

Dated: July 23, 2002.

**Edward Schultz,**

*Acting Director, Procurement and Grants Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Administration for Children and Families**

**Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request**

*Title:* DHHS/ACF Employment Retention and Advancement (ERA) Evaluation 12-Month Survey.

*OMB No.:* New collection.

*Description:* The Employment Retention and Advancement (ERA) Evaluation is the most ambitious, comprehensive effort to learn what works in this area to date and is explicitly designed to build on past research by rigorously testing a wide variety of approaches to promoting employment retention and advancement for a range of populations. The project, conceived and sponsored by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), seeks to “conduct a multi-site evaluation that studies the net impact and cost-benefits of programs designed to help Temporary Assistance for Needy

Families (TANF) recipients, former TANF recipients, or families at-risk of needing TANF benefits retain and advance in employment.” The ERA Evaluation involves up to 15 random assignment experiments in eight states, testing a diverse set of strategies designed to promote stable employment and/or career advancement for current and former welfare recipients and/or career advancement for current and former welfare recipients and other low-income parents. Over the next several years, the ERA project will generate a wealth of rigorous data on the implementation, effects, and costs of these alternative approaches. The data collected will be used for the following purposes:

- To study ERA’s impacts on employment, earnings, participation, educational attainment and income;
- To collect data on a wider range of outcome measures than is available through welfare or UI records in order to understand how individuals were affected by ERA; job retention and job quality; educational attainment; interactions with an knowledge of the ERA program; household composition; income; and childcare, transportation, and health coverage;
- To supplement research on the implementation of ERA across sites;
- To conduct non-experimental analyses to explain participation decisions and provide a descriptive picture of the circumstances of low-wage workers;

- To obtain participation information important to the evaluation’s benefit-cost component; and

- To obtain contact information for possible future follow-up, information that will be important to achieving high response rates for the 36-month survey.

*Respondents:* The respondents of the 12-month survey are Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) applicants, current and former TANF recipients, or individuals in families at-risk of needing TANF benefits (working poor and hard-to-employ) from eight states participating in the ERA Evaluation: California, Oregon, New York, Ohio, Minnesota, Illinois, South Carolina, and Texas. Survey respondents can be grouped according to three program clusters: advancement projects; placement and retention (hard-to-employ) projects; and mixed goal projects. All three program clusters will receive the 12-month core survey. The placement and retention (hard-to-employ) participants will also receive the hard-to-employ survey module. Survey participants will be administered a telephone survey (for those individuals who cannot be reached by phone, staff at the survey firm will attempt to contact them in person) approximately 12 months after random assignment. Approximately 6,250 participants will complete the core survey only and 1,800 participants will complete the core plus hard-to-employ module survey.

**ANNUAL BURDEN ESTIMATES**

Instrument	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Average burden hours per response	Total burden hours
12-Month Survey (Core Only) .....	3,125	1	37 minutes or .6166 hours .....	1,927.08
12-Month Survey (Core plus Hard-to-Employ Module).	900	1	45 minutes or .75 hours .....	675.00
Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours ....	.....	.....	.....	2,602.08

**Additional Information**

Copies of the proposed collection may be obtained by writing to the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Information Services, 370 L’Enfant Promenade, SW., Washington, DC 20447, Attn: ACF Reports Clearance Officer.

**OMB Comment**

OMB is required to make a decision concerning the collection of information between 30 and 60 days after publication of this document in the **Federal Register**. Therefore, a comment is best assured of having its full effect

if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent directly to the following: Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attn: Desk Officer for ACF.

Dated: July 24, 2002.

**Robert Sargis,**

*Reports Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 02-19071 Filed 7-26-02; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Administration for Children and Families**

**Request for Public Comment on the Reporting Period for the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System**

**AGENCY:** Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF), ACF, DHHS.

**ACTION:** Notice of request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Children's Bureau, in the Administration on Children, Youth and Families administers the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS), through which States collect and report data on child maltreatment. The Children's Bureau (CB) uses these data as a basis for States' conformity with title IV-B and IV-E State plan requirements as determined by a Child and Family Services (CFS) Review, among other purposes. States reviewed in 2001 noted a number of concerns when NCANDS data were used in this manner. Specifically, States and ACF experienced difficulty with interpreting NCANDS data because they are reported on a calendar year basis, while the reporting period for the other primary data source for the CFS Reviews, the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), is a Federal fiscal year. CB is proposing a change in the NCANDS reporting period to address this issue. The Administration on Children and Families invites comments from States and other interested parties regarding the NCANDS reporting period.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the ADDRESSES section below on or before August 28, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** E-mail written comments to John Gaudiosi, Children's Bureau, at [jgaudiosi@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:jgaudiosi@acf.hhs.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Gaudiosi, Mathematical Statistician, Children's Bureau, [jgaudiosi@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:jgaudiosi@acf.hhs.gov) or 202-205-8625.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**NCANDS Background**

