

Notices

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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.

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bureau for Humanitarian Response, Office of Food for Peace; Announcement of Draft Guidelines for Title II Development Activity Programs

Pursuant to the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 (Pub. L. 480, as amended), notice is hereby given that the Draft Guidelines for Title II Development Activity Programs are being made available to interested parties for the required thirty (30) day comment period.

Individuals who wish to receive a copy of these draft guidelines should contact: Office of Food for Peace, Agency for International Development, RRB 7.06-120, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC 20523-0809. Individuals who have questions or comments on the draft guidelines should contact Richard Newberg at the above address or at (202) 712-1828.

The thirty-day comment period will begin on the date that this announcement is published in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: February 8, 2001.

William T. Oliver,

Director, Office of Food for Peace, Bureau for Humanitarian Response.

[FR Doc. 01-4513 Filed 2-22-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6116-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Economic Research Service

Notice of Intent To Seek Approval To Collect Information

AGENCY: Economic Research Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub.

L. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the Economic Research Service's (ERS) intention to request approval for a new information collection from Food Stamp Program (FSP) officials in State agencies; from officials of the Special Supplementary Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) in State agencies; from officials of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) in State Departments of Education; and from NSLP officials in local school food authorities (SFAs). The purpose of the data collection is to obtain information on the program information systems maintained at the State and local level by these programs.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by April 30, 2001 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Requests for additional information should be directed to Parke Wilde, Food Assistance and Rural Economy Branch, Food and Rural Economics Division, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1800 M. St., NW., S2092, Washington, DC 20036-5831. For further information contact: Parke Wilde, 202-694-5633. Submit electronic comments to pwilde@ers.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Paperwork Reduction Act Submission (OMB-83-1).

Type of Request: New collection of information.

Abstract: The Economic Research Service (ERS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is responsible for conducting studies and evaluations of the Nation's food assistance programs administered by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), U.S. Department of Agriculture. In recent years, there has been growing interest in efforts to utilize program administrative data in ways that improve program operations, reduce program fraud, and better inform program officials as to the characteristics of program participants and eligible non-participants. In particular, there is an interest in matching records from multiple food assistance programs in order to verify program eligibility, assess the characteristics of multi-program participants, and estimate the extent to which program participants enroll in all programs for which they are eligible.

This project has two objectives: (1) To determine the characteristics of administrative data systems used by food stamps, WIC, and child nutrition programs, and (2) to test the feasibility and accuracy of linking data from different nutrition assistance programs. Currently, there is no comprehensive assessment of system capabilities, data-sharing arrangements, and record-linkage projects for food assistance programs. This information is necessary to better understand the potential use of these systems for analyzing multiple program participation and for improving program operations in such areas as one-stop shopping, adjunctive eligibility determination, program integrity, and reduction of administrative and client burden.

This project will conduct a survey to determine the capabilities of information systems maintaining client records for the food assistance programs. The survey will collect information about system architecture, organization of client records, maintenance of historical records, numbers and types of client identifiers, and data sharing arrangements among programs. The survey will be conducted in 26 States. Interviews will be conducted with program officials in State food stamp agencies and State WIC agencies; with officials in the Child Nutrition branch of State Departments of Education; and with officials in three School Food Authorities within each State. Information from the survey will be used to determine the consistency, across States, of information maintained by each food assistance program and the consistency, within States, of information maintained by different programs. Findings from the survey will be presented in tabular format facilitating comparison across both States and food assistance programs.

Information from the survey of food assistance programs will be used to assess the potential for matching client records across major food assistance programs (FSP, WIC, NSLP) within a State for the purpose of estimating rates of shared clientele. This information will be used to recruit four sites into a second phase of the project. The second phase will test the feasibility and accuracy of linking data from different nutrition assistance programs within a site (defined as either an area served by a single SFA or an entire State,