

# Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 88, No. 202

Friday, October 20, 2023

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food and Nutrition Service

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Employment and Training Opportunities in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

**AGENCY:** Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on this proposed information collection. This collection is a revision of a currently approved collection. This information collection includes the requirement for case management services to individuals participating in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training (E&T) program as mandated by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (FNA), as amended. The current information collection also includes four other provisions of the FNA and SNAP regulations that are being merged into other existing information collections. Those provisions include State agencies notifying individuals who have been determined ill-suited by an E&T provider for a particular E&T component; State agency notification to inform Able-bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD) about work requirements and the ABAWD time limit through a written notice and oral explanation; the requirement that State agencies inform SNAP households not otherwise exempt from the general work requirements in writing of available employment and training services at the time of recertification if these individuals are members of households that contain at least one adult, with no elderly or disabled individuals, and with no earned income at the their last recertification or required report; and

the addition of four data elements to the FNS-583 reports (SNAP Employment and Training Program Activity Report).

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before December 19, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be sent to: Marcie Foster, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1320 Braddock Place, 5th Floor, Alexandria, VA 22314. Comments may also be submitted via email to [rachel.gragg@usda.gov](mailto:rachel.gragg@usda.gov). Comments will also be accepted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the online instructions for submitting comments electronically.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will be a matter of public record.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of this information collection should be directed to Rachel Gragg at 703-605-3213.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** 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 of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions that were used; (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 those who are to respond, including use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

*Title:* Employment and Training Opportunities in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

*Form Number:* N/A.

*OMB Control Number:* 0584-0653.

*Expiration Date:* 03/31/2024.

*Type of Request:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Abstract:* Section 6(d)(4)(B)(i) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (FNA), as amended, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

regulations at 7 CFR 273.7(e)(1) requires State agencies to provide case management services, such as comprehensive intake assessments, individualized service plans, progress monitoring or coordination with service providers to all SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) participants. The purpose of the case management services is to guide E&T participants towards appropriate E&T components and activities based on the participant's needs and interests, support the participant in the E&T program and to provide activities and resources that will assist the participant toward self-sufficiency. State agencies may adopt different modes for the delivery of case management services, such as virtual, over the telephone, in-person or hybrid approach. This information will be used to better administer the SNAP E&T Program and provide improved customer service to SNAP E&T participants. If the Department does not require State agencies to conduct case management services, the Department will be out of compliance with Federal law.

Discussed in the Employment and Training Opportunities in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Final rule was the intent to merge certain reporting burdens to OMB Controls #0584-0064 and #0584-0594.

*Merging OMB-Approved Burden from OMB Control Number 0584-0653 to OMB Control Number 0584-0064:* Three provisions included in the current information collection for the Employment and Training Opportunities in SNAP are being merged into the OMB-Approved burden for the SNAP Forms: Applications, Periodic Reporting, Notices (OMB Control Number 0584-0064, expiration date: 02/28/24. Those provisions include the requirement under 7 CFR 273.7(c)(18)(i) for notifying E&T participants of provider determinations; requirement under 7 CFR 273.24(b)(8) regarding informing Able-bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs) of the ABAWD work requirements and time limits; and the requirement under 7 CFR 273.7(b)(5) for informing certain households of employment and training services.

*Merging OMB-Approved Burden for the FNS-583 from OMB Control Number 0584-0653 to OMB Control Number 0584-0594:* The requirement under 7

CFR 273.7(c)(11) regarding four additional data elements in the FNS–583 reports (SNAP Employment and Training Program Activity Report) was merged into the OMB-Approved burden for the Food Program and Reporting System (OMB Control Number 0584–0594, expiration date 07/31/23 currently under review).

The following is the estimated burden for State agencies to provide, record and maintain records in State E&T management information systems (MIS) on the provision of case management services and individuals receiving case management services.

FNS is seeking an overall burden of 375,053 respondents (53 States + 375,000 Individuals/Households); 5,325,568.45 total annual responses (2,662,508.00 State reporting + 1,331,254 Individuals/Households reporting + 1,331,254 States recordkeeping; and 1,424,613.04 total annual burden hours (711,555.26 States reporting + 533,431.88 Individuals/Households reporting + 186,375.56) see breakout in the table below.