Public Law 100-294 amended the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) [42 U.S.C. 5101 *et seq.*] and directed the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a national data collection and analysis program on child abuse and neglect. The Department responded by establishing the NCANDS as a voluntary national reporting system. States report aggregate summary data and detailed case-level such as the number of children abused and neglected, the types of abuse, the number of fatalities due to maltreatment, and the types of services provided to address maltreatment and prevent future abuse. Public Law 104-235 further amended CAPTA to establish that States that participate in NCANDS and receive the Basic State Grant would work with the Secretary to provide, to the maximum extent practicable, a report that includes several data items, including the

number of children reported as abused or neglected; the number that did or did not receive services; the number removed from their families during the year; the number of families that received preventive services; the number of deaths resulting from child abuse or neglect; and others [42 U.S.C. 5106a]. The Department incorporated these requirements into the NCANDS.

ACF uses NCANDS data for a variety of purposes, including:

- An annual publication on child maltreatment;
- Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Report to Congress;
- The Child and Family Services Reviews;
- Responding to data requests from other Federal agencies concerning child abuse and neglect; and
- Research activities.

In FY 2000, 17 States submitted aggregate data and 34 States submitted case-level data. The recent increases in the number of States submitting case-level data is linked strongly to ACF's use of the NCANDS data to evaluate and report child welfare outcomes nationally.

**Interpreting Child Welfare Outcomes Using NCANDS Data**

Although CB has used NCANDS data for more than 10 years to provide a national picture of child maltreatment, the use of NCANDS data to determine child welfare outcomes and State compliance with Federal child welfare requirements is a recent event. The CFS Reviews (see 45 CFR 1355.31-1355.37) measure compliance with the State plan requirements under titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act by evaluating child and family outcomes. As part of these reviews, CB provides each State under reviews with data profiles generated from data submitted to NCANDS and AFCARS. States report detailed data to AFCARS on children removed from their homes and placed in foster care and children adopted within a State with the involvement of the State child welfare agency.

Data from both AFCARS and NCANDS must be used simultaneously to evaluate child welfare outcomes, because the majority of families and children who are reported in AFCARS are also included in NCANDS. Since the reviews are comprehensive and cover child protective services, foster care, adoption, family preservation, family support and independent living, the only means of obtaining critical national data on children and families for some of these programs is to use the NCANDS and AFCARS data together. These data are used to help States and the Federal

government understand what happens to children and families as they move through State child welfare systems, to identify strengths and areas needing improvement in State child welfare systems, and to determine the State's conformity with applicable requirements.

As currently configured, using NCANDS and AFCARS data together presents challenges to States and CB. At the November 2001 meeting of the Children's Bureau with the first 17 States that had undergone a CFS Review, States identified several challenges in using the Federal data sets to measure conformity and evaluate child welfare outcomes. One challenge noted is the reporting period. AFCARS data are based on the Federal fiscal year, on the other hand, PI-CB-98-15, issued September 19, 1998, gave States the option to submit NCANDS data using the calendar year, the Federal fiscal year, or the State fiscal year. Presently, all States now submit data on calendar year basis. As a result, States must analyze and evaluate their effectiveness in preventing child maltreatment and out-of-home placement using data sets from different time periods. Furthermore, CB has developed a national standard for the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care for the CFS Reviews using both AFCARS and NCANDS data.<sup>1</sup> To generate this measure, CB uses nine months of data (January through September) rather than a full year of data because of the different reporting periods. CB uses a similar measure in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Report to Congress that tracks State child welfare agency performance on key outcome measures.<sup>2</sup> Synchronizing the reporting periods will make the NCANDS data available three months earlier. This will enable CB to generate more timely safety profiles for the CFS Reviews and contextual data for the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Report to Congress. CB believes changing the reporting period for NCANDS ensures the best use of the data reported by States. Since AFCARS data are used in Federal budget projections and State grant allocations,<sup>3</sup> changing the

<sup>1</sup> See ACYF-CB-IM-01-07 for further discussion on the national standards in the CFS reviews.

<sup>2</sup> Log onto <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/index.htm> for the most recent report to Congress and a discussion of the outcome measures.

<sup>3</sup> For instance, AFCARS data are used in determining State allotments under the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program under section 477 of the Social Security Act. AFCARS data is also used in determining whether a State qualifies for incentive payments under the Adoption Incentive Program under section 4 473A of the Social

AFCARS reporting period would significantly disrupt other priorities.

