

their financial obligations and payment options?

Anti-Kickback Statute

HHS is interested in whether incentives offered to health care providers by financial companies may implicate the Federal anti-kickback statute. Specifically, HHS is interested in the following questions:

8. What financial relationships exist between medical payment product companies and health care providers? For example, do companies provide financial incentives to providers who enroll patients in medical payment products? Do providers pay financial companies to collect patients' overdue balances? Or, do providers have arrangements with financial companies to indemnify the company in whole or in part if the patient defaults, such as an arrangement that when patients default on their debt to the financial company, the debt reverts to the provider?

9. Do health care providers or financial institutions market or recommend medical credit cards or loans to Federal health care program beneficiaries (e.g., Medicare, Medicaid, Affordable Care Act Marketplace, or Children's Health Insurance Program enrollees)? Is the use of these products limited to certain types of health care items or services, such as items and services that are not reimbursable by Medicare or another third-party payor?

10. Do medical payment product companies recommend certain health care providers to their users? Do companies limit where or how patients use medical credit cards?

11. Is the health care provider (or the medical payment product company) offsetting some of the patient's medical debt or providing any other incentives to the patient (e.g., travel rewards for charges to the card)?

d. Treasury-Specific Questions

The Treasury Department oversees policy decisions relating to the Internal Revenue Code, including those provisions relating to tax-exempt hospitals found in section 501(r). Section 501(r)(4) and 26 CFR 1.501(r)-4 require tax-exempt hospital organizations to establish and widely publicize a written financial assistance policy that applies to all medically necessary care provided by the hospital organization. Section 501(r)(6) and 26 CFR 1.501(r)-6 require hospital organizations to make reasonable efforts to determine whether an individual is eligible for assistance under the hospital organization's financial assistance policy (FAP) before engaging in extraordinary collection actions against

that individual. Extraordinary collection actions include credit reporting an unpaid medical bill, deferring or denying care to a patient due to their unpaid medical bills, taking legal or judicial action to recoup an alleged medical debt, or selling an alleged medical debt.

However, selling an alleged medical debt is not considered an extraordinary collection action if, prior to the sale, the hospital facility enters into a legally binding written agreement with the debt buyer that meets four conditions: (1) the buyer agrees not to engage in any extraordinary collection actions to obtain payment; (2) the buyer agrees not to charge interest in excess of the rate in effect under section 6621(a)(2) at the time the debt is sold (currently set at 7 percent through June 2023); (3) the debt is returnable to or recallable by the hospital facility upon a determination that the individual is financial assistance-eligible; and (4) if the individual is determined to be financial assistance-eligible and the debt is not returned or recalled, the buyer must adhere to specified procedures which ensure that the individual does not pay, and has no obligation to pay, the buyer and the hospital facility together more than that individual is personally responsible for paying under the financial assistance policy.

Treasury welcomes comment on the interplay between the requirements that apply to tax-exempt hospitals and medical payment products, including comments in response to any of the following specific questions:

1. What policy actions should Treasury consider taking to address problematic practices related to medical credit cards or loans, including debt collection and credit reporting practices, to conform with the existing tax laws and regulations pertaining to tax-exempt hospitals?

2. Should a tax-exempt hospital's signing patients up for medical payment products be considered similar to a tax-exempt hospital's selling medical debt, such that the special rules that only exclude debt sales from being extraordinary collection actions if certain requirements are met would be applied to these payment products?

3. How would applying the debt sale special rules to payment products change hospitals' and payment product providers' current practices, especially those related to financial assistance eligibility screening, extraordinary collection actions, interest rates, and recall or return of balances owed by FAP-eligible individuals?

4. How do tax-exempt hospitals' promotion of medical payment products

compare to their operationalization of the requirement that their financial assistance policies be widely publicized?

5. What are best practices for hospitals publishing and making patients aware of financial assistance programs (beyond compliance with the widely publicized requirements found in the section 501(r) regulations)?

6. Are medical payment product companies advertising their products as delivering community benefits or as a form of financial assistance?

7. Are tax-exempt hospitals claiming that their promotion of medical payment products delivers community benefits or provides financial assistance, including in their filings of Form 990, Schedule H?

8. Does the availability of medical payment products generally benefit the community or assist patients financially?

Signing Authority for HHS

The Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, having reviewed and approved this document, authorizes Vanessa Garcia, who is the Federal Register Liaison, to electronically sign this document for purposes of publication in the **Federal Register**.

Rohit Chopra,

Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Thomas C. West Jr.,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy, Department of the Treasury.