**Reporting**

*Affected Public:* State, Local and Tribal Government. Respondent groups identified include State agencies administering the SNAP E&T program in 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* The total estimated number of respondents annually for the reporting burden of case management services is 53 State agencies representing the agencies responsible for SNAP E&T administration in 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* The total estimated number of responses per respondent for the provision and documenting of case management services is 50,236.

Based upon an average participation in E&T between FY 2016 to FY 2021, it

is estimated that an average of 375,000 individuals participates in SNAP E&T annually divided by 53 State agencies equals an annual average of 7,075.47 E&T participants per State agency.

Individuals participate in E&T programs an average of 3.55 months.

*Estimated number of provisions of case management services per each State agency:* 7,075.47 E&T participants × 3.55 months = 25,117.92.

*Estimated number of documentations of case management services per each State agency:* 7,075.47 E&T participants × 3.55 months = 25,117.92.

*Estimated Total Annual Responses:* The total estimated annual responses for the provision and documenting of case management services is 2,662,508.

*Estimated number of provisions of case management services per each State agency:* 7,075.47 E&T participants × 3.55 months = 25,117.92.

*Total annual responses of provisions of case management services:* 25,117.92 × 53 State agencies = 1,331,249.76.

*Estimated number for documentations of case management services per each State agency:* 7,075.47 E&T participants × 3.55 months = 25,117.92.

*Total annual responses for documentations of case management services:* 25,117.92 × 53 State agencies = 1,331,249.76.

*Estimated Time per Response:* The estimated hours per response is .27.

*Estimated time for initial case management meeting* is .5 hours and each subsequent meeting is .25 hours, for an average of 0.3007 hours per meeting  $[(0.5 \text{ hours} + .25 \text{ hours} + .25 \text{ hours} + 0.0676 \text{ hours})/3.55 \text{ months} = 0.3007]$ .

*Estimated time for case manager to prepare for each case management session* is an average of 0.1538 hours per meeting.

*Total time for provision of case management* is .4545  $(0.3007 + 0.1538 = 0.4545)$ .

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* The estimated total

annual burden on State agencies to provide and document case management services is 711,555.26.

*Affected Public:* Individual/Household. Respondent group includes SNAP participants referred to SNAP E&T receiving case management services.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* The estimated number of respondents is 375,000 individuals participating in SNAP E&T and receive case management services. Based upon an average participation in E&T between FY 2016 to FY 2021.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* The estimated number of responses per respondent is 3.55001067. This represents the average number of months that E&T participants participate and receive case management services.

*Estimated Total Annual Responses:* The estimated total annual responses is 1,331,254.

375,000 E&T participants receiving case management services for 3.55 months  $(375,000 * 3.55 = 1,331,254.)$

*Estimated Time per Response:* The estimated time per response is .4007 hours.

Average meeting time for each case management meeting is .3007 hours.

It is assumed that 90 percent of the case management meetings will be held telephonically or virtually with only 10 percent held in-person and consequently requiring the participant to travel to an E&T site adding one hour to the average meeting time. For this reason, the average meeting time per participant is 0.4007 hours per meeting  $[(0.3007 * 0.90) + [1.3007 * .10] = 0.4007]$ .

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* The estimated total annual burden on respondents is 533,431.88 hours.

See the table below for estimated total annual reporting burden for each type of respondent.

**TOTAL ANNUAL REPORTING BURDEN—SNAP EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROVISION AND RECORDING OF CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

| Respondent category (affected public) | Type of respondents              | Burden activity                                    | CFR citation           | Estimated number of respondents | Responses per respondent (col. G/E) | Total annual responses (col. E × F) | Estimated hours per response (col. I/G) | Estimated total burden hours (col. G × H) |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| A                                     | B                                | C  | D                      | E                               | F                                   | G                                   | H                                       | I   |
| <b>REPORTING</b>                      |                                  |  |                        |                                 |                                     |                                     |   |   |
| State Government ..                   | State Agency E&T Case Managers.  | Provide Case Management Services.                  | 7 CFR 273.7(e)(1)      | 53.00                           | 25,118.00                           | 1,331,254.00                        | 0.45                                    | 605,054.94                                |
|                                       |                                  | Document Case Management Services.                 | 7 CFR 273.7(e)(1)      | 53.00                           | 25,118.00                           | 1,331,254.00                        | 0.08                                    | 106,500.32                                |
|                                       | State Agency Eligibility Worker. | Notify E&T Participants of Provider Determination. | 7 CFR 273.7(c)(18)(i). | 0.00                            | 0.00                                | 0.00                                | 0.00                                    | 0.00                                      |

