) Leasing Notice (LN): If it decides to proceed to conduct a lease sale, BOEM will publish an LN in the **Federal Register** at least 30 days before the date of the lease sale. The LN will state whether oral or sealed bids or a combination thereof will be used; the place, date, and time at which sealed bids will be filed; and the place, date, and time at which sealed bids will be opened and/or oral bids received. The LN will contain or reference a description of the tract(s) to be offered for lease; specify the mineral(s) to be offered for lease (if less than all OCS minerals are being offered); specify the period of time the primary term of the lease will cover; and any stipulation(s), term(s), and condition(s) of the offer to lease. Additionally, the LN will include a reference to the OCS mineral lease form that will be issued to successful bidders and specify the terms and conditions governing the payment of the winning bid.

(4) Bid Submission and Evaluation: BOEM will offer the lease area(s) through a competitive, cash bonus bidding process under terms and conditions specified in the LN.

(5) Issuance of a Lease: Following identification of a winning qualified bidder on a lease area, BOEM will notify that bidder and provide the lease documents for signature.

4. Purpose of the RFI

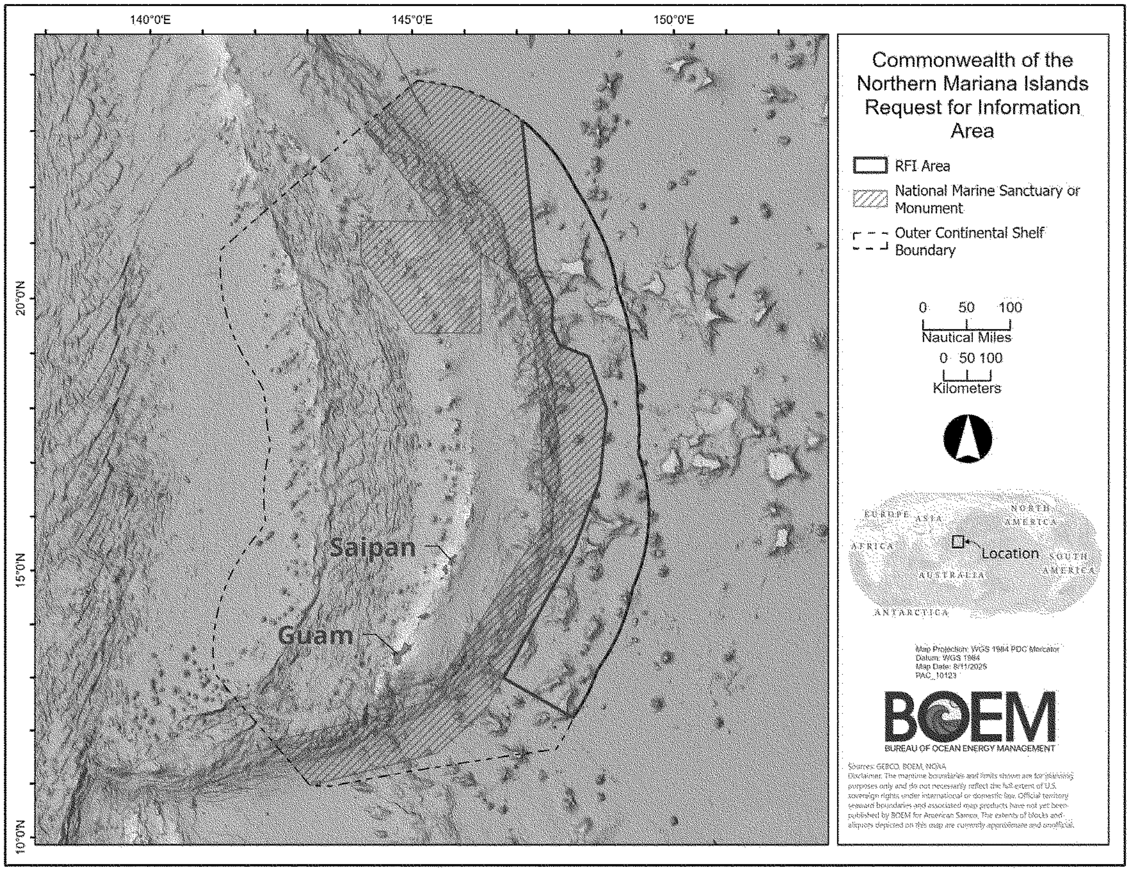
The purpose of this RFI is to gather comments, information, and indications of interest from any interested parties for a potential OCS mineral lease sale offshore the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This RFI is one of the steps in the public participation process to ensure that all interests and concerns are considered for future leasing decisions. This does not mean that DOI or BOEM has reached a preliminary decision to lease in this area. BOEM will consider information and comments received that may identify any potential environmental impacts, multiple use conflicts, and ways to eliminate, mitigate, and monitor for impacts to assist in future analysis and leasing decisions. BOEM will also determine if any responses identify specific areas of interest in and around the RFI Area that could support commercial mineral development, potential conflicts among offshore activities and the CNMI coastal zone management plan, and requirements to ensure safe and environmentally responsible activities should a lease sale occur.

5. Description of the RFI Area

The CNMI is an unincorporated territory and commonwealth of the United States located in the northwestern Pacific Ocean and includes the 14 northernmost islands of the Mariana Archipelago. The RFI Area is located west of the Mariana Trench National Monument along the eastern edge of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (Northern Mariana Islands). This area is approximately 35,483,044 acres (143,595 km^2) with an approximate water depth of 3,700–25,100 feet (1,130–7,650 meters) and lies entirely within the OCS offshore the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The southern boundary of the RFI Area is approximately equal distance between the islands of Guam and Rota, the southernmost island of the CNMI. The RFI Area consists of abyssal plain, seamounts, and guyots and includes 6,502 whole or partial OCS lease blocks. The closest distance from Saipan to the RFI Area is approximately 128 statute miles (206 kilometers). BOEM plans to refer to Official Protraction Diagrams, whole or partial OCS lease blocks, and aliquots for the purpose of area identification and tract size specification. This is consistent with previous RFIs issued related to OCS mineral lease sales and the practice used by BOEM for other OCS leasing (*e.g.,* oil and gas, other minerals). The map depicting the RFI Area (Figure 1), a spreadsheet listing its specific OCS blocks, and an Esri shapefile are available for download on the BOEM website at: *www.boem.gov/Northern-Mariana-Islands.*

The RFI Area is within a marine mineral prospective region for ferromanganese crust and nodules, as identified by the USGS. A map of the global marine mineral prospective regions is available at: *https://www.usgs.gov/media/images/global-marine-mineral-prospective-regions-map.* This designation indicates that conditions are favorable for the formation of ferromanganese crusts and nodule deposits in the RFI Area and therefore, potentially suitable for OCS mineral development. Respondents may nominate areas of interest and comment on any acreage in and around the RFI Area. The RFI Area is not indicative of the specific areas that may ultimately be offered for lease. Responses to this RFI will help determine lease tract size and block configurations for any potential leasing. If BOEM proceeds with the leasing process, tract sizes will be proposed in the PLN and finalized in the LN.

Figure 1: Request for Information and Interest (RFI) Area



6. Types of Information and Comments Requested

BOEM invites comments from anyone who would like to submit information and suggestions for consideration in determining, among other things, the appropriate size and location of potential OCS mineral leasing in and around the RFI Area. Commenters should be as specific and detailed as possible to help BOEM understand and address the comments. Where applicable, spatial information should be submitted in a format compatible with Esri ArcGIS (Esri shapefile, Esri file geodatabase, KML (Keyhole Markup Language), GeoJSON, or GeoPackage) in the WGS84 geographic coordinate system. BOEM is requesting information on the following:

a. Information concerning the offering of a specific OCS mineral, a group of OCS minerals, or all OCS minerals (other than oil, gas, and sulfur) in a broad area for lease in and around the RFI Area or the offering of one or more discrete tracts which represent a mineable orebody.

b. Geological conditions, archaeological resources, or potential hazards on the seabed in and around the RFI Area.

c. Multiple uses in and around the RFI Area, including shipping, navigation, and recreation.

d. Socioeconomic, biological, and environmental information in and around the RFI Area or analogous sites for comparative analysis; potential impacts of leasing and mining activities to these resources; and methods to eliminate, mitigate, and monitor for impacts.

e. Information regarding commercial, Indigenous, and recreational fisheries, including but not limited to, the use of the areas, the fishing gear types used, seasonal use, and recommendations for reducing use conflicts.

f. Relative environmental sensitivity and marine productivity in and around the RFI Area.

g. Information on the preliminary activities necessary to develop comprehensive delineation, testing, or mining plans, particularly the types of any necessary surveys and associated equipment.

h. Information on the types of activities associated with delineation, testing, or mining of OCS minerals.

i. Information concerning the relationship between OCS mineral leasing and the CNMI Coastal Zone Management Program either in development or administered under Section 305 or Section 306 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 1454 and 1455).

j. Information related to Indigenous Peoples in the region and interactions with potential OCS mineral activities, such as potential impacts to Chamorro and Carolinian culture, the Indigenous ways of life; practices; lands; resources; ancestral lands; sacred sites, including sites that are submerged; and access to traditional areas of cultural or religious importance on federally-managed lands and waters. BOEM will protect confidential information shared by Indigenous Peoples in response to this RFI to the extent authorized by Federal law. Treatment of confidential information is addressed in section 8 of this notice entitled, ‘‘Protection of Privileged, Personal, or Confidential Information.’’

k. Socioeconomic information for communities potentially affected by OCS mineral leasing in and around the RFI Area, including community profiles, vulnerability, and resiliency data. BOEM also solicits comments on how best to meaningfully engage with these communities.

l. Information from the deep-sea mining industry on the considerations for OCS mineral development in deep waters, such as water depth, seafloor conditions, deep-sea operations, mineral extraction feasibility, and costs.

m. Information on what a reasonable and fair rental rate would be for a minerals lease, including whether and why a rental payment should be required in the first five years, and if not, in accordance with 30 CFR 581.27, what the rental payment should be starting in year six. Should the adjustment or suspension of rental payments be allowed under certain conditions, such as geologic, geographic, technical, or economic factors? If so, what specific conditions should apply?

