approved collection of information. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the information collection notice is published in the Federal Register to obtain comments regarding the nature of the information collection, the categories of respondents, the estimated burden (i.e. the time, effort, and resources used by the respondents to respond), the estimated cost to the respondent, and the actual information collection instruments.

DATES: Comments are encouraged and will be accepted for 60 days until June 1, 2015.

ADDRESSES: All submissions received must include the OMB Control Number 1615–0005 in the subject box, the agency name and Docket ID USCIS–2009–0021. To avoid duplicate submissions, please use only one of the following methods to submit comments:


(2) Email. Submit comments to USCISFRComment@uscis.dhs.gov;

(3) Mail. Submit written comments to DHS, USCIS, Office of Policy and Strategy, Chief, Regulatory Coordination Division, 20 Massachusetts Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20529–2140.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: USCIS, Office of Policy and Strategy, Chief, Regulatory Coordination Division, Laura Dawkins, Chief, 20 Massachusetts Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20529–2140, telephone number 202–272–8377 (comments are not accepted via telephone message). Please note contact information provided here is solely for questions regarding this notice. It is not for individual case status inquiries.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments: You may access the information collection instrument with instructions, or additional information by visiting the Federal eRulemaking Portal site at: http://www.regulations.gov and enter USCIS–2009–0021 in the search box. Regardless of the method used for submitting comments or material, all submissions will be posted, without change, to the Federal eRulemaking Portal at http://www.regulations.gov, and will include any personal information you provide. Therefore, submitting this information makes it public. You may wish to consider limiting the amount of personal information that you provide in any voluntary submission you make to DHS. DHS may withhold information provided in comments from public viewing that it determines may impact the privacy of an individual or is offensive. For additional information, please read the Privacy Act notice that is available via the link in the footer of http://www.regulations.gov.

Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies should address one or more of the following four points:

(1) 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;

(2) 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;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) 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.

Overview of This Information Collection

(1) Type of Information Collection: Revision of a Currently Approved Collection.

(2) Title of the Form/Collection: Application for Family Unity Benefits.

(3) Agency form number, if any, and the applicable component of the DHS sponsoring the collection: I–817; USCIS.

(4) Affected public who will be asked or required to respond, as well as a brief abstract: Primary: Individuals or households: The information collected will be used to determine whether the applicant meets the eligibility requirements for benefits under 8 CFR 236.14 and 245a.33.

(5) An estimate of the total number of respondents and the amount of time estimated for an average respondent to respond: The estimated total number of respondents for the information collection I–817 is approximately 2,557 and the estimated hour burden per response is 2 hours per response; and the estimated number of respondents providing biometrics is 2,557 and the estimated hour burden per response is 1.17 hours.

(6) An estimate of the total public burden (in hours) associated with the collection: The total estimated annual hour burden associated with this collection is 8,106 hours.

Dated: March 27, 2015.

Laura Dawkins,

[FR Doc. 2015–07506 Filed 4–1–15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9111–97–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR–5843–N–04]

Implementation of the Privacy Act of 1974, as Amended; New System of Records, the Housing Search Process for Racial and Ethnic Minorities Evaluation Data Files

AGENCY: Office of the Chief Information Officer, HUD.

ACTION: New system of records.

SUMMARY: The Department’s Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) is proposing to create a new system of records, the “Housing Search Process for Racial and Ethnic Minorities Evaluation Data Files.” The Department’s Office of PD&R is responsible for maintaining current information on housing needs, market conditions and existing programs, as well as conducting research on priority housing and community development issues.

The principal purpose of the evaluation of the Housing Search Process for Racial and Ethnic Minorities is to: Help guide the Department’s research toward a more comprehensive understanding of the rental housing search processes for individual households; Make informed decisions on the development of more effective enforcement strategies to combat discriminatory practices; Identify ways to expand housing opportunities for racial and ethnic minorities. Further, HUD’s Office of Housing Counseling for rental housing assistance, and the Office of Housing Choice Vouchers, among others will leverage the outcome study results for policy development and best practices aimed to “build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination”, and to identify and correct barriers that racial and ethnic minorities may experience in the rental housing market. Finally, this study will allow the Department to leverage its own regular data collection efforts, like
the American Housing Survey (AHS), to
document the complexities of the
housing search process at scale
nationwide. A more detailed description
of this system is contained in the
“Purpose” caption of this system of
records notice.

