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Dated: December 22, 2014.

Rex A. Barnes,

Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request—Evaluation of Demonstration Projects To End Childhood Hunger

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on this proposed information collection. This is a new collection for the contract Evaluation of Demonstration Projects to End Childhood Hunger.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before February 27, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions that were used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Written comments may be sent to: Danielle Berman, Office of Policy Support, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1014, Alexandria, VA 22302.

Comments may also be submitted via fax to the attention of Danielle Berman at 703-305-2576 or via email to Danielle.Berman@fns.usda.gov.

Comments will also be accepted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>, and follow the online instructions for submitting comments electronically.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will be a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of this information collection should be directed to Danielle Berman, Office of Policy Support, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1014, Alexandria, VA 22302.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Evaluation of Demonstration Projects to End Childhood Hunger.

Form Number: N/A.

OMB Number: 0584-NEW.

Expiration Date: Not Yet Determined.

Type of Request: New Collection.

Abstract: The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFKA) of 2010 (Public Law 111-296), under Section 141, added a new Section 23 on Childhood Hunger Research to the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act.

This section provides substantial new mandatory funding to research the causes and consequences of childhood hunger and to test innovative strategies to end child hunger and food insecurity. Congress called for the development and evaluation of innovative strategies to "reduce the risk of childhood hunger or provide a significant improvement to the food security status of households with children," including alternative models of service delivery or benefit levels.

The purpose of the evaluation is to rigorously assess the impact of five demonstration projects on the prevalence of child food insecurity, and other relevant outcomes. The demonstration projects are intended to test innovative strategies to end childhood hunger, including alternative models for service delivery and benefit levels that promote the reduction or elimination of childhood hunger and food insecurity. Projects may include enhanced Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for eligible households with children; enhanced benefits or innovative program delivery models in school meals programs, afterschool snacks programs, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP); and other

targeted Federal, State or local assistance, including refundable tax credits, emergency housing, employment and training, or family preservation services, for households with children who are experiencing food insecurity. At least one demonstration must be implemented in a rural Indian reservation where the prevalence of diabetes exceeds 15 percent. Demonstration projects will be selected and announced in early 2015.

The evaluation will collect data from all five demonstration projects in 2015 and 2016 (two rounds of data collection), and from one demonstration project in 2017 (three rounds of data collection). The data will be used for implementation, cost, and impact analyses for each demonstration project. Analyses include (1) which agencies and partner organizations delivered services, (2) whether the way the demonstration model was implemented has an effect on any observed impacts, (3) the resources used in planning, starting up, and operating each demonstration project, and how those resources compare to those for the control or comparison groups, and (4) how cost effective the demonstration was in reducing childhood food insecurity. The primary outcome measure for the demonstrations will be the change in the prevalence of food insecurity among children in households with children as measured by the U.S. Household Food Security Survey Module. The end products will provide scientifically valid evidence of demonstration project impacts.

Affected Public: Individuals/households; State, local and Tribal governments; Private sector (for-profit and not-for-profit).

Estimated Number of Respondents: The total estimated number of respondents is 27,297. This includes 27,107 individuals/households, 150 State, local, and Tribal government directors/managers and staff, and 40 private sector for-profit business and not-for-profit agency directors/managers. FNS will contact 27,107 individuals/households, out of which 22,589 parents/guardians in the treatment and comparison groups will complete telephone surveys and 4,518 parents/guardians will be survey nonrespondents. The survey sample sizes are large because they are needed to detect statistically significant differences in the key outcome of interest—child food insecurity—between treatment and comparison households within each demonstration site. Among the parents/guardians contacted for the telephone surveys, 456 will also be contacted for the focus

groups; 96 parents/guardians will participate in the focus groups and 360 will be considered nonrespondents. A total of 320 parents/guardians will also be contacted for an in-person interview; 80 parents/guardians will be interviewees and 240 will be considered nonrespondents. FNS will contact 50 State, local and Tribal agency directors/managers and 100 State, local and Tribal agency direct service staff for in-person interviews; 5 of the directors/managers

will provide administrative data and 5 will provide cost data. FNS will contact 10 private sector for-profit business directors/managers for in person interviews; 5 will also provide administrative data. FNS will also contact 30 private sector not-for-profit agency directors/managers for in person interviews, and 5 will also provide cost data.