Vanessa Garcia,

Federal Register Liaison, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

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CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Application Package for AmeriCorps Seniors Application Instructions, Progress Reporting, Independent Living and Respite Surveys

AGENCY: Corporation for National and Community Service.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Corporation for National and Community Service, operating as AmeriCorps, has submitted a public

information collection request (ICR) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the individual and office listed in the **ADDRESSES** section by August 11, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Copies of this ICR, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained by calling AmeriCorps, Robin Corindo, at (202) 489-5578 or by email to rcorindo@cns.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The OMB is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of CNCS, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions;
- Propose ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Propose ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments

A 60-day Notice requesting public comment was published in the **Federal Register** on April 27, 2023 at 88 FR 25625. This comment period ended June 27, 2023. The Notice received 32 public comments, of which 26 were identical. Of the other comments, one was in support and one was without specific comment. The others detailed how completing the Progress Report Supplement (PRS) is a burden. AmeriCorps Seniors agrees that the reporting requirements of the PRS may be burdensome and is therefore reducing the number of questions it requires within it. The PRS is the only document with proposed revisions.

Comment: AmeriCorps Seniors grants are awarded for a three-year period with required annual budget submissions. ASPN questions the value and additional time needed to update the grant application and workplan submission annually. With a three-year performance period, ASPN proposes for a grantee to submit an annual budget application and an executive summary to update amended community needs and changes instead of the entire grant application. This change would not only reduce the time needed of grantee staff, but also regional staff grant reviewers.

AmeriCorps Response: AmeriCorps is in the process of modernizing our grant management systems. As part of the modernization effort, AmeriCorps will propose that grantees submit a simplified budget application and an update through a simplified amendment process, rather than an entire grant continuation application.

Comment: While the Progress Report at the end of a grant year is straightforward, there is confusion as to how much information is needed in the narrative section. Instructions about the examples of info that is most helpful in the narrative sections would be welcome.

AmeriCorps Response: In addition to Progress Report Instructions and training, AmeriCorps provides Appendix A.4—AmeriCorps Seniors Progress Report Tips in each Program Handbook. This document shares examples about what information is worth considering for the narrative sections of the Progress Report. In addition, grantees can also speak with their Portfolio Manager about the type and extent of information they should include.

Comment: The Progress Report Supplement has been referred to as many different things over the years. With current Performance Measure workplans being very specific as to the special needs served by volunteers, this complete demographic report is burdensome for both program and station staff. ASPN has been told that there is no way for [AmeriCorps] to aggregate the data reported into a national needs snapshot. As such, ASPN strongly believes that if [AmeriCorps is] unable to aggregate this data, programs should not be asked to collect it. The current reporting dates do not take into account grant years; therefore, programs are reporting on portions of two different grant years, causing the information to often be incorrect. Demographics of the volunteers should be rolled into the annual Progress Report. The PPR-S should be eliminated and would reduce the

administrative burden for both grantees and agency staff.

AmeriCorps Response: AmeriCorps can and does aggregate the demographic section of the Progress Report Supplement (PRS). We are in the process of updating our grant management systems so that volunteer information can be entered directly into the system. AmeriCorps Seniors anticipates that this will eliminate the need for the PRS and reduce the administrative burden for grantees and agency staff.

Comment: Independent Living and Respite Surveys: [Senior Companion Program] (SCP) directors report that national workplans do not require all the information requested on these surveys. If the workplan does not request the information, it would be best if those questions were eliminated from the survey and would possibly result in a better return on the number of clients completing the surveys. As Senior Companions serve those with dementia, it is often the caregiver of the client that completes this survey. In an effort to [lessen] caregiver burden, a shortened survey could be more easily completed which would then, in turn, produce a better response rate.

AmeriCorps Response: AmeriCorps Seniors disagrees that, at only 13 questions, this survey is too burdensome. Nevertheless, AmeriCorps Seniors will review the Independent Living and Respite Survey, and is interested in the specific questions which SCP Directors propose to be eliminated.

Title of Collection: Application Package for AmeriCorps Seniors Applications Instructions, Progress Reporting, Independent Living and Respite Surveys.

OMB Control Number: 3045-0143.
Type of Review: Renewal with change.

Respondents/Affected Public: Organizations and State, Local or Tribal Governments.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 1,250.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 6,250.

Abstract: The AmeriCorps Seniors Grant Application is used by prospective and existing sponsors of AmeriCorps Seniors projects under the AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP (RSVP), AmeriCorps Seniors FGP (FGP), AmeriCorps Seniors (SCP), and AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Demonstration Program (SDP). The Project Progress Report and Project Report Supplement will be used to report progress toward accomplishing work plan goals and objectives, reporting volunteer and service outputs,

reporting actual outcomes of self-nominated performance measures, meeting challenges encountered, describing significant activities, and requesting technical assistance. The Application Instructions and PPR and PRS forms in this package conform to AmeriCorps' web-based electronic grants management system. The SCP Independent Living Survey and SCP Respite Survey are instruments that collect information from a sample of Senior Companion clients and caregivers. The purpose of the surveys is to assess the feasibility of conducting a longitudinal, quasi-experimental evaluation of the impact of independent living and respite services on clients' social ties and perceived social support. The results of the surveys may also be used to inform the feasibility of using a similar instrument to measure client and caregiver outcomes for an evaluation of RSVP. AmeriCorps seeks to renew the current information collection with revisions. The revisions are intended to capture the socioeconomic status of AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers. The information collection will otherwise be used in the same manner as the existing application. AmeriCorps also seeks to continue using the current application until the revised application is approved by OMB. The current application is due to expire on March 31, 2025.

