

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Community Living

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for OMB Review; Public Comment Request; Outcome Evaluation of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP); OMB# 0985-XXXX

AGENCY: Administration for Community Living (ACL), HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Administration for Community Living is announcing that the proposed collection of information listed above has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance as required under section 506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This 30-day notice collects comments on the information collection requirements related to the proposed new information collection requirements related to the Outcome Evaluation for ACL's Long-term Ombudsman Program (LTCOP).

DATES: Submit written comments on the collection of information by August 31, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find the Outcome Evaluation for ACL's Long-term Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function. By mail to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, New Executive Office Bldg., 725 17th St. NW, Rm. 10235, Washington, DC 20503, Attn: OMB Desk Officer for ACL.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Jenkins, Ph.D., Administration for

Community Living, Washington, DC 20201, 202.795.7369; Susan.Jenkins@acl.hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In compliance with 44 U.S.C. 3507, ACL has submitted the following proposed collection of information to OMB for review and clearance. The mission of the Administration for Community Living (ACL)¹ is to maximize the independence, well-being, and health of older adults, people with disabilities across the lifespan, and their families and caregivers. The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program serves individuals living in long-term care facilities (nursing homes, residential care communities, such as assisted living and similar settings) and works to resolve resident problems related to poor care, violation of rights, and quality of life.

Ombudsman programs also advocate at the local, state and national levels to promote policies and consumer protections to improve residents' care and quality of life. This data collection is part of an outcome evaluation of the Long-term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) designed to determine the efficacy of LTCOP in carrying out core functions as described in the Older Americans Act, the long-term impacts of the LTCOP's for various stakeholders, what system advocacy among Ombudsman programs looks like, and effective or promising Ombudsman program practices. The efficacy of LTCOP in carrying out core functions as described in the Older Americans Act. ACL is interested in learning:

1. Are the critical functions, including federally mandated responsibilities, of the LTCOP at the state, and local levels, carried out effectively and efficiently?
2. How effective is the LTCOP in ensuring Ombudsman services for the full range of residents of long-term care facilities, including individuals with the greatest economic and social needs?

3. How cost-effective LTCOP strategies are, for example, the cost effectiveness of services offered through consultations, referrals, complaint handling, and via education and outreach activities.

4. What impact do LTCOPs have on long-term care practices, programs, and policies?

5. What impact do LTCOPs have on residents' health, safety, welfare, well-being, and rights?

Act (OAA) programs such as Title VII Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP), ACL/AoA seeks increased understanding of how these programs are operationalized at the State and local levels and their progress towards their goals and mission. This information will enable ACL/AoA to effectively report its results to the President, to Congress, to the Department of Health and Human Services and to the public.

The information will also aid in program refinement and continuous improvement. The more productive ACL/AoA's programs, the greater the number of older adults have access to a higher quality of life. Therefore, in addition to the legislative mandate under the OAA, it is important for program integrity and function to evaluate the LTCOP.

Comments in Response to the 60-Day Federal Register Notice

A notice was published in the **Federal Register** on April 13, 2020 in FR 85 20506. There were no public comments received during the 60-day FRN comment period.

To comment and review the proposed data collection please visit the ACL website at <https://www.acl.gov/about-acl/public-input>.

ACL estimates the burden associated with this collection of information as follows:

ESTIMATED PROGRAM BURDEN

Respondent/data collection activity	Number of respondents	Responses per respondent	Hours per response	Annual burden hours
Focus Group-Facility staff including participant information	16	1	0.33	5.3
Focus Group-Residents/family including participant information	24	1	1	24
Interview-Stakeholders	40	1	1	40
Survey-Facility Administrator	1840	1	0.33	607.2
Survey-Former Ombudsmen	12	1	1	12
Survey-SUA director	53	1	0.5	26.5
Total	1985	4.16	715

¹ In April 2012, a new Operating Division was created within the US Department of Health and Human Services named the Administration for

Community Living (ACL). This Operating Division contains the Administration on Aging (AoA).This

document consistently refer to the federal agency as "ACL/AoA."

Dated: July 27, 2020.

Mary Lazare,

Principal Deputy Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Community Living

[OMB #0985–0050]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request; The National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) Grantee Annual Performance Reporting (APR) and Final Report Forms

AGENCY: Administration for Community Living, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Administration for Community Living (ACL) is announcing an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed collection of information listed above. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (the PRA), Federal agencies are required to publish a notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information, and to allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice.

This notice solicits comments on the Proposed Extension without Change and solicits comments on the information collection requirements related to the NIDILRR Grantee Annual Performance Reporting (APR) and Final Report Forms.

DATES: Comments on the collection of information must be submitted electronically by 11:59 p.m. (EST) or postmarked by September 29, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Submit electronic comments on the collection of information to: Mary Darnell Mary.Darnell@acl.hhs.gov. Submit written comments on the collection of information to Administration for Community Living, Washington, DC 20201, Attention: Mary Darnell.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Darnell, Administration for Community Living, 202–795–7337.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. “Collection of information” is defined in the PRA and includes agency requests or requirements that members of the public submit reports, keep records, or provide information to a third party. The PRA (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)) requires Federal agencies to provide a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information, before submitting the collection to OMB for approval. To comply with this requirement, ACL is publishing a notice of the proposed collection of information set forth in this document.

With respect to the following collection of information, ACL invites comments on our burden estimates or any other aspect of this collection of information, including:

- (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of ACL’s functions, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- (2) the accuracy of ACL’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used to determine burden estimates;
- (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques when appropriate, and other forms of information technology.

The National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) Grantee Annual Performance Reporting (APR) and Final Report Forms collect data from all NIDILRR Grantees via a web-based reporting system and addresses specific HHS regulations that shall be met by applicants and grantees. HHS regulations that apply to NIDILRR Grant programs include Part 75 of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit requirements for HHS Awards. Specifically, § 75.342 which requires grantees to submit an annual performance report or, for the last year of a project, a final report that

evaluates: (a) The grantee’s progress in achieving the objectives in its approved application, (b) the effectiveness of the project in meeting the purposes of the program, and (c) the results of research and related activities.

Additionally, GPRA requires all federal agencies to implement performance measurement systems that include: (1) A five-year strategic plan, (2) an annual performance plan, and (3) an annual performance report. Currently, NIDILRR has met these requirements and has established performance indicators to meet the reporting requirements. The NIDILRR APR System currently includes reporting forms for all 10 of NIDILRR’s grant programs.

Reporting forms for all 10 programs are web-based. Data collected through these forms (a) Facilitate program planning and management; (b) respond to ACL/HHS Grants Policy Administration Manual (GPAM) requirements and (c) respond to the reporting requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993.

NIDILRR uses the information gathered annually from these data collection efforts to provide Congress with the information mandated in GPRA, provide OMB information required for assessment of performance on GPRA indicators, and support its evaluation activities. Data collected from the 10 grant programs will provide a national description of the research activities of approximately 255 NIDILRR grantees. NIDILRR’s GPRA plan must collect information to meet the following mandates: (a) Implementation of a comprehensive plan that includes goals and objectives; (b) measurement of the program’s progress in meeting its objectives; and (c) submission of an annual report on program performance, including plans for program improvement, as appropriate. The data collection system addresses nearly all of the agency’s GPRA indicators, either directly or by providing information for the agency’s other review processes.

The proposed data collection tools may be found on the ACL website for review at <https://www.acl.gov/about-acl/public-input>.

Estimated Program Burden

ACL estimates the burden associated with this collection of information as follows: