

Dated: November 13, 2000.

Barbara M. Williams,

*Deputy Standard and Optional Forms
Management Officer.*

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the intention of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to allow a proposed information collection project: "Medical Expenditure Panel Survey Household Component (MEPS-HC)-2001 through 2004". In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), AHRQ invites the public to comment on this proposed information collection.

This proposed information collection was previously published in the **Federal Register** on October 3, 2000 and allowed 60 days for public comment. No public comments were received. The purpose of this notice is to allow an additional 30 days for public comment.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by January 12, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted to: OMB Desk Officer at the following address: Allison Eydt, Human Resources and Housing Branch, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB: New Executive Office Building, Room 10235; Washington, DC 20503.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and

included in the request for OMB approval of the proposed information collection. All comments will become a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cynthia D. McMichael, AHRQ Reports Clearance Officer, (301) 594-3132.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposed Project: "Medical Expenditure Panel Survey Household Component (MEPS-HC)-2001 through 2004".

The AHRQ intends to conduct an annual panel survey of U.S. households to collect information on a variety of measures related to health status, health insurance coverage, health care use and expenditures, and sources of payment for health services. Each panel consists of a nationally representative sample of U.S. households who remain in MEPS for two consecutive years of data collection. The first panel of MEPS began in 1996 and has continued annually thereafter. The MEPS-HC is jointly sponsored by the AHRQ and the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).

It will be conducted using a sample of households selected from households which responded to the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) sponsored by NCHS. The NHIS is a household survey which collects health related data from approximately 50,000 households and 110,000 people. The NHIS is used as the sampling frame for the MEPS and several other surveys as part of efforts by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to integrate survey data collection activities.

Data to be collected from each household include detailed information on demographics, health conditions, current health status, utilization of health care providers, charges and payments for health care services, quality of care received, medications, employment and health insurance.

In accordance with AHRQ and NCHS confidentiality statutes, statistical and nonidentifying data will be made available through publications, articles in major journals as well as public use

data files. The data are intended to be used for purposes such as:

- Generating national estimates of individual and family health care use and expenditures, private and public health insurance coverage, and the availability, costs and scope of private health insurance benefits among Americans;
- Examining the effects of changes in how chronic care and disability are managed and financed;
- Evaluating the growing impact of managed care and of enrollment in different types of managed care plans; and,
- Examining access to and costs of health care for common diseases and conditions, health care quality, prescription drug use, and other health issues.

Statisticians and researchers will use these data to make important generalizations on the civilian non-institutionalized population of the United States, as well as to conduct research in which the family is the unit of analysis.

Method of Collection: The data will be collected using a combination of modes. For example, the AHRQ intends to introduce study participants to the survey through advance mailings. The first contact will provide the household with information regarding the importance and uses of the information obtained. The AHRQ will then conduct five (in-person) interviews with each household to obtain health care use and expense data. Data will be collected using a computer-assisted personal interviewing method (CAPI). In certain cases, AHRQ will conduct interviews over the telephone, if necessary. Burden estimates follow:

Estimated Annual Respondent

Burden Per Year: Each MEPS participant is asked to complete 5 interviews over two and one half years. Each interview averages 1.8 hours in length. Total burden is estimated in the following chart:

Survey period	Number of completes	Burden per complete (hours)	Total burden (hours)
Feb-July 2001	19,380	1.8	34,884
Aug-Dec 2001	13,280	1.8	23,904
Feb-July 2002	21,248	1.8	38,246
Aug-Dec 2002	16,239	1.8	29,230
Feb-July 2003	24,187	1.8	43,537
Total	148,291

Dated: December 6, 2000.

John M. Eisenberg,

Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

Proposed Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

Proposed Projects

Title: Guidance for the Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program.

OMB No. 0970-0157.

Description: The subject document provides program information, plan guidance, and a suggested plan outline for an application for direct funding and administration by federally recognized Indian Tribes of a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (Tribal TANF).

Respondents: Federally recognized Indian Tribes or consortia thereof.

Annual Burden Estimates

Instrument	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Average burden hours per response	Total burden hours
Plan and revisions	18	3	100	5,400
Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:	5,400

In compliance with the requirements of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Administration for Children and Families is soliciting public comment on the specific aspects of the information collection described above. Copies of the proposed collection of information can be obtained and comments may be forwarded by writing to the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Information Services, 370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW., Washington, DC 20447, Attn: ACF Reports Clearance Officer. All requests should be identified by the title of the information collection.

The Department specifically requests comments 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; (c) the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted within 60 days of this publication.

Dated: December 7, 2000.

Bob Sargis,

Reports Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

[Program Announcement No. ACF/ACYF/HS FY 2000-04]

Early Head Start Longitudinal Research Partnerships: Availability of Funds and Request for Applications

AGENCY: Administration on Children, Youth and Families, ACF, DHHS.

ACTION: Notice.

Statutory Authority: The Head Start Act, as amended 42 U.S.C. 9801 *et seq.*) CFDA: 93.600.

SUMMARY: The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) announces the availability of funds for universities, in partnership with the original 17 Early Head Start Research sites, to conduct the local and cross-site longitudinal research until entry into kindergarten on children and families who were participants in the original National Early Head Start Research Study.

DATES: The closing date for receipt of applications is 5:00 P.M. EDT January 29, 2001.

Note: Applications should be submitted to the ACYF Operations Center at 1815 N. Fort Myer Drive, Suite 300, Arlington, Virginia 22209. However, prior to preparing and submitting an application, in order to satisfactorily compete under this announcement it will be necessary for potential applicants to read the full announcement which is available through the addresses listed below.

ADDRESSES: The full announcement and applications, including all necessary forms can be downloaded from the Head

Start web site at www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/hsb. The web site also contains a listing of the 17 Early Head Start programs that were part of the original study. Hard copies of the application may be obtained by writing or calling the Operations Center or sending an email to hsr@cgnet.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: ACYF Operations Center at: 1815 N. Fort Myer Drive, Suite 300, Arlington, Virginia 22209 or (1-800) 351-2293.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Eligible Applicants: Universities and four-year colleges on behalf of a faculty member who holds a doctorate degree or equivalent in their respective field and have formed partnerships with an original Early Head Start Research site.

Project Duration: The announcement for Early Head Start Longitudinal Research is soliciting applications for project periods of four years. Awards, on a competitive basis, will be for the first one-year budget period.

Applications for continuation grants funded under these awards beyond the one-year budget period, but within the established project period, will be entertained in subsequent years on a non-competitive basis, subject to availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the grantee and a determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of the Government. An additional competitive grant for one year may be considered for recipients of grants under this announcement if it is deemed necessary for the completion of the data analysis and report writing.

Federal Share of Project Costs: The maximum Federal share is \$190,000 per Early Head Start research site for the first 12-month budget period based on the number of children to be tracked