

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the PRA and 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), we provide the general public and other Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

A **Federal Register** notice with a 60-day public comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on October 15, 2020 (85 FR 65422). No comments were received.

As part of our continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burdens, we are again soliciting comments from the public and other Federal agencies on the proposed ICR that is described below. We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following:

(1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;

(2) The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

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

(4) How might the agency 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 response.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Abstract: The information is being collected to ensure that the applicants for blaster certification are qualified. This information, with blasting tests,

will be used to determine the eligibility of the applicant.

Title of Collection: Certification of blasters in Federal program states and on Indian lands.

OMB Control Number: 1029–0083.

Form Number: OSM–74.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Respondents/Affected Public: Individuals.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 18.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 18.

Estimated Completion Time per Response: 1 hour.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 18.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain or retain a benefit.

Frequency of Collection: One time.

Total Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost: \$1,370.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The authority for this action is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

Mark J. Gehlhar,

*Information Collection Clearance Officer,
Division of Regulatory Support.*

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[OMB Number 1121–0314]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comments Requested; Resinstatement of a Previously Approved Collection: Firearm Inquiry Statistics (FIST) Program

AGENCY: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Department of Justice.

ACTION: 60-Day notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, will be submitting the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Comments are encouraged and will be accepted for 60 days until March 16, 2021. If you have additional comments especially on the estimated public burden or associated response time, suggestions, or need a copy of the proposed information collection

instrument with instructions or additional information, please contact Connor Brooks, Statistician, Law Enforcement Statistics Unit, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 810 Seventh Street NW, Washington, DC 20531 (email: Connor.Brooks@usdoj.gov; phone: 202–514–8633).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information are encouraged. Your comments should address one or more of the following four points:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- 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;
- Evaluate whether and if so how the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected can be enhanced; and
- 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:* Reinstatement of the Firearm Inquiry Statistics Program.

(2) *The Title of the Form/Collection:* 2019–2021 Firearm Inquiry Statistics Program.

(3) *The agency form number, if any, and the applicable component of the Department sponsoring the collection:* The form number is FIST–1. The applicable component within the Department of Justice is the Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Justice Programs.

(4) *Affected public who will be asked or required to respond, as well as a brief abstract:* Through the Firearm Inquiry Statistics (FIST) Program, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) obtains information from state and local checking agencies responsible for maintaining records on the number of background checks for firearm transfers or permits that were issued, processed, tracked, or conducted during the calendar year. Specifically, state and

local checking agencies are asked to provide information on the number of applications and denials for firearm transfers received or tracked by the agency and reasons why applications were denied. BJS combines these data with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) transaction data to produce comprehensive national statistics on firearm applications and denials resulting from the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1993 and similar state laws governing background checks and firearm transfers. BJS also plans to collect information from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) on denials screened and referred to ATF field offices for investigation and possible prosecution. BJS publishes FIST data on the BJS website in statistical tables and uses the information to respond to inquiries from Congress, federal, state, and local government officials, researchers, students, the media, and other members of the general public interested in criminal justice statistics.

(5) *An estimate of the total number of respondents and the amount of time estimated for an average respondent to respond:* A projected 1,091 respondents will take part in the FIST data collection with an average of 25 minutes for each to complete the FIST survey form.

(6) *An estimate of the total public burden (in hours) associated with the collection:* The estimated public burden hours associated with this collection is 455 hours annually.

If additional information is required contact: Melody Braswell, Department Clearance Officer, United States Department of Justice, Justice Management Division, Policy and Planning Staff, Two Constitution Square, 145 N Street NE, 3E.405A, Washington, DC 20530.

Dated: January 12, 2021.

