DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND 
HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and 
Families

Submission for OMB Review; Data 
Collection for the Engaging Fathers 
and Paternal Relatives: A Continuous 
Quality Improvement Approach in the 
Child Welfare System Project (New 
Collection)

AGENCY: Office of Planning, Research, 
and Evaluation, Administration for 
Children and Families, HHS.

ACTION: Request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Office of Planning, 
Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) within 
the Administration for Children and 
Families (ACF) is proposing to conduct 
data collection activities for the 
Engaging Fathers and Paternal Relatives: 
A Continuous Quality Improvement 
Approach in the Child Welfare System 
(FCL) Project. This evaluation is a 
descriptive study of child welfare 
agencies’ use of a continuous quality 
 improvement process called the 
Breakthrough Series Collaborative (BSC) 
to implement strategies to improve 
father and paternal relative engagement 
in the child welfare system. The project 
is designed to examine the use of the 
BSC methodology to strengthen fathers’ 
and paternal relatives’ engagement with 
children involved in child welfare and 
and to add to the evidence base on 
engagement strategies for fathers and 
paternal relatives in child welfare.

DATES: Comments due within 30 days of 
publication. OMB must make a decision 
about the collection of information 
between 30 and 60 days after 
publication of this document in the 
Federal Register. Therefore, a comment 
is best assured of having its full effect 
if OMB receives it within 30 days of 
publication.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and 
recommendations for the proposed 
information collection should be sent 
within 30 days of publication of this 
notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/
PRAMain. Find this particular 
information collection by selecting 
“Currently under 30-day Review—Open 
for Public Comments” or by using the 
search function.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 

Description: The FCL evaluation has 
three equally important aims. The first 
is to describe promising strategies and 
approaches for engaging fathers and 
paternal relatives in the child welfare 
system. The second is to assess the 
promise of the BSC as a continuous 
quality improvement framework for 
addressing challenges in the child 
wellness system, including whether and 
to what extent the BSC has potential, 
and if so, how it may be applied to other 
child welfare challenges. The third is to 
assess the extent to which agencies 
experienced a shift in organizational 
culture in terms of the importance of 
father engagement.

The descriptive evaluation will build 
on the findings of the pilot study 
conducted under the umbrella generic: 
Formative Data Collections for ACF 
Program Support (OMB #0970–0531). 
(Site selection for the pilot study was 
conducted under the umbrella generic: 
Formative Data Collections for ACF 
Research (OMB #0970–0356). It will 
focus on organizational changes and 
network supports for father and paternal 
relative engagement, changes in staff 
attitudes and skills for engaging fathers 
and paternal relatives, and father and 
paternal relative engagement outcomes. 
This evaluation will explore the 
implementation of father and paternal 
relative engagement strategies and 
approaches by examining process 
outcomes. By examining process 
outcomes, the evaluation is designed to 
indicate whether strategies and 
approaches developed in the BSC are 
likely to lead to placement stability and 
permanency outcomes.

Data collection will take place with 
stakeholders in five child welfare 
agencies implementing the BSC 
(including one agency that had two 
separate teams participate in the earlier 
study). Data collection activities 
include discussions with participating 
agency staff and key partners during site 
visits, focus groups or interviews with 
fathers and paternal relatives with 
relatively recent experience with the 
local child welfare agencies, and web 
surveys of participating agency staff.

Respondents: Child welfare agency 
leaders, child welfare agency program 
staff and key partner staff involved in 
implementing the engagement 
strategies; community stakeholders 
whose role has intersected with the 
child welfare agency and who have an 
interest in father and paternal relative 
engagement; and, father and paternal 
relative clients of the agencies. Program 
staff may include senior leaders, 
managers, and frontline staff.

ANNUAL BURDEN ESTIMATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Number of respondents (total over request period)</th>
<th>Number of responses per respondent (total over request period)</th>
<th>Avg. burden per response (in hours)</th>
<th>Total burden (in hours)</th>
<th>Annual burden (in hours)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interview topic guide</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father and paternal relative focus group protocol</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff survey</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.333</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 347.

Authority: Sec. 403. [42 U.S.C. 603] and Sec. 426. [42 U.S.C. 626]

Mary B. Jones, ACF/OPRE Certifying Officer.

[FR Doc. 2021–17263 Filed 8–11–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4184–73–P