**Changing the NCANDS Reporting Period to a Federal Fiscal Year**

To address the above concerns, we are considering changing the NCANDS

reporting period to coincide with the Federal fiscal year (October 1 through September 30). This change will make future NCANDS data inconsistent with previous years' data. However, statistical procedures can be used to

make appropriate adjustments for analytic purposes, thus diminishing this disadvantage. The proposed changes for submitting NCANDS data are delineated in the table below.

Data year	CB requests data	States submit data	CB finalizes data	CB completes draft annual report
<b>CY 2000</b> .....	<b>March 2001</b> .....	<b>June 15, 2001</b> .....	<b>October 2001</b> .....	<b>March 2002.</b>
<b>CY 2001</b> .....	<b>March 2002</b> .....	<b>June 15, 2002</b> .....	<b>October 2002</b> .....	<b>March 2003.</b>
FFY 2002 (Oct. 2001–Sept. 2002) .....	December 2002 .....	March 15, 2003 .....	July 2003 .....	December 2003.
FFY 2003 (Oct. 2002–September 2003) .....	December 2003 .....	March 15, 2004 .....	July 2004 .....	December 2004.

Bold-faced text=past or current data collection schedules. Note FFY 2002 would collect October 2001–December 2001 again from the States. The March 2003 report would be considered the Annual report for 2001; the December 2003 report would be the report for 2002, etc.

ACF is interested in public comment on this issue. In particular, we invite comments regarding:

- The advantages or disadvantages of calendar year versus Federal fiscal year reporting for NCANDS data for States, particularly in interpreting child welfare outcome data
- The advantages or disadvantages of calendar year versus Federal fiscal year reporting of NCANDS data for researchers and other interested parties
- The fiscal and administrative impact on States of changing NCANDS to Federal fiscal year reporting (i.e., costs to Statewide child welfare information systems, burden of proposed submission dates, etc.)
- Other suggestions for addressing the concerns noted regarding the data reporting periods.

Dated: July 16, 2002.

**Joan E. Ohl,**

*Commissioner, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

[Docket No. FR–4734–N–20]

**Notice of Submission of Proposed Information Collection to OMB Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA) Disclosures**

**AGENCY:** Office of the Chief Information Officer, HUD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The proposed information collection requirement described below has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork

Reduction Act. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

**DATES:** *Comments Due Date: August 28, 2002.*

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB approval number and should be sent to: Joseph F. Lackey, Jr., OMB Desk Officer, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503; Fax number (202) 395–6974; E-mail *Joseph\_F\_Lackey\_Jr@OMB.EOP.GOV.*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Wayne Eddins, Reports Management Officer, QDAM, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20410; e-mail *Wayne\_Eddins@HUD.gov*; telephone (202) 708–2374. This is not a toll-free number. Copies of the proposed forms and other available documents submitted to OMB may be obtained from Mr. Eddins.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department has submitted the proposal for the collection of information, as described below, to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35). The Notice lists the following information: (1) The title of the information collection proposal; (2) the office of the agency to collect the information; (3) the OMB approval number, if applicable; (4) the description of the need for the information and its proposed use; (5) the agency form number, if applicable; (6) what members of the public will be affected by the proposal; (7) how frequently information submissions will be required; (8) an estimate of the total number of hours needed to prepare the

information submission including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response; (9) whether the proposal is new, an extension, reinstatement, or revision of an information collection requirement; and (10) the name and telephone number of an agency official familiar with the proposal and of the OMB Desk Officer for the Department.

This Notice also lists the following information:

*Title of Proposal:* Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA) Disclosures.

*OMB Approval Number:* 2502–0265.

*Form Numbers:* HUD–1, HUD–1–A.

*Description of the Need for the Information and its proposed Use:* The Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 requires settlement providers to disclose to homebuyers certain information at or before settlement and pursuant to the servicing of the loan and escrow account. This includes a Special Information Booklet, a Good Faith Estimate, an Initial Servicing Disclosure, a Settlement Statement (the Form HUD–1 or Form HUD–1A), and when applicable an Initial Escrow Account Statement, an Annual Escrow Account Statement, an Escrow Account Disbursement Disclosure, an Affiliated Business Arrangement Disclosure, and a Servicing Transfer/Disclosure. This information requirement under OMB control number 2502–0265 consolidates information previously collected under OMB control numbers 2502–0458, 2502–0491, 2502–0501, 2502–0516, and 2502–0517.

*Respondents:* Individuals or households, business or other for-profit entities.

*Frequency of Submission:* On occasion and annually.

Security Act. Both programs rely on using available data that are consistent with a Federal fiscal year.