Estimated Frequency of Responses per Respondent: Average 2.09 responses for

individuals/households, 3.20 responses for State, local or Tribal government representatives, and 5.90 responses for private sector representatives.

Estimated Total Annual Responses: 57,458.

Estimated Time per Response: About 0.51 hours (31 minutes). The estimated time of response varies from 0.50 to 2.33 hours depending on the respondent group, as shown in the table below. The total annual burden is 25,157.13 hours.

Affected public	Data collection activity	Respondents type	Sample size	Respondents					Non-respondents					GRAND total burden estimate
				Estimated number of respondents	Frequency of response	Total annual responses	Average burden hours per response	Total annual burden estimate (hours)	Estimated number of non-respondents	Frequency of response	Total annual responses	Average burden hours per response	Total annual burden estimate (hours)	
Individuals/households.	Telephone survey. (two rounds)	Parent/guardian	24,755	20,629	2	41,258	0.50	20,629.00	4,126	2	8,252	0.05	412.60	21,041.60
	Telephone survey. (three rounds)	Parent/guardian	2,352	1,960	3	5,880	0.50	2,940.00	392	3	1,176	0.05	58.80	2,998.80
	In-person focus group.	Parent/guardian	456	96	1	96	1.67	160.13	360	1	360	0.08	28.80	188.93
	In-person interview.	Parent/guardian	320	80	1	80	1.67	133.60	240	1	240	0.08	19.20	152.80
Subtotal individuals/households.	.....	.....	27,107	22,589	.....	47,314	.....	23,862.73	4,518	.....	9,428	.....	519.40	24,382.13
State, local, and Tribal government.	In-person interview (two rounds).	State, local, or Tribal agency director/manager.	40	40	2	80	1.00	80.00	0	2	0	0.08	0.00	80.00
	In-person interview (three rounds).	State, local, or Tribal agency director/manager.	10	10	3	30	1.00	30.00	0	3	0	0.08	0.00	30.00
	In-person interview (two rounds).	State, local, or Tribal agency direct service staff.	80	80	2	160	1.00	160.00	0	2	0	0.08	0.00	160.00
	In-person interview (three rounds).	State, local, or Tribal agency direct service staff.	20	20	3	60	1.00	60.00	0	3	0	0.08	0.00	60.00
	Provide administrative data.	State, local, or Tribal agency director/manager.	5	5	24	120	0.83	99.60	0	1	0	0.08	0.00	99.60
	Provide cost data.	State, local, or Tribal agency director/manager.	5	5	6	30	2.33	69.90	0	1	0	0.08	0.00	69.90
	Subtotal State, local, and Tribal government.	.....	150	.....	480	.....	499.50	0	.....	0	.....	0.00	499.50	.....
Private sector	In-person interview.	Private sector for-profit business director/manager.	10	10	2	20	0.50	10.00	0	2	0	0.08	0.00	10.00
	Provide administrative data.	Private sector for-profit business director/manager.	5	5	24	120	0.83	99.60	0	1	0	0.08	0.00	99.60
	In-person interview (two rounds).	Private sector not-for-profit agency director/manager.	24	24	2	48	1.00	48.00	0	2	0	0.08	0.00	48.00
	In-person interview (three rounds).	Private sector not-for-profit agency director/manager.	6	6	3	18	1.00	48.00	0	3	0	0.08	0.00	48.00
	Provide cost data.	Private sector not-for-profit agency director/manager.	5	5	6	30	2.33	69.90	0	1	0	0.08	0.00	69.90
Subtotal private sector.	.....	.....	40	40	.....	236	.....	275.50	0	.....	0	.....	0.00	275.50
Grand total	.....	.....	27,297	22,779	2.11	48,030	0.51	24,637.73	4,518	2.09	9,428	0.06	519.40	25,157.13

Dated: December 16, 2014.

