DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of the Secretary

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Unemployment Insurance Data Validation Program

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor (DOL) is submitting the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) sponsored information collection request (ICR) revision titled, “Unemployment Insurance Data Validation Program,” to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval for use in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).

DATES: Submit comments on or before March 28, 2013.

ADDRESSES: A copy of this ICR with applicable supporting documentation; including a description of the likely respondents, proposed frequency of response, and estimated total burden may be obtained from the RegInfo.gov Web site, [http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain), on the day following publication of this notice or by contacting Michel Smyth by telephone at 202–693–4129 (this is not a toll-free number) or sending an email to DOL.PRA.PUBLIC@dol.gov.

Submit comments about this request to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: OMB Desk Officer for DOL–ETA, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, 725 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20503, Fax: 202–395–6881 (this is not a toll-free number), email: OIRA_submission@omb.eop.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michel Smyth by telephone at 202–693–4129 (this is not a toll-free number) or by email at DOL.PRA.PUBLIC@dol.gov.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Unemployment Insurance Data Validation Program requires States to operate a system for ascertaining the validity (i.e., adherence to Federal reporting requirements) of specified unemployment insurance data submitted to the ETA on certain reports they are required to submit monthly or quarterly. Some of these data are used to assess performance, including for the Government Performance and Results Act, or to determine States grants for administration of the Unemployment Insurance Program.

This information collection is subject to the PRA. A Federal agency generally cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information, and the public is generally not required to respond to an information collection, unless it is approved by the OMB under the PRA and displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. In addition, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall generally be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information that does not display a valid Control Number. See 5 CFR 1320.5(a) and 1320.6. The DOL obtains OMB approval for this information collection under Control Number 1205–0431. The current approval is scheduled to expire on July 31, 2013; however, it should be noted that existing information collection requirements submitted to the OMB receive a month-to-month extension while they undergo review. The new information collection requirements would take effect upon OMB approval. For additional information, see the related notice published in the Federal Register on July 31, 2012 (77 FR 41452). Interested parties are encouraged to send comments to the OMB, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs at the address shown in the ADDRESSES section within 30 days of publication of this notice in the Federal Register. In order to help ensure appropriate consideration, comments should mention OMB Control Number 1205–0431. The OMB is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, 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 used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- 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, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Agency: DOL–ETA.
Title of Collection: Unemployment Insurance Data Validation Program.
OMB Control Number: 1205–0431.
Affected Public: State, Local, or Tribal Governments.
Total Estimated Number of Respondents: 53.
Total Estimated Number of Responses: 53.
Total Estimated Annual Burden Hours: 34,550.
Total Estimated Annual Other Costs Burden: $0.

Dated: February 20, 2013.
Michel Smyth,
Departmental Clearance Officer.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of the Secretary

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Job Clubs Study

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor (DOL), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) [44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)]. This program helps to ensure that required data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed.

A copy of the proposed ICR can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the address section of this notice or by accessing [http://www.doleta.gov/OMBCN/OMBCNumber.cfm](http://www.doleta.gov/OMBCN/OMBCNumber.cfm).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the address section below on or before March 28, 2013.
ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either one of the following methods:
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ben Seigel by telephone at 202–693–6032 (this is not a toll-free number) or by email at CFBNP@dol.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Over the past several decades, job search support groups, commonly referred to as “job clubs” have evolved into one of several important activities used by the public workforce system and community-based organizations to enhance worker readiness and employability, as well as to provide ongoing support to unemployed and underemployed individuals as they search for jobs. While many job clubs are formally run through the public workforce system—including at Department of Labor funded American Job Centers—they have especially expanded in recent years through faith-based organizations, such as church ministries; volunteer-run networking groups that meet at coffee shops or public libraries; and online networking sites such as LinkedIn.

There have been past evaluations of the effects of job clubs sponsored by the public sector on job placement, but there has been little assessment and/or empirical study of volunteer-run job clubs and job search support groups sponsored by faith-based and community-based organizations. For example, during the 1980s, there was a great deal of interest in job clubs to help a wide variety of unemployed workers, including older workers, welfare recipients, and formerly incarcerated individuals. A number of evaluations found that job clubs had a large and significant impact on speeding up participants’ return to work. While it would seem likely that volunteer-run job clubs and those offered through faith-based and community-based organizations could have similar effects in terms of speeding the return to work for unemployed individuals, there have been few (if any) rigorous empirical research studies completed on this subject. There have, however, been some qualitative studies completed on the role of community-based and faith-based organizations in providing employment and training services. For example, a 2001 study for the Department of Labor documented and assessed the role of faith-based organizations in providing employment and training services, based in part on interviews conducted by telephone with faith-based organizations. This study broadly assessed the role of these organizations in delivering such services, with a focus on the role of faith-based organizations in providing job readiness workshops, job clubs, and other types of assistance to help unemployed individuals find jobs.