n. Information on the royalty rates and schedules that would effectively serve as both an incentive for development and assure a fair return to the public for extracted minerals. BOEM intends to issue any minerals lease with an ad valorum royalty and include provisions for a minimum royalty equivalent to the rental rate per 30 CFR 581.30. The royalty schedule may be modified from the provisions in 30 CFR 581.28(b) and is anticipated to include a lower royalty rate during the early years of the lease to foster interest in any potential leases.

o. Information on appropriate bid deposit, minimum bid levels, and preferred auction format (sealed bid or ascending). BOEM is evaluating the use of either a sealed bid or an ascending oral bid auction format and is considering limiting bidders to one lease area if multiple areas are offered. An ascending auction allows for more effective price discovery, while a sealed bid auction offers administrative simplicity.

p. Information on the appropriate lease size BOEM should offer for a minerals lease offshore the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

q. Information on the duration and conditions BOEM should consider for potential lease contraction clauses. BOEM expects to offer one or more large lease areas so companies can explore for and find economic deposits of critical minerals. However, BOEM is also considering lease contraction clauses, which would allow for the reduction of the leased acreage after a specified period. BOEM is evaluating a 2-stage lease contraction process, scheduled around years 7 and 14. The first contraction would reduce the acreage to the most suitable area for more detailed exploration. The second contraction would further refine the lease area to define the acreage for commercial harvesting. We ask the public to consider and provide comments about what the preferrable acreage for each lease contraction stage might be and what the optimal years for implementing these two stages of lease contraction might be.

r. The regulations at 30 CFR 581.26(h) establish a framework for valuing production for royalty purposes. We invite public comment on whether there are alternative valuation methods that ONRR should consider under 30 CFR 581.26(h)(1)(iii).

7. Requested Information for Indications of Interest

Areas of interest and the accompanying rationale are extremely useful to help BOEM understand and model the commercial viability of portions of the OCS for mineral leasing. Respondents are requested to nominate specific blocks or acreage within the RFI Area that are of particular interest for consideration in a possible OCS mineral lease sale. Nominations must be depicted on a map with the RFI Area by outlining the area(s) of interest. Where applicable, interested companies should submit spatial information in a format compatible with Esri ArcGIS (Esri shapefile, Esri file geodatabase, KML (Keyhole Markup Language), GeoJSON, or GeoPackage) in the WGS84 geographic coordinate system.

If you wish to indicate interest for one or more areas for a commercial OCS mineral lease in or around the RFI Area, you should provide the following information for each area of interest:

(a) The area to be offered for lease.

(b) The OCS minerals of primary interest.

(c) The available OCS mineral resource, geological, archaeological resources, and environmental information (including methods to eliminate, mitigate, and monitor for potential impacts) pertaining to the area of interest to be offered for lease which supports the request.

Although the identities of those indicating interest in specific areas in response to this RFI become a matter of public record, their indications of interest in specific areas are considered proprietary information. BOEM will not release information that identifies any particular area of interest or nomination with any particular party, so as not to compromise the competitive position of any participants. Respondents may rank areas of specific interest according to priority: 1 (high), 2 (medium), and 3 (low). The name and telephone number of a person in the respondent's organization to contact for additional information or clarification should be included in the response.

Please submit indications of interest in commercial leasing of specific areas electronically via email to *Pacific.Region@boem.gov* or by hard copy by mail to the following address: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Pacific Region, Office of Strategic Resources, 760 Paseo Camarillo (CM 102), Camarillo, California 93010. If you elect to mail a hard copy, also include an electronic copy on a portable storage device. Do not submit indications of interest via the Federal eRulemaking Portal.

8. Protection of Privileged, Personal, or Confidential Information

a. Freedom of Information Act

BOEM will protect privileged or confidential information that you submit when required by the FOIA. Exemption 4 of FOIA applies to trade secrets and commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential. If you wish to protect the confidentiality of such information, clearly label it and request that BOEM treat it as confidential. BOEM will not disclose such information if BOEM determines under 30 CFR 581.7 that it qualifies for exemption from disclosure under FOIA. Please label privileged or confidential information "Contains Confidential Information" and consider submitting such information as a separate attachment.

BOEM will not treat as confidential any aggregate summaries of such information or comments not containing such privileged or confidential information. Information that is not labeled as privileged or confidential may be regarded by BOEM as suitable for public release.

b. Personally Identifiable Information

BOEM discourages the submission of anonymous comments. Please include your name and address as part of your comment. You should be aware that your entire comment, including your name, address, and any personally identifiable information (PII) or otherwise sensitive information included voluntarily in your comment may be made publicly available. All submissions from identified individuals, businesses, and organizations will be available for public viewing on regulations.gov. Note that BOEM will make available for public inspection all comments, in their entirety, submitted by organizations and businesses, or by individuals identifying themselves as representatives of organizations or businesses.

For BOEM to consider withholding your PII from disclosure, you must identify any information contained in your comments and an explanation about how its release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of your personal privacy. You must also briefly describe any possible harmful consequences of the disclosure of information, such as embarrassment, injury, or other harm. Even if BOEM withholds your information in the context of this RFI, your submission is subject to FOIA and, if your submission is requested under FOIA, your information will be withheld only if a determination is made that one of FOIA's exemptions to disclosure applies. Such a determination will be made in accordance with the Department's FOIA regulations and applicable law.

c. Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. 307103(a))

After consultation with the Secretary, BOEM is required to withhold the location, character, or ownership of historic resources if it determines that disclosure may, among other things, risk harm to the historic resources or impede the use of a traditional religious site by practitioners. Indigenous Peoples, communities, and organizations should designate information that falls under Section 304 of the NHPA as confidential.

Matthew Giacona,

Acting Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

[FR Doc. 2025–19852 Filed 11–10–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4340–98–P

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

National Endowment for the Arts

Arts Advisory Panel Meetings

AGENCY: National Endowment for the Arts.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given that 34 meetings of the Arts Advisory Panel to the National Council on the Arts will be held by teleconference or videoconference.

DATES: See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for individual meeting times and dates. All meetings are Eastern time and ending times are approximate:

ADDRESSES: National Endowment for the Arts, Constitution Center, 400 7th St. SW, Washington, DC 20506.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Further information with reference to these meetings can be obtained from Daniel Beattie, Office of Guidelines & Panel Operations, National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, DC 20506; *ogpo@arts.gov,* or call 202–682–5688.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The closed portions of meetings are for the purpose of Panel review, discussion, evaluation, and recommendations on financial assistance under the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, as amended, including information given in confidence to the agency. In accordance with the determination of the Chair of March 11, 2022, these sessions will be closed to the public pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 10.

The upcoming meetings are:

Film & Media Arts (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: December 15, 2025; 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Film & Media Arts (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: December 15, 2025; 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Music Theater (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: December 16, 2025; 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Theater (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: December 16, 2025; 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Locals (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: December 16, 2025; 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Theater (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: December 17, 2025; 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Theater (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: December 17, 2025; 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Visual Arts (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: December 18, 2025; 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Visual Arts (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: December 18, 2025; 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Visual Arts (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: December 19, 2025; 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Music (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: January 13, 2026; 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Music (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: January 13, 2026; 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Museums (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: January 13, 2026; 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Museums (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: January 13, 2026; 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Music (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: January 14, 2026; 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Music (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: January 14, 2026; 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Music (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: January 15, 2026; 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Opera (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: January 15, 2026; 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Design and Our Town (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: January 15, 2026; 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Design and Our Town (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: January 15, 2026; 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Literary Arts (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: January 15, 2026; 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Literary Arts (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: January 15, 2026; 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Presenting and Multidisciplinary Works (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: January 20, 2026; 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Presenting and Multidisciplinary Works (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: January 21, 2026; 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Presenting and Multidisciplinary Works (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: January 22, 2026; 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Dance (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: January 26, 2026; 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Folk and Traditional Arts (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: January 27, 2026; 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Arts Education (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: January 27, 2026; 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Dance (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: January 28, 2026; 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Arts Education (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: January 28, 2026; 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Folk and Traditional Arts (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: January 29, 2026; 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Arts Education (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: January 29, 2026; 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Arts Education (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: January 29, 2026; 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Dance (review of applications): This meeting will be closed.

Date and time: January 30, 2026; 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Dated: November 6, 2025.

Daniel Beattie,

Director, Guidelines & Panel Operations National Endowment for the Arts.

[FR Doc. 2025–19845 Filed 11–10–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7537–01–P

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. CP2024–13; MC2026–86 and K2026–86; MC2026–87 and K2026–87]

New Postal Products

AGENCY: Postal Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commission is noticing a recent Postal Service filing for the Commission's consideration concerning a negotiated service agreement. This notice informs the public of the filing, invites public comment, and takes other administrative steps.

DATES: *Comments are due:* November 17, 2025.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments electronically via the Commission's Filing Online system at *https://www.prc.gov.* Those who cannot submit comments electronically should contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section by telephone for advice on filing alternatives.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David A. Trissell, General Counsel, at 202–789–6820.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Table of Contents

I. Introduction

Pursuant to 39 CFR 3041.405, the Commission gives notice that the Postal Service filed request(s) for the Commission to consider matters related to Competitive negotiated service agreement(s). The request(s) may propose the addition of a negotiated service agreement from the Competitive product list or the modification of an existing product currently appearing on the Competitive product list.

The public portions of the Postal Service's request(s) can be accessed via the Commission's website (*http://www.prc.gov*). Non-public portions of the Postal Service's request(s), if any, can be accessed through compliance with the requirements of 39 CFR 3011.301.[1]

Section II identifies the docket number(s) associated with each Postal Service request, if any, that will be reviewed in a public proceeding as defined by 39 CFR 3010.101(p), the title of each such request, the request's acceptance date, and the authority cited by the Postal Service for each request. For each such request, the Commission appoints an officer of the Commission to represent the interests of the general public in the proceeding, pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505 and 39 CFR 3000.114 (Public Representative). The Public Representative does not represent any individual person, entity or particular point of view, and, when Commission attorneys are appointed, no attorney-client relationship is established. Section II also establishes comment deadline(s) pertaining to each such request.