Danielle Melfi,

Chief Program Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

U.S. Army Science Board Open Meeting; Notice

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of Federal Advisory Committee meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Government in the Sunshine Act of 1976, the Department of the Army announces the following committee meeting of the U.S. Army Science Board (ASB) Summer Voting Session.

DATES: The U.S. Army Science Board Summer Voting Session will meet from 8:15 a.m.–1:45 p.m. on Thursday, July 20, 2023.

ADDRESSES: The Arnold and Mabel Beckman Center of the National

Academies of Sciences and Engineering, 100 Academy Way, Irvine, CA 92617.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Army Science Board, Designated Federal Officer, 2530 Crystal Drive, Suite 7098, Arlington, VA 22202; Ms. Heather J. Gerard (Ierardi), the ASB's Designated Federal Officer (DFO), at (406) 926-9090 or email: heather.j.gerard.civ@army.mil, and Mr. Vince L. Bullard, the ASB's Alternate Designated Federal Official at (571) 215-1408 or email: vinson.l.bullard.civ@army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Due to circumstances beyond the control of the Designated Federal Officer, the U.S. Army Science Board was unable to provide public notification required by 41 CFR 102-3.150(a) concerning its July 20, 2023 meeting. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee Management Officer for the Department of Defense, pursuant to 41 CFR 102-3.150(b), waives the 15-calendar day notification requirement.

Purpose of Meeting: The purpose of the meeting is for ASB members to review, deliberate, and vote on the findings and recommendations presented for one Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 study, one FY2021 study, and two (FY23) ASB studies.

Agenda: The board will present findings and recommendations for deliberation and vote on the following studies:

“An Independent Assessment of the Army's Ability to Fight and Win on a Nuclear Battlefield.” This FY21 study is classified and will be presented in a closed session at 8:15 a.m.–9:15 a.m.

“Surge Capacity in the Industrial Base.” The study team collected data marked CUI from its source and cannot disseminate the information to the public. Reasons include (but are not limited to) the passing of proprietary business information and controlled technical information. This FY23 study is controlled unclassified and will be presented in a closed session at 9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

“An Independent Assessment of the Army Implementation of Digital Engineering.” This FY23 study is not classified and will be presented in an open session at 10:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

“An Independent Assessment of the 2040 Battlefield and its Implications for 5th Generation Combat Vehicle Technologies”. This FY20 study is not classified and will be presented in an open session at 12:45 a.m.–1:45 p.m.

Public Accessibility to the Meeting: Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b, as amended, and 41 CFR 102-3.140 through 102-3.165, and subject to the availability of

space, this meeting is open to the public. Registration of members of the public who wish to attend the meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on the day of the meeting. Seating is limited and is on a first-to-arrive basis. Attendees will be asked to provide their name, title, affiliation, and contact information to include email address and daytime telephone number at registration. Any interested person may attend the meeting, file written comments or statements with the committee, or make verbal comments from the floor during the public meeting, at the times, and in the manner, permitted by the committee, as set forth below.

Special Accommodations: The meeting venue is fully handicap accessible, with wheelchair access. Individuals requiring special accommodations to access the public meeting or seeking additional information about public access procedures, should contact Mr. Vince Bullard, the Alternate Designated Federal Official (ADFO) for the ASB, at the email addresses or telephone numbers listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section, at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Written Comments or Statements: Pursuant to 41 CFR 102-3.105(j) and § 102-3.140(c) and 5 U.S.C. 1009(a)(3), the public or interested organizations may submit written comments or statements to the ASB about its mission and/or the topics to be addressed in this public meeting. Written comments or statements should be submitted to Mr. Vince Bullard, the ADFO of the ASB, via electronic mail, the preferred mode of submission, at the addresses listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section in the following formats: Adobe Acrobat or Microsoft Word. The comment or statement must include the author's name, title, affiliation, address, and daytime telephone number. Written comments or statements being submitted in response to the agenda set forth in this notice must be received by the ADFO at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting so that they may be made available to the ASB for its consideration prior to the meeting. Written comments or statements received after this date may not be provided to the ASB until its next meeting. Please note that because the ASB operates under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, all written comments will be