TOTAL ANNUAL REPORTING BURDEN—SNAP EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROVISION AND RECORDING OF CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES—Continued

| Respondent category (affected public) | Type of respondents                | Burden activity   | CFR citation                                   | Estimated number of respondents | Responses per respondent (col. G/E) | Total annual responses (col. E × F) | Estimated hours per response (col. I/G) | Estimated total burden hours (col. G × H) |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| A                                     | B                                  | C   | D  | E                               | F                                   | G                                   | H                                       | I   |
|                                       | State Agency Administrative Staff. | Inform ABAWDs of the ABAWD work requirement.              | 7 CFR 273.7(c)(1)(ii)–(iii); and 273.24(b)(8). | 0.00                            | 0.00                                | 0.00                                | 0.00                                    | 0.00                                      |
|                                       |                                    | Develop list of Employment and Training Services.         | 7 CFR 273.14(b)(5)                             | 0.00                            | 0.00                                | 0.00                                | 0.00                                    | 0.00                                      |
|                                       |                                    | Develop ABAWD written statement of work requirements.     | 7 CFR 273.7(c)(1)(iii).                        | 0.00                            | 0.00                                | 0.00                                | 0.00                                    | 0.00                                      |
|                                       |                                    | Reporting FNS–583 data elements (OMB Control #0584–0594). | 7 CFR 273.7(c)(11)                             | 0.00                            | 0.00                                | 0.00                                | 0.00                                    | 0.00                                      |
|                                       |                                    | Reporting additional FNS–583 data elements.               | 7 CFR 273.7(c)(11)                             | 0.00                            | 0.00                                | 0.00                                | 0.00                                    | 0.00                                      |
| State Government Sub-Total            |                                    |   |  | 53.00                           | 50,236.00                           | 2,662,508.00                        | 0.27                                    | 711,555.26                                |
| Individuals/Household.                | E&T Participants ....              | Participating in Case Management Services.                | 7 CFR 273.7(e)(1)                              | 375,000.00                      | 3.55                                | 1,331,254.00                        | 0.40                                    | 533,433.48                                |
|                                       |                                    | Review Information on Provider Determination.             | 7 CFR 273.7(c)(18)(i).                         | 0.00                            | 0.00                                | 0.00                                | 0.00                                    | 0.00                                      |
|                                       |                                    | Read ABAWD written statement of work requirements.        | 7 CFR 273.7(c)(1)(iii) and 273.24(b)(8).       | 0.00                            | 0.00                                | 0.00                                | 0.00                                    | 0.00                                      |
|                                       |                                    | Read list of Employment and Training Services.            | 7 CFR 273.14(b)(5)                             | 0.00                            | 0.00                                | 0.00                                | 0.00                                    | 0.00                                      |
| Individuals/Household Sub-Total       |                                    |   |  | 375,000.00                      | 3.55                                | 1,331,254.00                        | 0.40                                    | 533,433.48                                |
| Grand Total Reporting Burden          |                                    |   |  | 375,053.00                      | 10.65                               | 3,993,762.00                        | 0.31                                    | 1,244,988.74                              |

**Recordkeeping**

*Affected Public:* State, Local and Tribal Government. Respondent groups identified include State agencies administering the SNAP E&T program in 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* The total estimated number of respondents annually for the recordkeeping burden for maintaining records of case management services is

53 State agencies, including the agencies responsible for SNAP E&T administration in 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* The total estimated number of responses per respondent for the provision and documenting of case management services is 25,118.

*Estimated Total Annual Responses:* The total estimated annual responses for

the provision and documenting of case management services is 1,331,254.

*Estimated Time per Response:* The estimated time per response is .14 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* The estimated total annual burden on respondents is 186,375.56 hours.

See table below for estimated total burden for each type of respondent.

