




## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

August 31, 2022

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Lindsay Abate and Shagufta Ahmed  
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget

FROM: James Lane, Ed.D.   
Senior Advisor, Office of the Secretary  
Delegated the Authority to Perform the Functions and Duties of the  
Assistant Secretary Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

RE: Emergency Request for Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) approval

Pursuant to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) procedures established at 5 CFR 1320, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) requests the following collection of information to be collected from States awarded funds under the Stronger Connections Grant (SCG) program, authorized under the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA), be processed in accordance with section 1320.13 Emergency Processing.

Under the SCG program, the Department will award formula grants to State educational agencies (SEAs) for the purpose of providing competitive grants to high-need local educational agencies (LEAs) for activities under section 4108 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). Each SEA will award no less than 95 percent of its allocation on a competitive basis to high-need LEAs, as determined by the State. The SEA will reserve no more than one percent of its allocation for administration and will use any remaining funds not awarded to LEAs for State-level activities to support section 4108 of the ESEA.

The Department requests approval for emergency clearance to collect information from SEAs concerning their implementation of the SCG program requirements for SEA award of these funds – that they be awarded competitively to high-need LEAs, as determined by the State. In this regard, the Department requests approval of an optional template that may be used by SEAs for reporting this information. The information provided by SEAs will support the Department's effective oversight of these funds. The optional template will help reduce the burden on States that receive this funding and will help ensure that the Department efficiently collects the information necessary for this oversight, in particular so that the Department may provide effective technical assistance during SEAs' initial implementation of the program.

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*The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.*

If this information is not collected, the Department would be hindered in its ability to determine if States are complying with the requirements for award of these funds, as well as in its ability to provide effective technical assistance and support to SEAs.

We anticipate that approximately 56 eligible SEAs will receive awards under the SCG program program, and we estimate that the template will take approximately 60 hours for each State to complete.

The Domestic Policy Council has informed the Department that it would like for the SCG program grant awards and “Dear Colleague” letter to go out as deliverables for the upcoming United We Stand anti-hate summit that will be hosted by President Biden on September 15, 2022. In addition, the States’ SCG awards will be made with assurances that the SEAs will report the requested information no later than 90 days after receiving their awards. Accordingly, in order to provide SEAs with adequate time to receive these funds, determine how they will define high-need LEA and how they plan to award these funds competitively to such LEAs, and then report the requested information to the Department no later than 90 days after receiving their awards, the Department requests approval of this submission as soon as possible but no later than September 13, 2022. Because of the import of the data requested in this collection, the Department is also including an assurance in the grant award notifications that SEAs assure to submit the data points identified in the attached collection. If approval is not obtained by this date, the Department will not be able to make grant awards with these assurances and White House will be unable to announce these awards at its upcoming summit.

We will include a 60-day comment period with the emergency collection notice.