[1] *See* Docket No. RM2018–3, Order Adopting Final Rules Relating to Non-Public Information, June 27, 2018, Attachment A at 19–22 (Order No. 4679).

The Commission invites comments on whether the Postal Service's request(s) identified in Section II, if any, are consistent with the policies of title 39. Applicable statutory and regulatory requirements include 39 U.S.C. 3632, 39 U.S.C. 3633, 39 U.S.C. 3642, 39 CFR part 3035, and 39 CFR part 3041. Comment deadline(s) for each such request, if any, appear in Section II.

Section III identifies the docket number(s) associated with each Postal Service request, if any, to add a standardized distinct product to the Competitive product list or to amend a standardized distinct product, the title of each such request, the request's acceptance date, and the authority cited by the Postal Service for each request. Standardized distinct products are negotiated service agreements that are variations of one or more Competitive products, and for which financial models, minimum rates, and classification criteria have undergone advance Commission review. *See* 39 CFR 3041.110(n); 39 CFR 3041.205(a). Such requests are reviewed in summary proceedings pursuant to 39 CFR 3041.325(c)(2) and 39 CFR 3041.505(f)(1). Pursuant to 39 CFR 3041.405(c)–(d), the Commission does not appoint a Public Representative or request public comment in proceedings to review such requests. The comment due date discussed below does not apply to Section III proceedings (Docket Nos. MC2026–87 and K2026–87).

II. Public Proceeding(s)

1. *Docket No(s).:* CP2024–13; *Filing Title:* Request of the United States Postal Service Concerning Modification Two to Priority Mail Express International, Priority Mail International & Commercial ePacket Contract 2 Negotiated Service Agreement, which Includes an Extension of that Agreement; *Filing Acceptance Date:* November 6, 2025; *Filing Authority:* 39 CFR 3035.105 and 39 CFR 3041.505; *Public Representative:* Katalin Clendenin; *Comments Due:* November 17, 2025.

2. *Docket No(s).:* MC2026–86 and K2026–86; *Filing Title:* USPS Request to Add Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail & USPS Ground Advantage Contract 1457 to the Competitive Product List and Notice of Filing Materials Under Seal; *Filing Acceptance Date:* November 6, 2025; *Filing Authority:* 39 U.S.C. 3642, 39 CFR 3035.105, and 39 CFR 3041.310; *Public Representative:* Jennaca Upperman; *Comments Due:* November 17, 2025.

III. Summary Proceeding(s)

1. *Docket No(s).:* MC2026–87 and K2026–87; *Filing Title:* USPS Request to Add New Fulfillment Standardized Distinct Product, PM–GA Contract 912, and Notice of Filing Materials Under Seal; *Filing Acceptance Date:* November 6, 2025; *Filing Authority:* 39 U.S.C. 3642 and 3633, 39 CFR 3035.105, and 39 CFR 3041.325.

This Notice will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Erica A. Barker,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2025–19857 Filed 11–10–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710–FW–P

POSTAL SERVICE

Product Change—Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, and USPS Ground Advantage Negotiated Service Agreements; Priority Mail and USPS Ground Advantage Negotiated Service Agreements; Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, USPS Ground Advantage, and Parcel Select Negotiated Service Agreements

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Postal Service gives notice of filing a request with the Postal Regulatory Commission to add a domestic shipping services contract to the list of Negotiated Service Agreements in the Mail Classification Schedule's Competitive Products List.

DATES: *Date of required notice:* November 12, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sean C. Robinson, 202–268–8405.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The United States Postal Service hereby gives notice that, pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3642 and 3632(b)(3), it filed with the Postal Regulatory Commission the following requests:

Date filed with Postal Regulatory Commission	Negotiated service agreement product category and No.	MC docket No.	K docket No.
10/31/25	PME–PM–GA–PS 6	MC2026–73	K2026–73
11/03/25	PME–PM–GA 1454	MC2026–74	K2026–74
11/03/25	PME–PM–GA 1455	MC2026–75	K2026–75
11/03/25	PM–GA 904	MC2026–76	K2026–76
11/03/25	PME–PM–GA 1456	MC2026–78	K2026–78
11/04/25	PM–GA 905	MC2026–79	K2026–79
11/04/25	PM–GA 906	MC2026–80	K2026–80
11/04/25	PM–GA 907	MC2026–81	K2026–81
11/05/25	PM–GA 908	MC2026–82	K2026–82
11/05/25	PM–GA 909	MC2026–83	K2026–83
11/05/25	PM–GA 910	MC2026–84	K2026–84
11/05/25	PM–GA 911	MC2026–85	K2026–85
11/06/25	PME–PM–GA 1457	MC2026–86	K2026–86
11/06/25	PM–GA 912	MC2026–87	K2026–87

Documents are available at *www.prc.gov.*

Colleen Hibbert-Kapler,

Attorney, Ethics and Legal Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2025–19842 Filed 11–10–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710–12–P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Disaster Declaration #21342; ILLINOIS Disaster Number IL–20021 Declaration of Economic Injury]

Administrative Declaration of an Economic Injury Disaster for the State of Illinois

AGENCY: U.S. Small Business Administration.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is a notice of an Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) declaration for the State of Illinois dated November 6, 2025.

Incident: Algal Bloom Water Contamination.

DATES: Issued on November 6, 2025.

Incident Period: July 10, 2025 through August 1, 2025.

Economic Injury (EIDL) Loan Application Deadline Date: August 6, 2026.

ADDRESSES: *Visit the MySBA Loan Portal at https://lending.sba.gov* to apply for a disaster assistance loan.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharon Henderson, Office of Disaster Recovery & Resilience, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street SW, Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416, (202) 205–6734.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that as a result of the Administrator's EIDL declaration, applications for disaster loans may be submitted online using the MySBA Loan Portal *https://lending.sba.gov* or other locally announced locations. Please contact the SBA disaster assistance customer service center by email at *disastercustomerservice@sba.gov* or by phone at 1–800–659–2955 for further assistance.

The following areas have been determined to be adversely affected by the disaster:

Primary County: Coles.

Contiguous Counties:

Illinois: Clark, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Moultrie, Shelby.

The Interest Rates are:

	Percent
Business and Small Agricultural Cooperatives without Credit Available Elsewhere	4.000
Non-Profit Organizations without Credit Available Elsewhere	3.625

The number assigned to this disaster for economic injury is 213420.

The State which received an EIDL Declaration is Illinois.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 59008)

(Authority: 13 CFR 123.3(b).)

James Stallings,

Associate Administrator, Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience.

[FR Doc. 2025–19841 Filed 11–10–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8026–09–P

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

[Docket No. SSA–2025–0225]

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

AGENCY: Social Security Administration (SSA).

ACTION: Notice of a modified system of records.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, we are issuing public notice of our intent to modify an existing system of records entitled, Master Files of Social Security Number (SSN) Holders and SSN Applications (60–0058), last published on February 20, 2025. This notice publishes details of the modified system as set forth below under the caption, **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

DATES: The system of records notice (SORN) is applicable upon its publication in today's **Federal Register**, with the exception of the new routine uses, which are effective December 12, 2025.

We invite public comment on the routine uses or other aspects of this SORN. In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, we are providing the public a 30-day period in which to submit comments. Therefore, please submit any comments no later than December 12, 2025.

ADDRESSES: The public, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and Congress may comment on this publication by writing to the Head of Privacy and Disclosure Policy, Law and Policy, SSA, Room G–401 West High Rise, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235–6401, or through the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal at *https://www.regulations.gov*. Please reference docket number SSA–2025–0225. All comments we receive will be available for public inspection at the above address and we will post them to *https://www.regulations.gov*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tristin Dorsey, Government Information Specialist, Privacy Implementation Division, Privacy and Disclosure Policy, Law and Policy, SSA, Room G–401 West High Rise, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235–6401, telephone: (410) 966–5855, email: *OGC.OPD.SORN@ssa.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We are modifying the system location to clarify where the agency will maintain records. We are modifying the system manager to clarify the office responsible for maintaining the system. We are clarifying the language in existing routine uses No. 6, 7, 10, 12, 17, 25, and 45 for easier reading. We are deleting existing routine use No. 2, as it is duplicative. We are adding two new routine uses that will permit disclosures to the following:

- citizenship and immigration information to the Department of Homeland Security, pursuant to 8 U.S.C. 1373(a), and
- the Department of the Treasury, to review SSA's payment and award eligibility through the Do Not Pay Working System for the purpose of identifying, preventing, or recouping fraud and improper payments when disclosure meets the requirements in 20 CFR 401.150(c).

In addition, we are modifying the notice throughout to correct miscellaneous stylistic formatting and typographical errors of the previously published notice, and to ensure the language reads consistently across multiple systems. We are republishing the entire notice for ease of reference.

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552a(r), we have provided a report to OMB and Congress on this modified system of records.

Matthew Ramsey,

Head of Privacy and Disclosure Policy, Law and Policy.

SYSTEM NAME AND NUMBER:

Master Files of Social Security Number (SSN) Holders and SSN Applications, 60–0058.

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION:

Unclassified.

SYSTEM LOCATION:

Social Security Administration, Chief Information Officer, Systems Operations and Hardware Engineering, Robert M. Ball Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235–6401.

Information is also located in additional locations in connection with cloud-based services and as backup for business continuity purposes.

SYSTEM MANAGER(S):

Social Security Administration, Head of Income Security Programs, Law and Policy, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235–6401, (410) 966–5855.

AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:

Sections 205(a) and 205(c)(2) of the Social Security Act, as amended.

