

Notice and other pertinent RRH or FLH transfer and program provisions consistent with 7 CFR part 3560, prior to the issuance of any MPR offer. In the case of transfers, the transferee must comply with the requirements of 7 CFR 3560.406 including all Agency approval and closing conditions prior to closing any of the MPR tools. The Agency will provide additional guidance to the applicant and request information and documents necessary to complete the underwriting and review process. Since the character of each application may vary substantially depending on the type of transaction proposed, information requirements will be provided as appropriate.

Complete project information must be submitted as soon as possible, but in no case later than 45 calendar days from the date of Agency notification of the applicant's selection for further processing. MPR transfer applicants must submit a preliminary transfer request as required by 7 CFR 3560.406 (c) within 45 days of the RD notification and will be allowed a total of 180 days in which to submit the final transfer MPR application. If the State Office determines there exists compelling reasons the full transfer application cannot be delivered within the stated timeframe and upon the receipt of the applicant's written request the MPR due date may be extended for an additional period of 90 days (Section VI. B. will apply). Any extensions beyond the former must be recommended by the State Office and concurred by the HQ Review Underwriter assigned to the State.

Notwithstanding the aforementioned, any pre-applications selected under this Notice's, will be considered withdrawn on December 31, 2018, if not approved by the Agency. *These deadlines will not be extended, so please plan your transaction's timeline accordingly. Applicants may reapply for funding under future rounds and/or Notices as they may be made available.*

Failure to submit the required information in a timely manner will result in the Agency discontinuing the processing of the request.

The Agency will work with the applicants selected for further processing in accordance with the following:

a. Based on the feasibility of the type of transaction that will best suit the project and the availability of funds, further eligibility confirmation determinations will be conducted by the Agency.

b. If an Agency-approved CNA has not already been submitted to the Agency, an Agency-approved CNA will be required (see 7 CFR 3560.103(c) and the

Agency's published "Guidance on the Capital Needs Assessment Process" available at <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/housing-preservation-revitalizationdemonstration-loans-grants> and the CNA Statement of Work together with any non-conflicting amendments). Agency-approved CNAs must be prepared by a qualified independent contractor, and are obtained to determine needed repairs and any necessary adjustments to the reserve account for long-term project viability.

c. Underwriting will be conducted by the Agency. The feasibility and structure of each revitalization proposal will be based on the Agency's underwriting and determination of the MPR funding tools that will minimize the cost to the Government consistent with the purposes of this Notice.

C. MPR Offers.

Approved MPR offers will be presented to successful applicants who will then have up to 15 calendar days to accept or reject the offer in writing. If no offer is made or if the applicant fails to accept or reject the offer presented, the application will be rejected and appeal rights will be given. Closing of MPR offers will occur within six months of the obligation of MPR tools unless extended in writing by the Agency. All Offers are explicitly made subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Should sufficient funds not be available at any time to funds any authorized MPR offers for which funds have not been obligated, including those with only transfer debt deferral, the Agency may notify the applicant accordingly and the authorization may be cancelled.

VI. Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for

program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) *Mail*: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410;
- (2) *fax*: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) *email*: program.intake@usda.gov.

VII. Award Agency Contacts

USDA Rural Development MFH State Office contacts can be found at: <http://rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices>. (Note: Telephone numbers listed are not toll-free.)

Appropriation Act funding will be posted on the Rural Development Web site.

All adverse determinations are appealable pursuant to 7 CFR part 11. Instructions on the appeal process will be provided at the time an applicant is notified of the adverse action.

Dated: August 29, 2017.

Richard A. Davis,

Acting Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; 2017-2019 Business Research and Development Surveys

AGENCY: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to

comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: To ensure consideration, written or on-line comments must be submitted on or before November 6, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at PRAcomments@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Michael Flaherty, U.S. Census Bureau, HQ-6H149, 4600 Silver Hill Rd., Suitland, MD 20746, (301) 763-7699 (or via the internet at michael.j.flaherty@census.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The U.S. Census Bureau, with support from the National Science Foundation (NSF), plans to conduct the Business Research and Development Survey (BRDS) for the 2017–2019 survey years (collected in calendar years 2018–2020). The BRDS covers all domestic, non-farm, for-profit businesses with at least 10 paid employees. The BRDS provides the only comprehensive data on Research and Development (R&D) costs and detailed expenses by type and industry.

The Census Bureau has conducted an R&D survey since 1957 (the Survey of Industrial Research and Development (SIRD) from 1957–2007 and the Business R&D and Innovation Survey (BRDIS) from 2008–2016), collecting primarily financial information on the systematic work companies undertake to discover new knowledge or use existing knowledge to develop new or improved goods and services.

From 2008–2015, the BRDIS collected R&D and innovation data from companies with five or more employees. In 2016, the BRDIS collected R&D and innovation data from companies with at least one paid employee. Beginning in 2017, the BRDS will no longer collect innovation data and only companies with at least 10 paid employees will be in scope. The Census Bureau will continue to collect R&D data from companies with fewer than 10 employees, and innovation data from all companies, however, beginning in 2017, these data will be collected on a different survey.

The 2017–2019 BRDS will continue to collect the following types of information:

- R&D expense based on accepted accounting standards.
- Worldwide R&D of domestic companies.
- Business segment detail.
- R&D-related capital expenditures.
- Detailed data about the R&D workforce.
- R&D strategy and data on the potential impact of R&D on the market.
- R&D directed to application areas of particular national interest.
- Data measuring intellectual property protection activities and technology transfer.

Domestic and foreign researchers in academia, business, and government analyze and cite data from the BRDS. Among the federal government users are the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). BEA includes R&D in the system of national accounts that measures the economic well-being of the country. BRDS data are key inputs into these accounts, which feed into the calculation of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The White House, in 2006, issued the American Competitiveness Initiative to "increase investments in research and development, strengthen education, and encourage entrepreneurship." In support of this initiative and in response to legislative mandates, data on R&D are delivered to OSTP, primarily in the biennial National Science Board report *Science and Engineering Indicators*. Also, the National Science Foundation (NSF) produces a series of publications containing R&D data including the *National Patterns of R&D Resources* series, the *S&E State Profile* series, and the annual *Business R&D and Innovation* series. Special reports and other publications are also prepared.

II. Method of Collection

Beginning in 2017, the BRDS will follow a primarily electronic collection strategy. The BRD–1 form will be available on the Web site to assist respondents with gathering the required data prior to reporting online. Paper forms will also be sent to respondents upon request, however no paper forms will be included in initial mail packets. The online survey automatically skips questions that do not apply [based on previous responses] and checks for common errors. Links to detailed question-by-question instructions will be embedded in the electronic instrument. Excel spreadsheets are available to facilitate the electronic

collection of information from various areas of the companies. Respondents have the capability to download the spreadsheets from the Census Bureau's Web site. A consolidator spreadsheet is also available to assist companies that need to gather information from business units and then compile the information into one company report.

The due date will be six weeks after mail out.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0607–0912.

Form Number: BRD–1.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: All domestic, non-farm, for-profit (public or private) businesses with at least 10 paid employees.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 45,000.

Estimated Time per Response: 3.3 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 148,600.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: \$0.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: Title 13, United States Code, Sections 8(b), 131, and 182; and Title 42, United States Code, Sections 1861–76 (National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended).

IV. Request for Comments

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 (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (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 respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Sheleen Dumas,

Departmental PRA Lead, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

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