TOTAL ANNUAL RECORDKEEPING BURDEN—SNAP EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING MAINTAINING RECORDS OF CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

| Respondent category (affected public) | Type of respondents | Burden activity                   | CFR citation      | Estimated number of respondents | Responses per respondent (col. G/E) | Total annual responses (col. E × F) | Estimated hours per response (col. I/G) | Estimated total burden hours (col. G × H) |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| A                                     | B                   | C                                 | D                 | E                               | F                                   | G                                   | H                                       | I   |
| <b>RECORDKEEPING</b>                  |                     |                                   |                   |                                 |                                     |                                     |   |   |
| State Government                      | State Agency .....  | Maintain Case Management Records. | 273.7(e)(1) ..... | 53.00                           | 25,118.00                           | 1,331,254.00                        | 0.14                                    | 186,375.56                                |
| Grand Total Recordkeeping Burden      |                     |                                   |                   | 53.00                           | 25,118.00                           | 1,331,254.00                        | 0.14                                    | 186,375.56                                |

**Tameka Owens,**

*Assistant Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.*

[FR Doc. 2023-23238 Filed 10-19-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

[Docket No. RUS-23-TELECOM-0015]

#### Notice of an Extension to an Existing Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Utilities Service's (RUS or Agency), an agency within the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, intention to request an extension to an existing information collection package for the Special Servicing of Telecommunications Programs Loans for Financially Distressed Borrowers. The Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program, Rural Broadband Program, Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program, and the Rural eConnectivity Program (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "RUS Telecommunications Programs") provide loan funding to build and expand broadband and telecommunications services in rural communities.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by December 19, 2023 to be assured of consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Pamela Bennett, Regulations Management Division, Innovation Center, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Email: [pamela.bennett@usda.gov](mailto:pamela.bennett@usda.gov). Telephone: (202) 720-9639.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR part 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) requires that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice identifies an information collection that RUS will submit to OMB for regular approval.

*Comments are invited on:* (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, including whether the information will have practical

utility; (b) the accuracy of the Rural Business-Cooperative Service's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (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 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.

Comments may be sent by the Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and, in the "Search" box, type in the Docket No. RUS-23-TELECOM-0015. A link to the Notice will appear. You may submit a comment here by selecting the "Comment" button or you can access the "Docket" tab, select the "Notice," and go to the "Browse & Comment on Documents" Tab. Here you may view comments that have been submitted as well as submit a comment. To submit a comment, select the "Comment" button, complete the required information, and select the "Submit Comment" button at the bottom. Information on using *Regulations.gov*, including instructions for accessing documents, submitting comments, and viewing the docket after the close of the comment period, is available through the site's "FAQ" link at the bottom.

A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. Data furnished by the applicants will be used to determine eligibility for program benefits. Furnishing the data is voluntary; however, failure to provide data could result in program benefits being withheld or denied.

*Title:* Special Servicing of Telecommunications Programs Loans for Financially Distressed Borrowers.

*OMB Control Number:* 0572-0153.

*Type of Request:* Extension to an existing information collection.

*Abstract:* The RUS Telecommunications Programs currently take servicing actions on approximately 10-12 projects each year. These actions are taken in accordance with 7 CFR part 1752 which outlines the general policies and procedures for servicing actions associated with the RUS Telecommunications Programs Borrowers in financial distress. The

reporting burden covered by this collection from the borrower may include but is not limited to, a request and explanation for servicing action, various financial, subscriber, and organizational information, as well as other documents and information that may be relevant as determined by RUS. The collection of this information will help the Agency streamline and expedite servicing actions, improve the Government's recovery on such loans, and improve overall customer service. Since most RUS Telecommunications Program borrowers are utilities, faster resolution of servicing actions will ensure that rural Americans continue to receive service.

*Estimate of Burden:* The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 5 hours per response.

*Respondents:* Respondents for this data may include not-for-profit institutions; businesses or other for-profit.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 5.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 27.4.

*Estimated Number of Responses:* 137.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 694.50 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Pamela Bennett, Rural Development Innovation Center, Regulations Management Division, at (202) 720-9639. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

**Andrew Berke,**

*Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.*

[FR Doc. 2023-23243 Filed 10-19-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Utilities Service

[Docket No.: RUS-23-TELECOM-0014]

#### 60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Lien Accommodation and Subordination Policy; OMB Control No.: 0572-0126

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utilities Service (RUS) announces its' intention to request a revision of a currently approved information collection and invites comments on this information collection.