PURPOSE(S) OF THE SYSTEM:

We use information in this system to assign SSNs and for a number of administrative and program purposes, including but not limited to: for various Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and Medicare/Medicaid claims purposes; as a case control number; as a secondary beneficiary cross-reference control number for enforcement purposes; for verification of individual identity factors; and for other claims purposes related to establishing benefit entitlement. We use information in this system:

- for the general administration of the Social Security Act to ensure the accuracy of enumeration related information in other SSA systems;
- to prevent the processing of an SSN card application for a person whose application we identified was supported by evidence that either:
  - we suspect may be fraudulent and we are verifying evidence, or
  - we determined to be fraudulent information;
- to record accurate earnings information to the correct individual;
- to prevent issuance of multiple SSNs to a person;
- for resolution of earnings discrepancy cases; and
- for research and statistical activities.

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:

This system contains a record of each person who has applied for and to whom we have assigned an SSN. This system also contains records of each person who applied for an SSN, but to whom we did not assign one for one of the following reasons: (1) the application was supported by documents that we suspect may be fraudulent and we are verifying the documents with the issuing agency; (2) we have determined the person submitted fraudulent documents; (3) we do not suspect fraud but we need to further verify information the person submitted or we need additional supporting documents; or (4) we have not yet completed processing the application.

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

We collect applications for SSNs. This system contains all of the information we received on the applications for SSNs (*e.g.,* name, date and place of birth, sex identification, both parents' names, reference number, and alien registration number) and all information obtained during the processing of the SSN request. The system also contains:

- changes in the information on the applications the SSN holders submit;
- information from applications supported by evidence we suspect or determine to be fraudulent, along with the mailing addresses of the persons who filed such applications and descriptions of the documentation they submitted;
- cross-references when multiple numbers have been issued to the same person;

- a form code that identifies the Form SS–5 (Application for a Social Security Card Number) as the application the person used for the initial issuance of an SSN, or for changing the identifying information (*e.g.,* a code indicating original issuance of the SSN, or that we assigned the person's SSN through our enumeration at birth program);
- a citizenship code that identifies the number holder's status as a U.S. citizen or the work authorization of a non-citizen;
- a special indicator code that identifies types of questionable data or special circumstances concerning an application for an SSN (*e.g.,* false identity; illegal alien; scrambled earnings);
- an indication that an SSN was assigned based on harassment, abuse, or life endangerment;
- an indication that a person has filed a benefit claim under a particular SSN; and
- other indicators needed to process SSN requests.

RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:

We obtain information in this system of records from SSN applicants (or persons acting on their behalf), as well as Federal, State, and local agencies.

ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND PURPOSES OF SUCH USES:

We will disclose records pursuant to the following routine uses; however, we will not disclose any information defined as ''return or return information'' under 26 U.S.C. 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC), unless authorized by a statute, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), or IRS regulations.

1. To employers (or agents on their behalf) in order to complete their records for reporting wages to us pursuant to the Federal Insurance Contributions Act and section 218 of the Social Security Act.

3. To the Department of Justice (DOJ), for investigating and prosecuting violations of the Social Security Act.

4. To Department of Homeland Security (DHS), upon request, to identify and locate aliens in the United States pursuant to section 290(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1360(b)).

5. To the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB), for the purpose of administering provisions of the Social Security Act relating to railroad employment and for administering the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.

6. To the Department of the Treasury, for:

(a) tax administration as defined in section 6103 of the IRC (26 U.S.C. 6103);

(b) investigating the alleged theft, forgery, or unlawful negotiation of Social Security checks; and

(c) administering those sections of the IRC that grant tax benefits based on support or residence of children. As required by section 1090(b) of the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, Public Law 105–34, this routine use applies specifically to the SSNs of parents shown on an application for an SSN for a person who has not yet attained age 18.

7. To a congressional office in response to an inquiry from that office made on behalf of, and at the request of, the subject of the record.

8. To the Department of State (DOS) for administering the Social Security Act in foreign countries through its facilities and services.

9. To the American Institute, a private corporation under contract to DOS, for administering the Social Security Act in Taiwan through facilities and services of that agency.

10. To the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Regional Office, Manila, Philippines, for the administration of the Social Security Act in the Philippines and other parts of the Asia-Pacific region through services and facilities of that agency.

11. To the Department of Labor (DOL) for administering provisions of Title IV of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act, as amended by the Black Lung Benefits Act, and for studies on the effectiveness of training programs to combat poverty.

12. To VA:

(a) to validate SSNs of compensation recipients/pensioners so that VA can release accurate pension/compensation data to us for Social Security program purposes; and

(b) upon request, for purposes of determining eligibility for, or amount of VA benefits, or verifying other information with respect thereto.

13. To Federal agencies that use the SSN as a numerical identifier in their record-keeping systems for the purpose of validating SSNs.

14. To DOJ, a court or other tribunal, or another party before such court or tribunal, when:

(a) SSA, or any component thereof; or

(b) any SSA employee in the employee's official capacity; or

(c) any SSA employee in the employee's individual capacity where DOJ (or SSA, where it is authorized to do so) has agreed to represent the employee; or

(d) the United States or any agency thereof where we determine the litigation is likely to affect SSA or any of its components, is a party to the litigation or has an interest in such litigation, and SSA determines that the use of such records by DOJ, a court or other tribunal, or another party before the tribunal is relevant and necessary to the litigation, provided, however, that in each case, we determine that such disclosure is compatible with the purpose for which the records were collected.

15. To State audit agencies for the purpose of:

(a) auditing State supplementation payments and Medicaid eligibility considerations; and

(b) expenditures of Federal funds by the State in support of the Disability Determination Services.

16. To the Social Security agency of a foreign country to carry out the purpose of an international social security agreement entered into between the United States and the other country, pursuant to section 233 of the Social Security Act.

17. To Federal, State, or local agencies (or agents on their behalf) for administering income or health maintenance programs, including programs under the Social Security Act. Such disclosures include the release of information to the following agencies, but are not limited to:

(a) RRB, for administering provisions of the Railroad Retirement Act and Social Security Act, relating to railroad employment, and for administering provisions of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act;

(b) VA, for administering 38 U.S.C. 1312, and upon request, for determining eligibility for, or amount of, veterans' benefits or for verifying other information with respect thereto pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 5106;

(c) DOL, for administering provisions of Title IV of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act, as amended by the Black Lung Benefits Act.

18. To State welfare departments:

(a) pursuant to agreements with us, for the administration of State supplementation payments;

(b) for enrollment of welfare beneficiaries for medical insurance under section 1843 of the Social Security Act; and

(c) for conducting independent quality assurance reviews of SSI beneficiary records, provided that the agreement for Federal administration of the supplementation provides for such an independent review.

19. To third party contacts (*e.g.,* State bureaus of vital statistics and DHS) that issue documents to persons when the third party has, or is expected to have,

information that will verify documents when we are unable to determine if such documents are authentic.

20. To DOJ, Criminal Division, Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section, upon receipt of a request for information pertaining to the identity and location of aliens for the purpose of detecting, investigating and, where appropriate, taking legal action against suspected participants in Nazi persecution, genocide, and torture or extra judicial killings in the United States.

21. To the Selective Service System, for the purpose of enforcing draft registration pursuant to the provisions of the Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. App. § 462, as amended by section 916 of Pub. L. 97–86).

22. To contractors and other Federal agencies, as necessary, for assisting SSA in the efficient administration of its programs. We will disclose information under this routine use only in situations in which SSA may enter into a contractual or similar agreement with a third party to assist in accomplishing an agency function relating to this system of records.

23. To the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) under 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906.

24. To the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) upon receipt of a request from that agency in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 8347(m)(3), to disclose SSN information when OPM needs the information to administer its pension program for retired Federal Civil Service employees.

25. To the Department of Education, upon request, to verify SSNs and to disclose citizenship status concerning applicants who apply to postsecondary educational institutions for financial assistance under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1091).

26. To student volunteers, individuals working under a personal services contract, and other workers who technically do not have the status of Federal employees, when they are performing work for us, as authorized by law, and they need access to personally identifiable information (PII) in our records in order to perform their assigned agency functions.

27. To Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies and private security contractors, as appropriate, information necessary:

(a) to enable them to ensure the safety of our employees and customers, the security of our workplace, and the operation of our facilities; or

(b) to assist investigations or prosecutions with respect to activities that affect such safety and security or activities that disrupt the operation of our facilities.

28. To recipients of erroneous Death Master File (DMF) information, to disclose corrections to information that resulted in erroneous inclusion of persons in the DMF.

29. To State vital records and statistics agencies, the SSNs of newborn children for administering public health and income maintenance programs, including conducting statistical studies and evaluation projects.

30. To State motor vehicle administration agencies (MVA) and to State agencies charged with administering State identification card programs for the public to verify names, dates of birth, and Social Security numbers on those persons who apply for, or for whom the State issues, driver's licenses or State identification cards.

31. To entities conducting epidemiological or similar research projects, upon request, pursuant to section 1106(d) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1306(d)), to disclose information as to whether a person is alive or deceased, provided that:

(a) we determine, in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), that the research may reasonably be expected to contribute to a national health interest;

(b) the requester agrees to reimburse us for the costs of providing the information; and

(c) the requester agrees to comply with any safeguards and limitations we specify regarding re-release or re-disclosure of the information.

32. To DHS and to employers for the administration of the E-Verify Program, pursuant to Public Law 104–208, section 404(e). We will inform DHS and the employer participating in the E-Verify Program that the identifying data (SSN, name, and date of birth) furnished by an employer concerning a particular employee matches, or does not match, the data maintained in this system of records, and when there is such a match, that information in this system of records indicates that the employee is, or is not, a citizen of the United States.

33. To a State Bureau of Vital Statistics (BVS) that is authorized by States to issue electronic death reports when the State BVS requests that we verify the SSN of a person on whom the State will file an electronic death report after we verify the SSN.

34. To the Department of Defense (DOD) to disclose validated SSN information and citizenship status information for the purpose of assisting DOD in identifying those members of the Armed Forces and military enrollees who are aliens or non-citizen nationals who may qualify for expedited naturalization or citizenship processing. These disclosures will be made pursuant to requests made under section 329 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1440, as executed by Executive Order 13269.

35. To contractors, cooperative agreement awardees, State agencies, Federal agencies, and Federal congressional support agencies for research and statistical activities that are designed to increase knowledge about present or alternative Social Security programs; are of importance to the Social Security program or the Social Security beneficiaries; or are for an epidemiological project that relates to the Social Security program or beneficiaries. We will disclose information under this routine use pursuant only to a written agreement with us.

