

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Employment and Training Administration****Notice of a Change in Status of an Extended Benefit (EB) Period for Alaska**

AGENCY: Employment and Training Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Notice.

This notice announces a change in benefit period eligibility under the EB Program for Alaska.

The following change has occurred since the publication of the last notice regarding the State's EB status:

- Based on data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics on October 20, 2017, Alaska's 3-month average seasonally adjusted total unemployment rate was 7.1 percent which exceeds 110 percent of the corresponding rate in the second preceding year. This causes Alaska to be triggered "on" to an EB period beginning November 5, 2017. The State will remain in an EB period for a minimum of 13 weeks.

Information for Claimants

The duration of benefits payable in the EB Program, and the terms and conditions on which they are payable, are governed by the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970, as amended, and the operating instructions issued to the states by the U.S. Department of Labor. In the case of a state beginning an EB period, the State Workforce Agency will furnish a written notice of potential entitlement to each individual who has exhausted all rights to regular benefits and is potentially eligible for EB (20 CFR 615.13 (c) (1)).

Persons who believe they may be entitled to EB, or who wish to inquire about their rights under the program, should contact their State Workforce Agency.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Unemployment Insurance Room S-4524, Attn: Anatoli Sznoluch, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20210, telephone number (202) 693-3176 (this is not a toll-free number) or by email: Sznoluch.Anatoli@dol.gov.

Nancy M. Rooney,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, Labor.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request, National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Job ChalleNGe Evaluation, New Collection**

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Chief Evaluation Office, Department of Labor.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

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). This program helps to ensure that requested 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 is properly assessed.

Currently, DOL is soliciting comments concerning the collection of follow-up survey data about the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe and Job ChalleNGe Program. A copy of the proposed Information Collection Request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the office listed in the addressee section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addressee's section below on or before January 2, 2018.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either one of the following methods:

Email: ChiefEvaluationOffice@dol.gov; *Mail or Courier:* Jessica Lohmann, Chief Evaluation Office, OASP, U.S. Department of Labor, Room S-2312, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20210. *Instructions:* Please submit one copy of your comments by only one method. All submissions received must include the agency name and OMB Control Number identified above for this information collection. Because we continue to experience delays in receiving mail in the Washington, DC area, commenters are strongly encouraged to transmit their comments electronically via email or to submit them by mail early. Comments, including any personal information provided, become a matter of public record. They will also be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB

approval of the information collection request.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jessica Lohmann by email at ChiefEvaluationOffice@dol.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. *Background:* The National Guard Youth ChalleNGe program has demonstrated positive, sustained impacts on the educational attainment and labor market outcomes of youth who are not in school or the labor force. To build on this success, in early 2015 the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) issued \$12 million in grants for three Youth ChalleNGe programs to (1) expand the program's target population to include youth who have been involved with the courts, and (2) add a five-month residential occupational training component, known as Job ChalleNGe.

The National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Job ChalleNGe Evaluation includes an outcome and an implementation study. The evaluation requires collection of three primary types of data: (1) Background and contact information, (2) program implementation details, and (3) follow-up youth outcomes. The Chief Evaluation Office (CEO) has already received OMB approval to collect the first two types of data (control number 1291-0008). The planned outcomes data collection included in this ICR will answer three main research questions: (1) How did youth experience the post-residential phase of the program?, (2) What were the employment, education, and criminal justice outcomes of Job ChalleNGe participants?, and (3) What expectations do youth have for the future?

This **Federal Register** Notice provides the opportunity to comment on two proposed data collection instruments for follow-up youth outcomes study:

* *Text survey.* Job ChalleNGe participants who are enrolled in the program between approximately July 2017 and July 2018 and give consent to participate in the evaluation (and whose parents/guardians have done so, when necessary) and permission to contact them via text message will be asked to complete a brief survey administered by text messaging on a monthly basis for 8 months, during months 8 through 15 after the youth began Job ChalleNGe. The brief survey is designed to provide snapshots of the progression over time that the respondents make in their employment, earnings, and education. For each round of monthly text message data collection, each participant will be asked to answer three to five questions. It is expected to take the participants an