

Community Living) first developed a State Program Report (SPR) in 1996 as part of its National Aging Program Information System (NAPIS). The SPR collects information about the national Aging Network, how State Agencies on Aging expend their OAA funds as well as funding from other sources for OAA authorized supportive services. The SPR also collects information on the demographic and functional status of the recipients, and is a key source for ACL performance measurement. This previously approved “New SPR” was a

revision of the currently active version (effective 2019–2022) and was approved on 2018, also assigned with the same OMB Control Number #0985–0001. This previously approved collection reduces the number of data elements reported by 70% compared to the 2019–2022 SPR.

ACL intends to seek a new OMB Control Number for the new SPR effective FY 2022–2025. This request applies only to making an administrative change to the 2018 approved version of the State Performance Report for State Units on

Aging (Older Americans Act Titles III and VII (Chapters 3 and 4) (“new SPR”). ACL intends to use this proposed data to collect information with the FY 2022 reporting year.

To view and comment on this information collection please visit Administration for Community Living public input page: <https://acl.gov/about-acl/public-input>.

Estimated Program Burden: ACL estimates an annual burden of 1,876 hours:

Respondent/data collection activity	Number of respondents	Responses per respondent	Hours per response	Annual burden hours
SPR	56	1	33.5	1,876
Total	56	1	33.5	1,876

Dated: February 19, 2021.

Alison Barkoff,

Acting Administrator and Assistant Secretary for Aging.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Community Living

[OMB No. 0985–0067]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for OMB Review; Public Comment Request; The Study on the Impact of COVID–19 on Adult Protective Service (APS) Programs

AGENCY: Administration for Community Living, 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 the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This 30-Day notice collects comments on the information collection requirements related to requirements related to the extension with change to the Study on the impact of COVID–19 on Adult Protective Service (APS) Programs.

DATES: Submit written comments on the collection of information by March 29, 2021.

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 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:

Stephanie Whittier Eliason, Administration for Community Living, Washington, DC 20201 Phone: (202) 795–7467 Email: Stephanie.WhittierEliason@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 Administration for Community Living (ACL) requests an extension with change to the approved data collection for a study on the impact of COVID–19 on Adult Protective Service (APS) Programs (OMB 0985–0067). Some elder advocates and law enforcement officers believe that the opioid epidemic is contributing to the increase in elder abuse.¹ Even during the COVID–19 epidemic, regular press, briefs and editorials continue to report that the opioid abuse is still rising. Aging services and APS networks are likely to deal with more complex clients with opioid-related issues, placing enormous pressure on health care systems, emergency response services, law

enforcement and other community services.^{2 3 4}

In the context of COVID–19, we need to make extra efforts to look at these challenges and look for ways to effectively meet the needs of these clients. The purpose of this 7-month study is to understand the nature, extent, and impact of opioids on older adults and their families by interviewing APS staff. The study will look magnitude and characteristics of these cases. It will look at what investigative methods and challenges are specific to opioid cases. Because of the COVID–19 pandemic, attention will also be made to the effects of pandemic on client circumstances, service gaps and needs, and outcomes. These are the objectives of the study:

- Identify the scope and characteristics of APS caseloads involving opioid abuse before and during COVID–19
- Identify investigative methods used and challenges to using these methods
- Identify interventions used and challenges to implementing these interventions
- Identify additional services needed
- Identify challenges that are particular to the COVID–19 pandemic
- Assist ACL and other federal partners in targeting needed resources to have the highest impact

Findings from this important study will shed light on what and how to improve APS responses to opioid-

² Blog Post (March 4, 2019): <https://eldermistreatment.usc.edu/opioids-and-elder-abuse-a-disquieting-connection/>.

³ Washington Post Article (June 17, 2019): https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2019/06/17/how-opioid-crisis-is-leading-elder-financial-abuse/?utm_term=.594b4dd84d9d.

⁴ <https://eldermistreatment.usc.edu/missouri-aps-response-to-the-opioid-crisis/>.

¹ Benson, W.F.; Aldrich, N. Raising Awareness and Seeking Solutions to the Opioid Epidemic's Impact on Rural Older Adults.

related cases. Findings will be distributed via the APS–TARC website, a technical assistance resource center for APS programs. ACL will also explore other opportunities where findings can

be shared via blogs, briefs, conference presentations and webinars.

Comments in Response to the 60-Day Federal Register Notice

ACL published a 60-day **Federal Register Notice** in the **Federal Register**

soliciting public comments on this request. The 60-day FRN published on December 1, 2020, Vol. 85, No. 231 page 77217. There were no public comments received.

ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED BURDEN HOURS

Form name	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Total responses	Average burden per response (in hours)	Total burden hours
APS Administrator Interview Guide	12	1	12	.75	9
APS Local Staff Interview Guide	60	1	60	.75	45
Total					54

Dated: February 19, 2021.

Alison Barkoff,

Acting Administrator and Assistant Secretary for Aging.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Community Living

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for OMB Review; Public Comment Request; Inventory of Adult Protective Services Practices and Service Innovations

AGENCY: Administration for Community Living, 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 requirements related to a new information collection 0985–New Inventory of Adult Protective Services Practices and Service Innovations.

DATES: Submit written comments on the collection of information by March 29, 2021.

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 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:

Stephanie Whittier Eliason, Administration for Community Living, Washington, DC 20201 Phone: (202) 795–7467, Email: Stephanie.WhittierEliason@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 Administration for Community Living (ACL) is requesting approval for a new information collection 0985–New Inventory of Adult Protective Services Practices and Service Innovations. The Elder Justice Act of 2009 requires the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to carry out a number of activities related to adult protective services (APS) (42 U.S.C. 1397m–1), including developing and disseminating information on APS best practices and conducting research related to the provision of APS.

Furthermore, the Elder Justice Coordinating Council included as its third recommendation for increasing federal involvement in addressing elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation: “develop a national APS system based upon standardized data collection and a core set of service provision standards and best practices.”

Background

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) plans to initiate an Inventory of Adult Protective Services Practices and Service Innovations (APS Practice Survey) in early 2021. Under a contract

with ACL, the National Adult Protective Services Technical Assistance Resource Center (APS TARC) is conducting a national program evaluation of APS programs. As part of this evaluation, the APS Practice Survey will identify barriers to meeting policy mandates, and practice innovations and model programs that address such barriers and community-identified needs. It also seeks to identify practice variations in the way APS programs serve older adults and adults with disabilities. The results of the survey will serve to advance the field of APS and will be useful to many audiences. It will provide baseline information regarding the status of APS programs and services, and the resulting information will help states and territories compare their program characteristics with those of other states and territories. The survey will provide a context for other researchers examining APS programs. It will inform ACL’s efforts to support improvement of APS programs through activities such as innovation grants. Finally, it will inform the APS TARC team’s efforts to develop resources to enhance APS programs around the country. This survey has been developed to gather information on APS practices that is not available from other sources. As part of the National Adult Maltreatment Reporting System (NAMRS), ACL collects descriptive data on state and territory agency policies through the Agency Component of that data collection.

Therefore, the proposed survey will not collect any background policy or data items. As part of the APS Program Evaluation, the APS TARC also conducted a detailed examination of state APS policies through development of individual state policy profiles. The profiles were based exclusively on extant information sources obtained without additional data requests from