Site visits to six organizations sponsoring job clubs is the focus of this ICR aimed at: (1) Systematically describing the key characteristics of the volunteer-run groups and other new types of job clubs being offered across a range of communities; (2) documenting how they differ from and are similar to the job clubs operated by publicly-funded workforce agencies (such as the American Job Centers); and (3) identifying promising practices that might warrant more rigorous formal evaluation of individual impacts and effectiveness. The proposed data collection effort is necessary to fill a gap in existing knowledge about the extent, characteristics, and effectiveness of volunteer-led and faith-based and community-based organizations’ sponsorship of job clubs for unemployed and underemployed workers.

The period of performance of this effort is 12 months, ending September 13, 2013. The overall budget is $299,784.44. The contractor is Capital Research Corporation with a subcontract to George Washington University.

II. Desired Focus of Comments

Currently, the Department of Labor is soliciting comments concerning the above data collection for the Job Clubs Study. Comments are requested to:

* 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 used;
* Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
* Minimize the burden of the information collection on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

II. Current Actions

At this time, the Department of Labor is requesting clearance for Job Clubs site visits.

Type of review: New information collection request.

OMB Number: None.

Affected Public: Employees, volunteers, and/or members associated with six job clubs and their partner organizations.

Cite/Reference/Form/etc.: The Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships and its activities are guided by Executive Order 13279 (December 12, 2002), “Equal Protection of the Laws for Faith-Based and Community Organizations” and Executive Order 13559 (November 17, 2010), “Fundamental Principles and Policymaking Criteria for Partnerships with Faith-Based and Other Neighborhood Organizations.”

For the Job Clubs site visits:

Frequency: Once.

Total Responses: 48.

Average Time per Response: 3 hours.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 144 hours.

Total Burden Cost: $3,355(144 hours at $23.30* per hour).

Note that, due to rounding, the numbers for the totals may differ from the sum of the component numbers.

*U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Table B–3. Average hourly and weekly earnings of all employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector, seasonally adjusted (accessed from the following Web site as of September 2012: [http://www.bls.gov/webapps/legacy/cesatab3.htm]).

Comments submitted in response to this request will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval; they will also become a matter of public record.
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of the Secretary

National Advisory Committee for Labor Provisions of U.S. Free Trade Agreements; Notice of Open Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of International Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor.


SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, the Office of Trade and Labor Affairs (OTLA) gives notice of a meeting of the National Advisory Committee for Labor Provisions of U.S. Free Trade Agreements (“Committee” or “NAC”), which was established by the Secretary of Labor.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the implementation of the labor provisions of Free Trade Agreements, as well as a Subcommittee’s report on ILAB’s research priorities.

Public Participation: Written data, views, or comments for consideration by the NAC on the agenda listed above should be submitted to Paula Church Albertson at the address listed above. Submissions received by March 12, 2013 will be provided to Committee members and will be included in the record of the meeting. The Committee may take comments or questions from members of the public which were not submitted in writing by March 12 if time permits.

Signed at Washington, DC, the 20th day of February 2013.

Carol Pier,
Acting Deputy Undersecretary, International Affairs.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Contact Michel Smyth by telephone at 202–693–4129 (this is not a toll-free number) or by email at DOL_PRA_PUBLIC@dol.gov


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This ICR is to extend, without change, existing disclosures that provide certain actuarial and financial information to multiemployer defined benefit pension plan participants and beneficiaries, employee representatives, and any employer that has an obligation to contribute to such a plan.

This information collection is subject to the PRA. A Federal agency generally cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information, and the public is generally not required to respond to an information collection, unless it is approved by the OMB under the PRA and displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. In addition, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall generally be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information that does not display a valid Control Number. See 5 CFR 1320.5(a) and 1320.6. The DOL obtains OMB approval for this information collection under Control Number 1210–0131. The current approval is scheduled to expire on February 28, 2013; however, it should be noted that existing information collection requirements submitted to the OMB receive a month-to-month extension while they undergo review. For additional information, see the related notice published in the Federal Register on November 27, 2013 (77 FR 70828).

Interested parties are encouraged to send comments to the OMB, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs at the address shown in the ADDRESSES section within 30 days of publication of this notice in the Federal Register. In order to help ensure appropriate consideration, comments should mention OMB Control Number 1210–0131. The OMB is particularly interested in comments that:

• Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the...