36. To State and Territory MVA officials (or agents or contractors on their behalf) and State and Territory chief election officials, under the provisions of section 205(r)(8) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(r)(8)), to verify the accuracy of information the State agency provides with respect to applications for voter registration for those persons who do not have a driver's license number:

(a) when the applicant provides the last four digits of the SSN, or

(b) when the applicant provides the full SSN, in accordance with section 7 of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a note), as described in section 303(a)(5)(D) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002. (42 U.S.C. 15483(a)(5)(D)).

37. To the Secretary of HHS or to any State, any record or information requested in writing by the Secretary for the purpose of administering any program administered by the Secretary, if we disclosed records or information of such type under applicable rules, regulations, and procedures in effect before the date of enactment of the Social Security Independence and Program Improvements Act of 1994.

38. To appropriate agencies, entities, and persons when:

(a) SSA suspects or has confirmed that there has been a breach of the system of records;

(b) SSA has determined that as a result of the suspected or confirmed breach there is a risk of harm to individuals, SSA (including its information systems, programs, and operations), the Federal Government, or national security; and

(c) the disclosure made to such agencies, entities, and persons is reasonably necessary to assist in connection with SSA's efforts to respond to the suspected or confirmed breach or to prevent, minimize, or remedy such harm.

39. To State agencies charged with administering Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to verify personal identification data (*e.g.,* name, SSN, and date of birth) and to disclose citizenship status information to assist them in determining new applicants' entitlement to benefits provided by the CHIP.

40. To HHS, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), for the purpose of the administration of Insurance Affordability Programs (IAP) and to identify individuals who qualify for an exemption from the individual responsibility requirement in accordance with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111–148), as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111–152). IAPs include a Qualified Health Plan through the Exchange, Advance Payments of the Premium Tax Credit, Cost Sharing Reductions, Medicaid, CHIP, and the Basic Health Program.

41. To the Corporation for National and Community Service, upon request, to verify SSNs and to provide citizenship status as recorded in our records concerning individuals applying to serve in approved national service positions and those designated to receive national service education awards under the National and Community Service Act.

42. To another Federal agency or Federal entity, when SSA determines that information from this system of records is reasonably necessary to assist the recipient agency or entity in:

(a) responding to a suspected or confirmed breach; or

(b) preventing, minimizing, or remedying the risk of harm to individuals, the recipient agency or entity (including its information systems, programs, and operations), the Federal Government, or national security, resulting from a suspected or confirmed breach.

43. To State and local government agencies, in situations involving suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of minor children or vulnerable adults, to report suspected abuse or determine a victim's eligibility for services.

44. To a State BVS, when it provided SSA information that an individual was deceased to notify the State of the error in the record so furnished.

45. To the Department of Treasury, for purposes of tax administration, debt collection, and identifying, preventing, and recovering improper payments under federally funded programs and to Federal and State agencies for conducting statistical and research activities, pursuant to sections 202(x) and 1611(e) of the Social Security Act. We will disclose only verified prisoner information (*e.g.,* name, SSN, sex code, and date of birth) under this routine use.

46. To the Office of the President, in response to an inquiry from that office made on behalf of, and at the request of, the subject of the record or a third party acting on the subject's behalf.

47. To HHS, Office of Child Support Enforcement, as required by section 453(e)(2) and (j)(1) of the Social Security Act for the administration of the Federal Parent Locator System.

48. To proper applicants submitting an application for a Social Security Card, when the proper applicants establish that the number holders are physically or mentally unable to file for a Social Security card on their own behalf and provide evidence of custody or legal relationship for the number holders, we may provide the number holders' SSN.

49. To DHS, information regarding the citizenship and immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual pursuant to 8 U.S.C. 1373(a).

50. To the U.S. Department of the Treasury, when disclosure of the information is relevant to review SSA's payment and award eligibility through the Do Not Pay Working System for the purposes of identifying, preventing, or recouping improper payments to an applicant for, or recipient of, Federal funds, including funds disbursed by a state (meaning a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, a territory or possession of the United States, or a federally recognized Indian tribe) in a state-administered, federally funded program. This routine use will be applied when disclosure meets the requirements in 20 CFR 401.150(c).

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORAGE OF RECORDS:

We will maintain records in this system in paper and in electronic form.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR RETRIEVAL OF RECORDS:

This system maintains information about individuals by SSN, name, date of birth, the agency's internal processing reference number, or alien registration number. If we deny an application because the applicant submitted fraudulent evidence, or if we are verifying evidence we suspect to be fraudulent, we will retrieve records either by the applicant's name plus month and year of birth, or by the applicant's name plus the eleven-digit reference number of the disallowed application.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR RETENTION AND DISPOSAL OF RECORDS:

In accordance with NARA rules codified at 36 CFR 1225.16, we maintain records in accordance with NARA-approved agency-specific records schedule, N1–47–09–02, item 2, and NARA's General Records Schedule (GRS) 4.2, items 020 and 050, and GRS 5.2, item 010.

ADMINISTRATIVE, TECHNICAL, AND PHYSICAL SAFEGUARDS:

We retain electronic and paper files containing personal identifiers in secure storage areas accessible only by authorized individuals, including our employees and contractors, who have a need for the information when performing their official duties. Security measures include, but are not limited to, the use of codes and profiles, personal identification numbers and passwords, and personal identification verification cards. We restrict access to specific correspondence within the system based on assigned roles and authorized users. We keep paper records in cabinets within secure areas, with access limited to only those employees who have an official need for access in order to perform their duties. We use audit mechanisms to record sensitive transactions as an additional measure to protect information from unauthorized disclosure or modification.

We annually provide authorized individuals, including our employees and contractors, with appropriate security awareness training that includes reminders about the need to protect PII and the criminal penalties that apply to unauthorized access to, or disclosure of, PII (5 U.S.C. 552a(i)(1)). Furthermore, authorized individuals with access to databases maintaining PII must annually sign a sanctions document that acknowledges their accountability for inappropriately accessing or disclosing such information.

RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURES:

Individuals may submit requests for information about whether this system contains a record about them by submitting a written request to the system manager at the above address, which includes their name, SSN, or other information that may be in this system of records that will identify them. Individuals requesting notification of, or access to, a record by mail must include: (1) a notarized statement to us to verify their identity; or (2) must certify in the request that they are the individual they claim to be and that they understand that the knowing and willful request for, or acquisition of, a record pertaining to another individual under false pretenses is a criminal offense.

Individuals requesting notification of, or access to, records in person must provide their name, SSN, or other information that may be in this system of records that will identify them, as well as provide an identity document, preferably with a photograph, such as a driver's license. Individuals lacking identification documents sufficient to establish their identity must certify in writing that they are the individual they claim to be and that they understand that the knowing and willful request for, or acquisition of, a record pertaining to another individual under false pretenses is a criminal offense.

These procedures are in accordance with our regulations at 20 CFR 401.40 and 401.45.

CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:

Same as record access procedures. Individuals should also reasonably identify the record, specify the information they are contesting, and state the corrective action sought and the reasons for the correction with supporting justification showing how the record is incomplete, untimely, inaccurate, or irrelevant. These procedures are in accordance with our regulations at 20 CFR 401.65(a).

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES:

Same as records access procedures. These procedures are in accordance with our regulations at 20 CFR 401.40 and 401.45.

EXEMPTIONS PROMULGATED FOR THE SYSTEM:

None.

HISTORY:

90 FR 10025 (February 20, 2025), Master Files of SSN Holders and SSN Applications.

[FR Doc. 2025–19849 Filed 11–10–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4191–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Emergency Order Establishing Operating Limitations on the Use of Navigable Airspace

AGENCY: Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

ACTION: Emergency Order establishing operating limitations on the use of navigable airspace.

SUMMARY: This Order reduces or temporarily prohibits certain operations in the navigable airspace to ensure the safety of aircraft and the efficiency of the National Airspace System (NAS). To maintain the highest standards of safety in the NAS, certain air carriers will be required to reduce by their total daily scheduled domestic operations between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. local at each airport by 10 percent, subject to the provisions set forth in this Order, in addition to other operational reductions in the NAS.

DATES: This action is effective November 7, 2025.

ADDRESSES: If you wish to review the background documents or comments received in this proceeding, you may go to *http://www.regulations.gov* at any time and follow the online instructions for accessing the electronic docket. You may also go to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Docket Operations in Room W12–140 on the ground floor of the West Building at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Al Meilus, Slot Administration and Capacity Analysis, FAA ATO System Operations Services, AJR–G5, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20591; telephone (202) 267–2822; email *7-awa-slotadmin@faa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

This Order reduces or temporarily prohibits certain operations in the navigable airspace to ensure the safety of aircraft and the efficiency of the NAS. The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is issuing this Order to address safety risks and delays presented by air traffic controller staffing constraints caused by the continued lapse in appropriations. This Order takes effect on November 7, 2025, and will remain in effect until canceled by the FAA.

II. Background

The U.S. Government has exclusive sovereignty over the airspace of the United States.[1] Under this broad authority, Congress has granted the Administrator extensive and plenary authority to ensure the safety of aircraft and the efficient use of the nation's navigable airspace. In this regard, the Administrator is required to develop plans and policies for the use of navigable airspace and assign by regulation or order under such terms, conditions and limitations as he may deem necessary to ensure its safe and efficient use.[2] The Administrator may modify or revoke an assignment when required in the public interest.[3] Furthermore, in carrying out the Administrator's safety and efficiency responsibilities under the statute, the Administrator must: (1) assign, maintain, and enhance safety and security as the highest priorities in air commerce, and (2) control the use of the navigable airspace and regulate civil operations in that airspace in the interest of the safety and efficiency of those operations.[4]

The FAA's statutory authority to ensure ''the safety of aircraft'' and ''the efficient use of airspace'' encompasses its management of the nationwide system of air commerce and the Air Traffic Control (ATC) system. Ensuring the safe and efficient use of the airspace means that the FAA must take all necessary steps to prevent safety risks to, or situations potentially adversely affecting the overall safety of the ATC system for which the FAA is responsible.