DATES: Effective Date: The notice will be
effective May 4, 2015, unless comments
are received that would result in a
contrary determination.

Comments Due Date: May 4, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are
invited to submit comments regarding
this notice to the Rules Docket Clerk,
Office of the General Counsel,
Department of Housing and Urban
Development, 451 Seventh Street SW.,
Room 10276, Washington, DC 20410–
0500. Communication should refer to
the above docket number and title. A
copy of each communication submitted
will be available for public inspection
and copying between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00
p.m. weekdays at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Donna Robinson-Staton, Chief Privacy
Officer, 451 Seventh Street SW.,
Washington, DC 20410 (Attention:
Capitol View Building, 4th Floor),
telephone number: (202) 402–8073. [The
above telephone number is not a toll
free number.] A telecommunications
device for hearing- and speech-impaired
persons (TTY) is available by calling the
Federal Information Relay Service’s toll-
free telephone number: (202) 402–8073. [The
Washington, DC 20410 (Attention:
Officer, 451 Seventh Street SW.,
District of Columbia.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This
system of records will be operated by
HUD’s Office of PD&R and will include
personally identifiable information (PII)
of participants in the Housing Search
Process for Racial and Ethnic Minorities
that will be retrieved from the system by
a name or unique identifier. The new
system of records will encompass
information on program and services
administered by the Department.
Publication of this notice allows the
Department to satisfy its reporting
requirement and keep an up-to-date
accounting of its system of records
publications. The new system of records
will incorporate Federal privacy
requirements and the Department’s
policy requirements. The Privacy Act
provides individuals with certain
safeguards against an invasion of
personal privacy by requiring Federal
agencies to protect records contained in
an agency system of records from
unauthorized disclosure, by ensuring
that information is current and collected
only for its intended use, and by
providing adequate safeguards to
prevent misuse of such information.
Additionally, this notice demonstrates
the Department’s focus on industry best
practices to protect the personal privacy
of the individuals covered by this
system of records notice.

This notice states the name and
location of the record system, the
authority for and manner of its
operations, the categories of individuals
that it covers, the type of records that it
contains, the sources of the information
for the records, the routine uses made of
the records and the type of exemptions
in place for the records. In addition, this
notice includes the business addresses
of Department officials’ who will inform
interested persons of the procedures
whereby they may gain access to and/or
request amendments to records
pertaining to them.

This publication does meet the SORN
threshold requirements pursuant to the
Privacy Act and OMB Circular A–130,
and a report was submitted to the Office
of Management and Budget (OMB), the
Senate Committee on Homeland
Security and Governmental Affairs, and
the House Committee on Government
Reform as instructed by Paragraph 4c of
Appendix I to OMB Circular No. A–130,
“Federal Agencies Responsibilities for
Maintaining Records About
Individuals,” July 25, 1994 (59 FR
37914).

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 552a; 88 Stat. 1896; 42
U.S.C. 3535(d).

Dated: March 27, 2015.

Rafael C. Diaz,
Chief Information Officer.

SYSTEM OF RECORDS NO.:
PD&R/RRE.04

SYSTEM NAME:
Housing Search Process for Racial and
Ethnic Minorities Evaluation Data Files.

SYSTEM LOCATION:
The Department of Housing and
Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street
SW., Washington, DC 20140; The Urban
Institute, 2100 M Street NW,
Washington, DC 20037; The SRS,
53 West Baltimore Pike Media, PA 19063.

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE
SYSTEM:
The categories of individuals covered
by the system will include records on
participants in the Housing Search
Process for Racial and Ethnic Minorities
who have agreed to be part of the
outcome study.

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:
The categories of records in the
system will include the participants
name, home address, telephone number,
and personal email address.

AUTHORITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM:
The authority for the collection of
records, and the maintenance of this
system is authorized by Sections 501–
502 of the Housing and Urban
Development Act of 1970 (Public Law
91–690), 12 U.S.C. 1701z–1, 1701z–2
and Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of
1968, as amended by the Fair Housing
Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 3601.)