Melody Braswell,

Department Clearance Officer for PRA, U.S. Department of Justice.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

[Docket No. DOL-2021-0001]

Guidance Regarding Department of Labor Grants

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration & Management, Department of Labor.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor publishes its “Guidance Regarding Department of Labor Grants” detailing the general rules regarding equal protection of faith-based organizations that govern the Department’s grant and financial assistance programs. This guidance is issued pursuant to Executive Order 13798, titled “Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty,” signed by the President on May 4, 2017, and the related Office of Management and Budget guidance issued on January 16, 2020. This guidance also reflects changes to the Department’s regulations recently made through the inter-agency rulemaking, “Equal Participation of Faith-Based Organizations in the Federal Agencies’ Programs and Activities,” published on December 17, 2020.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carl Campbell, Office of the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management. Telephone: 1-202-693-7246. TTY/TDD callers may dial toll-free 1-800-877-8339 for further information.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department publishes this guidance to protect religious liberty in the administration of its grant and financial assistance programs, in compliance with Federal law. The guidance details the ways in which the Department’s specific regulations protect the religious freedom of faith-based organizations that participate in these programs, and describes the process by which faith-based organizations can seek exemptions from religious non-discrimination requirements in their employment practices. The guidance is provided in the Appendix of this notice.

Bryan Slater,
Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Department of Labor.

Appendix—Guidance Regarding Department of Labor Grants 1

I. Purpose and Background

On May 4, 2017, the President signed Executive Order 13798, titled “Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty.”² Among other things, Executive Order 13798 establishes a policy of promoting religious liberty and directed the Attorney General to provide guidance to Federal agencies on the requirements of Federal laws and policies

¹ Other than the statutory and regulatory requirements included in the document, the contents of this guidance do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

² Exec. Order No. 13798, 82 FR 21,675 (May 4, 2017).

protecting religious liberty. Accordingly, on October 6, 2017, the Attorney General issued a memorandum advising agencies on such laws and policies, including how they apply to the award of grants (Attorney General Memorandum).³ Subsequently, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued its own guidance on January 16, 2020 (OMB Memorandum), directing all grant-administering agencies “within 120 days of the date of this Memorandum . . . [to] publish policies detailing how they will administer Federal grants in compliance with E.O. 13798, the Attorney General memorandum, and this Memorandum.”⁴

The OMB and Attorney General Memoranda make clear that Federal law entitles religious organizations to compete on equal footing with secular organizations for Federal financial assistance.⁵ In line with these principles, the Department of Labor (DOL or Department) is committed to ensuring that DOL-supported social service programs are open to all qualified organizations, regardless of the organizations’ religious character. In particular, any grant rule or policy that penalizes or disqualifies a religious organization from the right to compete for a grant or contract because of that organization’s religious character could violate the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution, or governing DOL regulations. A rule or policy that imposes a substantial burden on an organization’s exercise of religion may also, depending on the circumstances, violate the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA).

To ensure that all organizations are treated equally in the issuance of awards and sub-awards of Department grant funds, and that Federal law’s protections for religious liberty are faithfully adhered to, the Department is issuing this guidance. The sections that follow detail the general rules regarding equal protection of faith-based organizations that govern DOL grant programs, and the process by which faith-based organizations can seek exemptions from religious non-discrimination requirements in their employment practices.

II. Equal Treatment in Department of Labor Programs for Faith-Based Organizations

a. Equal Participation of Faith-Based Organizations

Faith-based organizations are eligible, on the same basis as any other organization, to seek DOL support or participate in DOL programs for which they are otherwise eligible. DOL and DOL social service intermediary providers, as well as State and local governments administering DOL support, must not discriminate for or against an organization on the basis of the organization’s religious character, affiliation,

³ Office of Att’y Gen., *Federal Law Protections for Religious Liberty*, Memorandum for All Executive Departments and Agencies (Oct. 6, 2017).

⁴ Office of Mgmt. & Budget, Exec. Office of the President, M-20-09, *Guidance Regarding Federal Grants and Executive Order 13798* (Jan. 16, 2020).

⁵ In addition, the Supreme Court recently reaffirmed that the Constitution guarantees the full participation of faith-based organizations in publicly funded programs. *See Espinoza v. Montana Dep’t of Revenue*, 140 S.Ct. 2246 (2020).