Due to a lapse in appropriations, air traffic controllers have been working without pay since October 3, 2025. Since then, the FAA's Office of Aviation Safety (AVS) and Air Traffic Organization (ATO) have continued to review, monitor and evaluate ATC safety. As part of this review, the FAA assessed voluntary safety reports submitted for the month of October. The reports indicated users of the system had concerns about its performance even with current mitigations in place. The FAA has also observed evidence of increased stress on the NAS in aviation safety data, particularly at 40 high traffic airports, identified in Appendix A (''High Impact Airports''). While current mitigations have managed risk, delays are increasing, and additional mitigations are now necessary.

The FAA's initial review of data indicates the system is stressed. With continued delays and unpredictable staffing shortages, which are driving

[1] 49 U.S.C. 40103.

[2] 49 U.S.C. 40103(b)(1), as previously codified in 49 U.S.C. App. § 307(a). Title 49 was recodified by Public Law 103–222, 108 Stat. 745 (1994). The textual revisions were not intended to result in substantive changes to the law. The recodification stated that the words in § 307(a) ''under such terms, conditions, and limitations as he may deem'' were omitted as surplus. H. Rpt. 103–180 (103d Cong., 1st Sess. 1993) at 262.

[3] *Id.*

[4] 49 U.S.C. 40101(d)(1) and (4).

fatigue, risk is further increasing, and the FAA is concerned with the system's ability to maintain the current volume of operations. Accordingly, the FAA has determined additional mitigation is necessary.

III. National Environmental Policy Act Categorical Exclusion

The FAA has determined that this action qualifies for categorical exclusion (CATEX) under the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*) in accordance with FAA Order 1050.1G, ''FAA National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures,'' paragraph B–2.5(j). This CATEX applies to the following category of actions: ''Implementation of procedures to respond to emergency air or ground safety needs, accidents, or natural events with no reasonably foreseeable long-term adverse impacts.'' This action is not expected to cause any potentially significant environmental impacts, and no extraordinary circumstances exist that would preclude the use of this CATEX and require a higher level of NEPA review.

IV. Order

a. Reduction of Operations at High Impact Airports

Accordingly, with respect to flight operations at High Impact Airports, under the authority provided to the Secretary of Transportation and the FAA Administrator by 49 U.S.C. 40103, 40113, and 46105(c), it is hereby ordered that:

1. To accommodate reduced ATC services, no later than 6:00 a.m. EST on November 14, 2025, each 14 CFR part 121 and commuter or scheduled 135 air carrier operating at High Impact Airports listed in Appendix A must reduce by 10 percent its total daily scheduled domestic operations between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. local at each airport, subject to the following provisions:

a. Reductions in operations shall be calculated by marketing code, not operating certificate, provided that the reductions for any single operating certificate may not exceed 15 percent to prevent disproportionate reductions on regional routes. For carriers that do not have a marketing code, reductions in operations shall be calculated by operating certificate.

b. The baseline for calculating reductions is the total number of currently scheduled operations.

c. Beginning November 7, 2025, carriers shall begin reductions in operations to achieve the total reduction of 10 percent by November 14, 2025, with minimum reductions at each High Impact Airport as follows:

i. By 6:00 a.m. EST on November 7, 2025, by 4 percent;

ii. By 6:00 a.m. EST on November 11, 2025, by 6 percent;

iii. By 6:00 a.m. EST on November 13, 2025, by 8 percent; and

iv. By 6:00 a.m. EST on November 14, 2025, and thereafter, by 10 percent.

d. Operations shall be reduced seven days in advance on a rolling schedule. Thus, the initial list of reduced operations submitted to the FAA on November 7, 2025, pursuant to subparagraph (f), must provide for reductions to schedules from November 7, 2025, to November 14, 2025. On November 8, 2025, carriers must retain a reduction of at least 10 percent for November 15, 2025, and notify the FAA of those reductions, etc.

e. The FAA will treat any slot as used for historic precedence or a timing as operated for the purposes of preserving the historical baseline for the next corresponding season if the carrier does not operate it in accordance with the provisions in this paragraph.

f. Each carrier subject to the provisions of this paragraph must submit a list of reduced operations to the FAA Slot Administration at *7-awa-slotadmin@faa.gov* no later than November 7, 2025, and daily thereafter. Lists of reduced operations are not individually subject to approval by the FAA, but the Administrator reserves the authority to reject or direct modifications to such lists to prevent unacceptable disproportionate impacts to flight availability including regional routes and Essential Air Service and to ensure even distribution of reductions throughout the day at each airport.

g. The FAA expects that carriers work cooperatively to achieve ratable and evenly distributed reductions throughout the day that do not have disproportionate impacts on communities or specific hours of the day. If carriers are unable to do so, the FAA may direct cancellations on a more prescriptive basis.

h. The FAA has consulted with the Department of Justice, Antitrust Division (DOJ). Consistent with these discussions, the DOJ and FAA advise that antitrust counsel for the air carriers be present for all competitor communications given the unusual, emergency circumstances involved. Based on the temporary nature of these reductions, the presence of respective antitrust counsel for all affected air carriers, the limited nature of the cooperation authorized, and the exigent safety need to reduce stress on the NAS, the DOJ stated that it ''is not presently inclined to initiate antitrust enforcement action against any carrier's actions taken to comply with the FAA Emergency Order.'' [5] This understanding does not authorize cooperation between carriers on scheduling, except as it relates to the temporary reductions in operations directed by this order, or pricing matters. Moreover, the DOJ reserved the right to bring an enforcement action against any conduct that violates the antitrust laws.

i. Carriers must not engage in unfair, deceptive, or anticompetitive practices regarding their slot usage, leasing agreements, or operations.

2. When staffing trigger reports happen at High Impact Airports, a dual Airspace Flow Program strategy may be implemented for general aviation and commercial traffic. In addition, for the duration of this order, general aviation operations may also be reduced by up to 10 percent at High Impact Airports, including TEB, HOU, and DAL.

3. The FAA may enforce this Order through an enforcement action seeking a civil penalty under 49 U.S.C. 46301(a). A carrier that is not a small business as defined in the Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. 632, will be liable for a civil penalty of up to $75,000 for every flight it operates above the limits set forth in this Order. A carrier that is a small business as defined in the Small Business Act will be liable for a civil penalty of up to $16,630 for every flight it operates above the limits set forth in this Order. The FAA also could file a civil action in U.S. District Court, under 49 U.S.C. 46106 and 46107, seeking to enjoin any air carrier from violating the terms of this Order.

b. Prohibition on Commercial Space Launches and Reentries During Peak Hours

Accordingly, with respect to commercial space launches and reentries, under the authority provided to the FAA Administrator by 49 U.S.C. 40103, 40113, and 46105(c), and authority delegated to the FAA Administrator under 51 U.S.C. 50909(a), it is hereby ordered that, beginning at 6:00 a.m. EST on November 10, 2025, and until this Order is cancelled, Commercial space launches and reentries will only be permitted between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. local time.

[5] Letter from Abigail Slater Assistant Attorney General Antitrust Division, U.S. Department of Justice to William McKenna, Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration (Nov. 6, 2025).

c. Termination of ATC Service Due to Staffing Levels

Accordingly, with respect to ATC services, under the authority provided to the FAA Administrator by 49 U.S.C. 40103, 40113, and 46105(c), it is hereby ordered that:

1. When an FAA owned and operated facility does not have adequate staffing levels, ATC may elect not to provide the following services:

a. Radar Traffic Information Service;

b. Radar Assistance to visual flight rule (VFR) aircraft;

c. Terminal Radar Services for VFR aircraft;

d. VFR Traffic Pattern Operations;

e. Practice Approaches to VFR aircraft;

f. Flight checks services to restore inoperable equipment and approaches;

g. ATC services to parachute operations; or,

h. ATC services to certain special or unusual operations.

2. When an Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspace (ATCAA) or Military Operating Area (MOA) is located within a geographical area served by an FAA owned and operated facility that does not have adequate staffing levels, ATO may elect not to activate the ATCAA or MOA.

V. Aviation Consumer Protection

The Office of Aviation Consumer Protection, a unit within the Department of Transportation's Office of the General Counsel, will separately issue guidance to carriers on reporting of causes of delays and cancellations and applicability of consumer protection requirements given this order.[6]

The FAA may modify or withdraw any provision in this Order on its own or on application by any carrier for good cause shown. In particular, the FAA will continue to monitor data on NAS operations and performance and will amend this order as appropriate to ensure continued safety and efficiency of the NAS. Once funding is restored and the FAA has confidence the stress in the system has adequately decreased, the FAA expects to roll back operational restrictions required by this order to restore normal operations.

[6] *See* DOT, Reporting Causes of Flight Delays and Cancellations in Response to FAA's Order to Reduce Flights at 40 Airports Due to the Government Shutdown,'' *https://www.transportation.gov/airconsumer/latest-news.*

Issued in Washington, DC, on November 7, 2025.

William McKenna,

Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration.

Bryan Bedford,

Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration.

Appendix A

Code	Airport
ANC	Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport.
ATL	Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International.
BOS	Boston Logan International.
BWI	Baltimore/Washington International.
CLT	Charlotte Douglas International.
CVG	Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International.
DAL	Dallas Love Field.
DCA	Ronald Reagan Washington National.
DEN	Denver International.
DFW	Dallas/Fort Worth International.
DTW	Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County.
EWR	Newark Liberty International.
FLL	Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International.
HNL	Honolulu International.
HOU	William P. Hobby Airport.
IAD	Washington Dulles International.
IAH	George Bush Houston Intercontinental.
IND	Indianapolis International.
JFK	New York John F. Kennedy International.
LAS	Las Vegas McCarran International.
LAX	Los Angeles International.
LGA	New York LaGuardia.
MCO	Orlando International.
MDW	Chicago Midway.
MEM	Memphis International.
MIA	Miami International.
MSP	Minneapolis/St. Paul International.
OAK	Oakland International.
ONT	Ontario International.
ORD	Chicago O'Hare International.
PDX	Portland International.
PHL	Philadelphia International.
PHX	Phoenix Sky Harbor International.
SAN	San Diego International.
SDF	Louisville International.
SEA	Seattle/Tacoma International.
SFO	San Francisco International.
SLC	Salt Lake City International.
TEB	Teterboro.
TPA	Tampa International.