PURPOSE(S):
The purpose of the evaluation of the
Housing Search Process for Racial and
Ethnic Minorities is to allow the
Department to address Title VIII of the
Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Fair Housing
Act), which prohibits discrimination in
the rental market based on race and/or
ethnicity and charges HUD to study the
nature and extent of these
discriminations. It is suspected that the
differences between the rental housing
search process employed by racial and/or
ethnic minorities and other
populations may have significant
consequences for the housing
opportunities available to minority
households and the strategies needed to
combat racial and ethnic discrimination.

HUD fulfills its obligations under this
study by using multiple methods,
including its flagship paired-testing
studies to leverage search criteria gained
from individuals during their rental
housing search process. In the past,
vigorous experiments have shown that
people of different racial and/or ethnic
groups are treated differently by
landlords and real estate agents. This
study will help the Department gain an
understanding of the racial and ethnic
differences experienced by individuals
during the housing search process and
will identify the important factors
needed to address a common critique
under the existing studies. National
HUD-funded studies of housing
discrimination routinely measure their
results assuming a common search
pattern defined by the testing protocols
executed by both the minority and the
nonminority testers. As a result, the
Department is unable to understand
whether these stages of the process
capture the audit studies mapped to
what people actually do when they
search for rental housing. For example,
in a housing search, an individual
interacts with a landlord in the way that
the audit studies capture. However, the
interaction may not come about in the
manner assumed by an audit study
methodology (i.e. finding a listing on
the internet or in the newspaper). The
Department is also unaware of how the
searcher decided to inquire about the
unit, what factors shaped that decision,
how the searcher interprets the
interaction with the landlord, and how this interaction shapes the searcher’s subsequent housing search decisions. In other words, though the Department may know a great deal about what happens in terms of race and ethnicity at the point of the interaction between a prospective tenant and landlord, it knows very little about what precedes or follows that interaction, and how these factors ultimately affect housing outcomes.

The research team plans to implement two original data collection activities designed specifically to begin fleshing out a more detailed conceptual framework for the housing search process by: (1) Exploring dimensions completely absent in existing survey data, (2) gathering information at different time points during active housing searches—a technique yet untested—and (3) engaging only respondents who are currently searching or have moved in the past two months to improve upon the often nebulous reporting windows of the existing survey data. For example, the AHS asks respondents to report on their search behavior and priorities up to 24 months after the search is complete. On the other hand, even though the Chicago Area Study (CAS), provides the most detailed information about search processes, it still asks respondents to recall searches happening as much as 10 years after the search.

There are two exploratory data collection activities:

1. The Housing Search Study (HSS) will consist of 525 half-hour, one-time phone cognitive testing interviews with diverse respondents who have moved into a rental property within the last two months. In addition, the HSS will follow 175 people actively engaged in a search for a rental property over a period of up to 28 days. The number of cognitive testing interviews for current searchers will depend on the status of each respondent’s housing search. All respondents will participate in an initial interview at time 1 (to last 30 minutes) and will receive a follow-up call two weekends later at time 2 (to last 20 minutes). Only respondents who are still actively searching at time 2 will receive a follow-up call at time 3 (also to last 20 minutes). Cognitive tests with current searchers are designed to map the iterative and dynamic qualities of housing search.

2. In-depth interviews will consist of one-time, 1-hour long in-person conversations with 48 respondents identified through the first two original data collection efforts to explore the narratives surrounding the most salient racial/ethnic differences in the housing search process and outcomes that emerge from early analyses of data from the cognitive tests.

The goal of the original data collection activities is not to estimate the prevalence of racial and/or ethnic differences in the housing search, but rather to develop a nuanced understanding of the process and identify potential drivers of racial and/or ethnic differences in order to inform the design of future fair-housing testing methodologies for potential points of intervention for HUD programs. All original data collection activities will be conducted in the Washington DC metropolitan area. Those who agree to participate in the study will have an opportunity to receive up to 200 dollars, depending on their level of participation in the study. In-depth interview respondents will be recruited from those who participate in the shorter, earlier interviews. The research team will analyze existing datasets including the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID), the AHS, and the CAS. This analysis will leverage these surveys’ strong sampling design to provide estimates of prevalence as well as statistically valid tests of racial and/or ethnic differences in the population for the very limited number of housing search related variables.

PURPOSE OF THE DATA COLLECTION:

This submission requests approval for original data collection tasks 1 and 2—the HSS and the in-depth interviews will be merged with other planned analyses of secondary data to provide large-scale, nuanced information to address the task order research questions as articulated in the RFP:

- What are the primary ways that racial and ethnic minorities search for rental housing?
- To what extent are these patterns different from the housing search patterns of whites?
- What parts of these search patterns would be easy to document?
- What parts would be hard to document?
- What can be clearly demonstrated or inferred about the consequences of these differences for relative housing opportunities?
- What can be clearly demonstrated or inferred about the consequences of these differences about appropriate educational programs?

These findings will be merged with other planned analyses of secondary data to provide estimates of prevalence as well as statistically valid tests of racial and/or ethnic differences in the population for the very limited number of housing search related variables.

importance grounds and feasibility of available research strategies?

ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSES OF SUCH USES:

In addition to those disclosures generally permitted under 5 U.S.C. Section 552a(b) of the Privacy Act, all or a portion of the records or information contained in this system may be disclosed outside HUD as a routine use pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(b)(3) as follows:

1. To Urban Institute staff to track study participants and locate participants for a future follow-up interview. Staff may also use the data files to match with other datasets for tracking purposes, such as change of address and credit bureau databases;
2. To appropriate agencies, entities, and persons to the extent that such disclosures are compatible with the purpose for which the records in this system were collected, as set forth by Appendix J—HUD’s Library of Routine Uses published in the Federal Register (July 17, 2012, at 77 FR 41996); and
3. To appropriate agencies, entities, and persons when: a) HUD suspects or has confirmed that the security or confidentiality of information in a system of records has been compromised; b) HUD has determined that as a result of the suspected or confirmed compromise, there is a risk of harm to economic or property interests, identity theft or fraud, or harm to the security or integrity of systems or programs (whether maintained by HUD or another agency or entity) that rely upon the compromised information; and c) the disclosure made to such agencies, entities, and persons is reasonably necessary to assist in connection with HUD’s efforts to respond to the suspected or confirmed compromise and prevent, minimize, or remedy such harm for purposes of facilitating responses and remediation efforts in the event of a data breach.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORING, RETRIEVING, ACCESSING, RETAINING, AND DISPOSING OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

STORAGE:

All data collected will be input and stored in a secure database. Hard-copy materials containing respondent identifying information will be locked up when not in use. PHI will be accessible to the research team only at the Urban Institute and SSRS system locations. PHI will be accessible by the Urban Institute and the file will not be

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR–5843–N–05]

Implementation of the Privacy Act of 1974, as Amended; New System of Records, Rent Reform Demonstration

AGENCY: Office of the Chief Information Officer, HUD.


SUMMARY: The Department’s Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) is proposing to create a new system of records (SORN), the “Rent Reform Demonstration.” The Department’s Office of PD&R is responsible for maintaining current information on housing needs, market conditions and existing programs, as well as conducting research on priority housing and community development issues. The Rent Reform Demonstration is a randomized controlled experiment designed to test, at the national level an evaluation of alternative solutions designed to improve the current rent subsidy model. The demonstration is being implemented at several “Moving to Work” (MTW) public housing agencies (PHAs) in different parts of the country. Pursuant to the federal law authorizing MTW, Congress gave local public housing agencies the opportunity to design and test innovative policies to improve the current rent subsidy system. All MTW public housing agencies have the authority to institute new policies system-wide. The Rent Reform Demonstration gives participating MTW public housing agencies the opportunity to adopt new policies on a trial basis and to learn from a careful evaluation whether they achieve benefits for tenants and the housing agency.

The overall objective of the Rent Reform Demonstration is to compare the current rent structure of the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program to the alternate rent structure’s to examine the impact on household employment, earnings, hardship, health, and homelessness; gain knowledge and comprehension on the impact that the alternative rent system has on HCV program families; and to identify ways to simplify and make less expensive the PHA’s administrative processes. A more detailed description of the new system of records is outlined in the “Purpose” caption of this system of records notice.

DATES: Effective Date: The notice will be effective May 4, 2015, unless comments are received that would result in a contrary determination.

Comments Due Date: May 4, 2015.