Audrey Rowe,

Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 2014-30373 Filed 12-24-14; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Notice of Solicitation of Applications for the Rural Energy for America Program for Fiscal Year 2015

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (Agency) announces the acceptance of applications under the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) which is designed to help agricultural producers and rural small businesses reduce energy costs and consumption and help meet the Nation’s critical energy needs. REAP has two types of funding assistance: Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Assistance, and Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grants.

The Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvement Assistance provides grants and guaranteed loans to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to purchase and install renewable energy

systems and make energy efficiency improvements to their operations. Eligible renewable energy systems for REAP provide energy from: Wind, solar, renewable biomass (including anaerobic digesters), small hydro-electric, ocean, geothermal, or hydrogen derived from these renewable resources.

The Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grant is available to a unit of State, Tribal, or local government; instrumentality of a State, Tribal, or local government; institution of higher education; rural electric cooperative; a public power entity; or a council, as defined in 16 U.S.C. 3451. The recipient of grant funds, (grantee), will establish a program to assist agricultural producers and rural small businesses with evaluating the energy efficiency and the potential to incorporate renewable energy technologies into their operations.

DATES: Grant applications, guaranteed loan-only applications, and combined grant and guaranteed loan applications for financial assistance under this subpart may be submitted at any time on an ongoing basis. Section IV. E., of this Notice establishes the deadline dates for the applications to be received in order to be considered for funding provided by Public Law 113-79, commonly referred to as the 2014 Farm Bill Act, for fiscal year 2014 and fiscal year 2015. In summary:

(1) *Renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement grant*

applications and combination grant and guaranteed loan applications. There will be two application deadline dates to facilitate the use of fiscal years 2014 and 2015 grant funds. These dates apply to both fiscal year 2014 and 2015 grant funds.

(a) For applicants requesting \$20,000 or less that wish to have their application compete for the “Grants of \$20,000 or less set aside,” complete applications must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on April 30, 2015.

(b) For applicants requesting grant funds of either \$20,000 or less, or grant funds over \$20,000 (unrestricted), complete applications must be received no later than:

(i) 4:30 p.m. local time on April 30, 2015, or

(ii) 4:30 p.m. local time on June 30, 2015.

(2) *Renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement guaranteed loan-only applications.* Applications will be reviewed and processed when received with monthly competitions on the first business day of each month for those applications ready to be funded, however the first monthly competition will not take place until eight guaranteed loan only applications are received and ready to be competed.

(3) *Energy audits and renewable energy development assistance grant applications.* Complete applications must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on February 12, 2015.

Application	Application window opening dates	Application window closing dates
Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvement Grants (Over \$20,000 and Combinations).	July 8, 2014	April 30, 2015.
Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvement Grants (\$20,000 or less not competing for set aside funds, Over \$20,000 and Combinations).	May 1, 2015	June 30, 2015.*
Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvement Grants (\$20,000 or less competing for set aside funds).	July 8, 2014	April 30, 2015.
Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvement Guaranteed Loans	August 1, 2014	Continuous application cycle.
Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grants	December 29, 2014	February 12, 2015.*

* Applications received after this date will be considered for the next cycle.

ADDRESSES: This solicitation is for agricultural producers and rural small businesses, as well as units of State, Tribal, or local government; instrumentalities of a State, Tribal, or local government; institutions of higher education; rural electric cooperatives; a public power entities; and Councils, as defined in 16 U.S.C. 3451, who serve agricultural producers and rural small businesses.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The applicable USDA Rural Development

Energy Coordinator for your respective State, as identified via the following link: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_Energy_CoordinatorList.html.

For information about this Notice, please contact Mr. Kelley Oehler, Branch Chief, USDA Rural Development, Energy Division, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250. Telephone: (202) 720-6819. Email: kelley.oehler@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Program Description

The REAP is designed to help agricultural producers and rural small businesses reduce energy costs and consumption and help meet the Nation’s critical energy needs. REAP has two types of funding assistance: (1) Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Assistance, and (2) Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grants.

A. *General.* Applications for REAP can be submitted on an ongoing basis.