[FR Doc. 2025–19850 Filed 11–7–25; 12:30 pm]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

[FTA–2025–0068]

Notice of Availability of Final Policy Guidance for the Capital Investment Grants Program

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of availability of final policy guidance for the Capital Investment Grants program.

SUMMARY: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is making available the agency's final policy guidance for the Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program. This version amends FTA's CIG Policy Guidance published in December 2024 and incorporates input, as appropriate, FTA received from the public comment on its proposed Policy Guidance published in the **Federal Register** in August 2025. The final guidance has been placed in the docket and posted on the FTA website. The policy guidance complements FTA's regulations governing the CIG program.

DATES: This final policy guidance is effective immediately. FTA will not exempt projects from following the new amended final CIG policy guidance.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Ferroni, FTA Office of Planning and Environment, telephone (202) 366–3233 or *mark.ferroni@dot.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This final policy guidance document contains binding obligations, which 49 U.S.C. 5334(k) defines as ''a substantive policy statement, rule, or guidance document issued by the Federal Transit Administration that grants rights, imposes obligations, produces significant effects on private interests, or effects a significant change in existing policy.'' Under 49 U.S.C. 5334(k), FTA may issue binding obligations if it follows applicable rulemaking procedures under 5 U.S.C. 553. Prior to making the amendments announced today, FTA followed such procedures. The policy guidance FTA periodically issues for the CIG program complements the FTA regulations governing the CIG program, codified at 49 CFR part 611. The regulations set forth the process grant applicants must follow to be considered for discretionary grant funding under the CIG program, and the procedures and criteria FTA uses to rate and evaluate projects to determine their eligibility for discretionary CIG program funding. The policy guidance provides a greater level of detail about the methods FTA uses and the sequential steps a sponsor must follow in developing a project.

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 5309(g)(5), FTA is required to publish policy guidance for the CIG program each time the agency makes significant changes to the review and evaluation process and criteria, but not less frequently than once every two years. In August 2025, FTA published a notice in the **Federal Register** (90 FR 40465) seeking comment on proposed changes to FTA's CIG Policy Guidance issued in December 2024 (89 FR 102248). The amended Final CIG program policy guidance is being made available today on the agency's public website at *https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grant-programs/capital-investments/capital-investment-grants-program-regulations-guidance,* and in the docket at *https://www.regulations.gov/docket/FTA-2025-0068.* Companion documents to the CIG Policy Guidance such as reporting instructions, CIG reporting templates, and standard cost category worksheets will be updated and will also be posted on the FTA website at a future date. Until such time, project sponsors should continue to use the reporting instructions, CIG reporting templates, and standard cost category worksheets dated January 2025.

Response to Comments

FTA received comments from 16 respondents on the proposed policy guidance for the CIG program. Four of the 16 respondents were transit agencies. FTA received six comments from interest groups or policy organizations, five comments from individuals, and one comment from an anonymous respondent. One of the comments was submitted to a separate docket for FTA's Request for Information Concerning the Capital Investment Grants Program (FTA–2025–0069). FTA is partially responding to that comment in this Notice because a portion of the comment relates to FTA's environmental benefits proposal.

Environmental Benefits

Regarding the proposed changes to the calculation of environmental benefits in the proposed policy guidance, roughly half of the 16 respondents supported the change. Many of these commenters expressed support for the proposed methodology, stating it would result in a simpler and more streamlined evaluation of environmental benefits, reduce administrative burden, and expedite the CIG process. Some commenters specifically criticized the existing vehicle miles traveled (VMT)-based methodology, noting it is complex, subject to varied interpretations, data-intensive, complicated, and burdensome. One of these commenters additionally requested FTA continue working with the industry in the future regarding the environmental benefits methodology. Two of these commenters argued the proposed methodology would capture air quality improvements and reduced emissions without the need to use a complex methodology. An additional commenter supported the removal of the social cost of carbon, arguing the metric is deeply flawed and artificially inflates the dollar value of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It also noted the underlying statute governing the CIG program does not require consideration of carbon emissions or the social cost of carbon.

Two commenters requested FTA modify its proposal by assigning a ''Medium-High'' rating for projects located in areas formerly designated as nonattainment but that have since achieved attainment through local planning and policy decisions, suggesting FTA should reward projects in such areas. One of these commenters stated it nevertheless supported FTA's measure as proposed, as it believed resolution of the issue may stand in the way of FTA allocating CIG funding and making funding recommendations in the FY26 CIG report to Congress.

Response: FTA appreciates the comments supporting the proposal and agrees the new methodology will reduce burden and complexity for project sponsors. We agree with the suggestion to work with the industry in the future to ''capture the specific environmental benefits of public transportation projects'' without unduly burdening project sponsors with overly complex analysis. To clarify, however, FTA is not adopting the suggestion to assign a ''Medium-High'' rating for maintenance areas (*i.e.,* areas formerly designated nonattainment but have since achieved attainment) as suggested because FTA proposed to assign a ''High'' rating to such areas. The proposed methodology therefore already rewards areas formerly in nonattainment and that have since achieved attainment.

Of the multiple respondents in support of the change, one respondent suggested FTA clarify in the final policy guidance how a project will be rated when a project crosses more than one geographic area which may have varying air quality designations. The commenter requested FTA clarify that projects located either wholly or partially within maintenance or nonattainment areas will receive a ''High'' rating for the environmental benefits criterion.

Response: FTA agrees with this commenter because we recognize that an eligible CIG project may traverse areas with different air quality designations, perhaps by crossing urban area boundaries or even State lines. This might create confusion as to which specific air quality designation will be applied. In response, FTA will modify the environmental benefits measure language in the CIG Policy Guidance to read as follows:

Measure

FTA evaluates and rates the environmental benefits criterion for New Starts projects based on the EPA air quality designation given to the geographic area(s) in which the project is located for the transportation-related criteria pollutants, carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), ozone (O_3) (2015 standard), and particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) (2012 standard). This information is readily obtained from the EPA Green Book (*https://www.epa.gov/green-book*). Projects located wholly or partially in areas designated as nonattainment or maintenance for any of the four criteria pollutants will receive a High rating, and projects located wholly in areas designated as attainment in all four criteria pollutants will receive a Medium rating.

About half of the 16 commenters opposed FTA's proposal, one of whom expressed general opposition without providing a reason. Some commenters voiced concerns about the removal of the social cost of carbon, including concerns the change would negatively affect the evaluation of environmental impacts and that the social cost of carbon was an important metric to include in the analysis. One commenter opposed the elimination of VMT-based metrics, noting VMT is a valuable measure of the cost-effectiveness of a proposed project.

Response: FTA disagrees with these commenters because the social cost of carbon calculation is complex and depends heavily on assumed unit values, some of which are arbitrary and may vary over time. There is not consistent agreement that the social cost of carbon is a reliable metric in climate policy. The use of the social cost of carbon measure may lead to unsubstantiated policy decisions, which exceeds the marginal practical benefit of using the social cost of carbon in rating CIG projects. In addition, FTA disagrees that the VMT-based metric should be retained to measure the cost-effectiveness of a project. The cost-benefit of a CIG project is already captured in the collective evaluation of all six Project Justification criteria, one of which is cost-effectiveness.

One of the commenters opposed to the proposal provided legal arguments in support of opposing the proposal. First, the commenter argued the statute governing the CIG program at 49 U.S.C. 5309(d)(2)(A)(iii), (e)(2)(A)(iv), and (h)(4) requires FTA to conduct a ''comprehensive review'' of the environmental effects of the project. It stated further that for Core Capacity Projects, 49 U.S.C. 5309(e)(2)(B) requires FTA to evaluate, analyze, and consider whether the project will improve environmental outcomes, and that for Small Starts Projects, 49 U.S.C. 5309(h)(4) requires FTA to analyze, evaluate, and consider environmental benefits as compared to a no-action alternative. The commenter contended FTA's proposal falls short of these statutory requirements because it would entail an oversimplified analysis requiring no ''real analytical work'' on the part of FTA.

Response: FTA disagrees its proposed approach is inconsistent with statute. As detailed in FTA's CIG policy guidance, FTA conducts a comprehensive project justification evaluation during the entry to engineering and construction grant phases, as applicable, of the proposed CIG project. This assessment gives due consideration to all six project justification criteria required by statute to determine a project's overall project justification rating comprehensively.

The commenter mischaracterizes the statutory requirements regarding FTA's CIG project justification evaluation. Sections 49 U.S.C. 5309(d)(2)(A)(iii), (e)(2)(A)(iv), and (h)(4) do not require FTA to evaluate a project's environmental ''effects,'' but rather its environmental ''benefits.'' Environmental effects are comprehensively addressed through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) process which, by statute, must be satisfied during the Project Development stage of a CIG project (49 U.S.C. 5309(d)(2)(A), (e)(2)(A), and (h)(2)(B)).

The proposed methodology utilizing the EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) designation serves as a basis for FTA to evaluate, analyze, and consider the environmental benefits of the applicable CIG project appropriately. One of the most distinguishable environmental benefits of public transportation is a reduction in transportation-related criteria pollutants under the Clean Air Act. FTA's proposed methodology assigns a higher rating to projects located in nonattainment areas, which have lower air quality as determined by the transportation-related criteria pollutants, carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), ozone (O_3), or particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$), and therefore are areas where reduced criteria pollutant emissions would be most beneficial. This methodology addresses and compares the environmental benefits to a no-action alternative because the non-attainment designation for the area provides the baseline for the no-action alternative: unacceptable levels of one or more criteria pollutants. The addition of transit projects shifts users from personal automobiles to public transportation systems, which accordingly leads to a reduction in transportation-related criteria pollutants.[1] As noted by other commenters in this docket, this methodology effectively identifies proposed projects expected to improve environmental outcomes without engaging in a burdensome and overly complex analysis.

