



Public Housing Authorities Directors Association

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November 22, 2017

HUD Desk Officer
Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
New Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20503
OIRASubmission@omb.eop.gov

RE: OMB Control Number: 2577-0216
Docket No. FR-5997-N-68
30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Form 50900
Elements for the Annual Moving to Work Plan and Annual Moving to
Work Report

Gentlepeople,

The Public Housing Authorities Directors Association (PHADA) is a membership organization representing chief executives of approximately 1,900 local housing authorities. This letter is in reference to a proposed information collection published in Federal Register, Vol. 82, No. 205, on October 25, 2017. The concerns raised in this letter focus on HUD's failure to respect requirements for public notice and comment required by the Paperwork Reduction Act and the Administrative Procedures Act. In an attempt to gather details on this information collection beyond what HUD chose to describe in its October 25th notice, on November 7th PHADA requested the information HUD submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) following the instructions published in the October 25th notice. PHADA had monitored OMB's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) web site and had not located any reference to an information collection under review with the OMB control number of Form 50900. The last reference to this form was on September 2017 when OMB announced that HUD had withdrawn its review request.

In its November 7th request, PHADA asked for clarification, additional information, and any accompanying documentation connected with the information collection. To date, PHADA has received no response. Continuing to monitor OMB's OIRA web site, PHADA discovered an information collection under review by OMB for Form 50900 dated November 8th on November 8th. The site included 3 versions of the reporting form, the one proposed by HUD for the 60-day review process, the version submitted to OMB on November 8th, and a file that was supposed to indicate the changes HUD made to the first revised version. That file appears to reflect only 2 formatting changes made to the original proposed information collection. Finally, HUD's

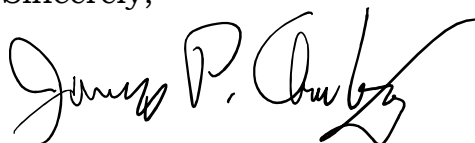
ICR submission indicates that it wished to amend its estimate of burden hours connected to this collection by including 3 additional MTW program participants, and by including 50 additional MTW program participating agencies authorized in 2016. HUD failed to explain why it has not included all 100 additional MTW program agencies authorized by Congress.

To summarize, HUD published a notice in the October 25th Federal Register announcing a 30-day comment period for changes it proposed to Form 50900. That notice failed to describe the changes the department was proposing, nor did the notice describe the comments HUD received in response to its first 60-day comment period notice or any responses HUD had to those comments. The department actually submitted the information collection to OMB for review on November 8th (the department's certification date on the ICR), and HUD has failed to respond directly to PHADA's, and potentially other interested stakeholders, requests concerning details of this collection. Finally, the notice failed to include a correct email address for submission of comments. PHADA believes that HUD has failed to comply in good faith with the Paperwork Reduction Act, with the Administrative Procedures Act, or with OMB's administrative procedures.

Comments in response to HUD's October 25th notice are due on November 24, 2017. Since the documents associated with this information collection were not available to the public until November 8th, HUD has failed to provide the public with 30 days to review this collection and submit comments. Additionally, HUD has failed to describe comments and the department's responses related to the earlier 60-day comment period notice. As a result, PHADA urges OMB to reject this information collection and insist that HUD fully comply with PRA and APA statutory requirements and OMB's administrative procedures. HUD should publish a new notice of a 30-day comment period starting when HUD makes the revised form available. At a minimum, PHADA urges that OMB insist that HUD publishes a new notice extending the comment period for this information collection for 14 days after publication of that new notice to provide stakeholders a full 30 days to review the collection and offer OMB comments.

PHADA appreciates the opportunity to comment on this information collection. Should you have any questions, please contact Crystal Wojciechowski at 202-546-5445.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James P. Armstrong", with a stylized flourish at the end.

James P. Armstrong
Policy Analyst