Second, the commenter argued FTA's proposal is not supported by evidence, stating FTA has not provided sufficient justification for why assessing a project's NAAQS designation is relevant for the evaluation of the project's environmental benefits and has not provided evidence of project sponsors having difficulty with VMT calculations. The commenter stated further that comments on FTA's 2024 proposed CIG policy guidance requesting a simplified environmental benefits process specifically sought priority for electric vehicle fleets, and FTA's proposal would not achieve this.

Response: FTA disagrees the proposal is not supported by evidence, and it discusses the relevance of the NAAQS designation in the response above. As explained in its proposal, FTA proposed reverting to a previous methodology FTA utilized before 2013. FTA has years of experience implementing both methodologies and, after thorough consideration, has determined the VMT-based methodology is unnecessarily burdensome and complex. As FTA further explained, the proposal was also informed by comments received on FTA's April 2024 CIG policy guidance, which are publicly available in the corresponding docket. Several of these comments expressed frustration with the complexity and difficulty of applying the current environmental benefits measure and voiced a desire for FTA to simplify it. FTA's proposal is responsive to those concerns. In addition, as discussed above, several comments in this docket noted the VMT-based calculation is overly complex, burdensome, and subject to differing interpretations. FTA agrees with these commenters and believes the proposed methodology achieves an appropriate balance of capturing environmental benefits and reducing complexity and burden.

Finally, the commenter urged FTA to continue utilizing a social cost of greenhouse gas measure because removal of this metric leaves no method for calculating climate change impacts, further arguing FTA is required by statute to analyze this factor. The commenter noted that although the Interagency Working Group's (IWG) social cost of carbon measure was withdrawn by Executive Order, alternative measures remain available, such as social cost of carbon estimates from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Response: FTA disagrees that modifying the methodology is contrary to statute. The statute does not require consideration of ''climate change.'' The statute requires consideration of a project's ''environmental benefits'' which, as discussed above, FTA would achieve through its proposed methodology.

As explained in FTA's proposal, this change is consistent with the direction in Executive Order (E.O.) 14154, ''Unleashing American Energy,'' OIRA's ''Guidance Implementing Section 6 of Executive Order 14154, Entitled 'Unleashing American Energy,' '' (OIRA's Guidance), and DOT Order 2100.7, ''Ensuring Reliance Upon Sound Economic Analysis in Department of Transportation Policies, Programs, and Activities.'' Section 6(b) of E.O. 14154 withdraws guidance issued by the Interagency Working Group (IWG), including the Technical Support Document of February 2021, as it is no longer representative of governmental policy. Further, Section 6(c) of E.O. 14154 and DOT Order 2100.7 state the ''calculation of the 'social cost of carbon' is marked by logical deficiencies, a poor basis in empirical science, politicization, and the absence of a foundation in legislation.'' OIRA's Guidance also limits applying the social cost of carbon to uses where it is statutorily required and directs agencies to remove its consideration from discretionary regulatory language ''as quickly as feasible.''

FTA is adopting the proposed methodology for evaluating environmental benefits, with the one modification in response to comments

[1] See, *e.g.,* Congressional Budget Office, ''Emissions of Carbon Dioxide in the Transportation Sector,'' *https://www.cbo.gov/publication/58861.*

to clarify how projects that cross more than one geographic area will be rated, as discussed above.

Urgent Care Facilities

Six respondents commented on the proposal to remove urgent care facilities from the access to essential services measure under the CIG land use criterion. One commenter expressed concern about removing the consideration of urgent care centers generally. Two commenters supported the proposal, given the Homeland Infrastructure Foundational-Level Data (HIFLD) on urgent care centers is no longer available. Two commenters noted that after FTA published its proposal, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the discontinuation of the entire HIFLD data set. These commenters noted that access to essential services is still a valuable measure and suggested FTA use the United States Census Bureau's North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) to identify essential services in a project corridor for future grant cycles. One commenter supported the removal of urgent care centers from the evaluation but requested FTA modify the corresponding breakpoints because removing urgent care centers would result in fewer average essential services per station area.

Response: FTA appreciates the comments acknowledging the HIFLD data has been discontinued since FTA published its proposal in the **Federal Register**. As noted in the HIFLD website (*https://hifld-geoplatform.hub.arcgis.com/pages/a6a99fd33af64ed9bc51e55760123a82*), DHS has made available a crosswalk spreadsheet providing a list of affected layers and links. Because the HILFD data are no longer available, it would be challenging at this time for FTA to evaluate potential changes to the current breakpoints. We therefore decline to adopt revised breakpoints, as suggested. FTA further notes that urgent care centers were one of five types of facilities in the access to essential services element rating, the access to essential services element is one of five measures in the land use criterion rating, and land use is one of six project justification criteria. This results in essential services making up 1.67 percent of an Overall Project Rating of 100 percent. FTA will look further into the NAICS data set to see if it can be incorporated into future policy guidance revisions. Until such time, FTA is adopting the removal of urgent care facilities from the access to essential services element under the land use criterion as proposed. Given the loss of the data source there is no way project sponsors can comply with the reporting instructions if FTA does not do so.

Other Comments

Two comments were outside the scope of the proposal. These included a request for FTA to explore other opportunities to streamline and improve the CIG process and one comment voicing concern about the cost of transit projects in general.

Response: FTA appreciates the comments but notes they are outside the scope of the proposal. Accordingly, FTA is not responding to them in this Notice.

Two commenters urged FTA to finalize the proposed policy guidance quickly, due to the need for FTA to move forward with CIG project ratings, allocate CIG funding, and make project recommendations for the FY26 CIG Annual Report to Congress.

Response: FTA appreciates the commenters' understanding of the need to advance the rating and funding recommendation process to ensure projects which are ready to advance and receive construction grants are able to do so to meet the needs of their communities. FTA agrees with this need and is therefore adopting this guidance with an immediate effective date.

Good Cause for Immediate Effective Date

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 5334(k), FTA must follow applicable rulemaking procedures under section 553 of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), 5 U.S.C. 551, *et seq.,* before issuing a statement imposing a binding obligation on recipients. The APA generally requires publication or service of a substantive rule not less than 30 days before its effective date except ''as otherwise provided by the agency for good cause found and published with the rule.'' 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3).

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), FTA finds good cause to publish this guidance with an immediate effective date because a 30-day delayed effective date would significantly impair FTA's ability to execute its statutory duties with respect to the CIG program. Due to the revocation of estimates of the social cost of carbon by E.O. 14154, FTA is unable to evaluate the environmental benefits of CIG projects, as required by 49 U.S.C. 5309(d), (e), and (h), until the CIG Policy Guidance goes into effect. Accordingly, further delaying the effective date of the guidance would impede FTA's ability to complete CIG project ratings, report funding recommendations, and allocate CIG funding as quickly as possible. Without completing such ratings, FTA is unable to publish funding recommendations in the FY26 CIG annual report to Congress, as required by 49 U.S.C. 5309(o)(1)(B). A delayed effective date therefore would seriously impede FTA's ability to comply with its statutory obligations in a timely manner. An immediate effective date is further supported by commenters requesting FTA act quickly to finalize the policy guidance, as discussed in the Response to Comments above.

Executive Order 14192 (Deregulatory Action)

E.O. 14192 (''Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation'') requires for ''each new [E.O. 14192 regulatory action] issued, at least 10 prior regulations be identified for elimination.'' This final rule is considered an E.O. 14192 deregulatory action with unquantified cost savings resulting from more streamlined evaluation of environmental benefits, reduce administrative burden, and an expedited CIG process.

Marcus J. Molinaro,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2025–19848 Filed 11–10–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–57–P

Reader Aids

Federal Register

Vol. 90, No. 216

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

CUSTOMER SERVICE AND INFORMATION

Federal Register/Code of Federal Regulations	
General Information, indexes and other finding aids	**202–741–6000**
Laws	**741–6000**
Presidential Documents	
Executive orders and proclamations	**741–6000**
The United States Government Manual	**741–6000**
Other Services	
Electronic and on-line services (voice)	**741–6020**
Privacy Act Compilation	**741–6050**

ELECTRONIC RESEARCH

World Wide Web

Full text of the daily Federal Register, CFR and other publications is located at: **www.govinfo.gov.**

Federal Register information and research tools, including Public Inspection List and electronic text are located at: **www.federalregister.gov.**

E-mail

FEDREGTOC (Daily Federal Register Table of Contents Electronic Mailing List) is an open e-mail service that provides subscribers with a digital form of the Federal Register Table of Contents. The digital form of the Federal Register Table of Contents includes HTML and PDF links to the full text of each document.

To join or leave, go to **https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USGPOOFR/subscriber/new**, enter your email address, then follow the instructions to join, leave, or manage your subscription.

PENS (Public Law Electronic Notification Service) is an e-mail service that notifies subscribers of recently enacted laws.

To subscribe, go to **http://listserv.gsa.gov/archives/publaws-l.html and select** *Join or leave the list (or change settings);* then follow the instructions.

FEDREGTOC and **PENS** are mailing lists only. We cannot respond to specific inquiries.

Reference questions. Send questions and comments about the Federal Register system to: **fedreg.info@nara.gov**

The Federal Register staff cannot interpret specific documents or regulations.

FEDERAL REGISTER PAGES AND DATE, OCTOBER

CFR PARTS AFFECTED DURING OCTOBER

At the end of each month the Office of the Federal Register publishes separately a List of CFR Sections Affected (LSA), which lists parts and sections affected by documents published since the revision date of each title.

LIST OF PUBLIC LAWS

Note: No public bills which have become law were received by the Office of the Federal Register for inclusion in today's **List of Public Laws**.

Last List September 9, 2025

Public Laws Electronic Notification Service (PENS)

PENS is a free email notification service of newly enacted public laws. To subscribe, go to *https://portalguard.gsa.gov/*_layouts/PG/register.aspx.

Note: This service is strictly for email notification of new laws. The text of laws is not available through this service. **PENS** cannot respond to specific inquiries sent to this address.