

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of this information collection should be directed to Stephanie Proska at 703-305-2437.

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: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

OMB Number: 0584-0034.

Expiration Date: April 30, 2021.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The FNS-245, Negative Case Action Review Schedule, is designed to

collect quality control (QC) data and serve as the data entry form for negative case action QC reviews in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). State agencies complete the FNS-245 for each negative case in their QC sample. The reporting and recordkeeping burden associated with the completion of the FNS-245 has decreased from approximately 115,514.87 hours to 102,001 hours. The 13,513.87 hour decrease in the total burden is largely a result of the decrease in total SNAP negative case selections from 38,970 cases in FY 2015 to 34,322 cases in FY 2018.

Reg. section	Affected public	Description of activity	Estimated number of respondents	Estimated responses per respondent	Total annual responses	Number of burden hours per response	Estimated total burden hours
Reporting Burden							
Reporting Burden for State Agencies FNS 245, OMB 0584-0034							
275.13 (b)	State Agencies ...	Household Case Record Review.	53	647.5849	34,322.00	1.75	60,063.50
275.12 (b)	State Agencies ...	Variance identification.	53	647.5849	34,322.00	0.6906	23,702.77
275.13 (c)	State Agencies ...	Error analysis	53	647.5849	34,322.00	0.5	17,161.00
Grand Totals Reporting Burden			53.00		102,966.00	2.9406	100,927.27
Record Keeping Burden							
Recordkeeping Burden for State Agencies FNS 245, OMB 0584-0034							
275.4	State Agencies ...	Record Retention	53	647.5849	34,322	0.0236	1,073.73
Overall Grand Total Reporting and Recordkeeping			53.00		137,288.00	2.96	102,001.00

Affected Public: State, Local and Tribal Government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 53 State Agencies.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 647.59.

Estimated Total Annual Responses: 102,966.

Estimated Time per Response: 2.9406 hours.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 100,927.27.

Number of Record Keepers: 53.

Number of Records per Record Keeper: 647.59 Records.

Estimated Number of Records/Response to Keep: 34,322 Records.

Recordkeeping Time per Response: .0236 hours.

Total Estimated Recordkeeping Burden Hours: 1,073.73 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Burden on Respondents: 137,288 hours.

Pamilyn Miller,

Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 2020-29005 Filed 12-31-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Requirement for National Directory of New Hires Employment Verification

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.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before March 5, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be sent to: Maribelle Balbes, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. Comments may also be submitted via email to SNAPSAB@FNS.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 Evan Sieradzki at 703-605-3212.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This collection is a revision of an expired collection at 84 FR 11928. In 2016, an Interim Final Rule titled "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Requirement for National Directory of New Hires Employment Verification and Annual Program Activity Reporting," was published in the **Federal Register**. This rule codified section 4013 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, requiring State agencies to access employment data through the National Directory of New Hires (NDNH) at the time of certification, including recertification, to determine eligibility

status and correct benefit amount for SNAP applicants. The rule also amended regulations to increase the frequency of the requirement for State agency submission of the Program Activity Statement from an annual requirement based on the State fiscal year to a quarterly requirement. The burden hours for the increase in submission frequency for the Program Activity Statement, form FNS-366B, have been merged into the Food Programs Reporting System (FPRS) information collection, OMB #0584-0594 (expiration 7/31/2023). Therefore, this notice seeks to renew the burden hours associated with the National Directory of New Hires portion of this information collection only and removes burden hours and references for the Program Activity Statement, form FNS-366B.

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: SNAP Requirement for National Directory of New Hires Employment Verification.

Form Number: N/A.

OMB Number: 0584-0608.

Expiration Date: 5/31/2019.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) regulations at 7 CFR 272.16 require that each State agency must establish a system to compare identifiable information about each adult household member against data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) National Directory of New Hires (NDNH). This comparison will be used to determine the eligibility status of the household and determine the correct benefit amount the household should receive.

Applicant and Recipient Screening: The State agency must compare identifiable information about each adult household member against information from the NDNH. States must make the comparison of matched data at the time of application and recertification and must independently verify any positive match results. *Verification of Match:* The State agency must independently verify the information prior to taking any adverse action against an individual. Should the State agency receive employment information via the NDNH that was previously unreported by the household, the State agency may issue a Request for Contact to the household to verify the information or contact the employer directly, depending upon applicable reporting requirements as defined at 7 CFR 273.12.

Notice: The Notice of Adverse Action or Notice of Denial is issued by State agencies to participating households whose benefits will be reduced or terminated as the result of a change in household circumstances. Should the State agency independently verify unreported or underreported income discovered through NDNH, and that income results in a reduction of benefits or change in eligibility, the State agency must take action by issuing the household a Notice of Adverse Action or Notice of Denial and adjusting benefits accordingly.

Burden Estimates: The previous burden for this collection was 252,432 reporting hours (209,899 reporting burden hours for State agencies + 41,583 reporting burden hours for households). The requested burden is 521,719.02 (482,290.88 reporting burden hours for State agencies + 39,428.14 reporting burden hours for households), which represents an increase of 269,287.02 hours due to program adjustments. There are no recordkeeping requirements associated with this collection.

Affected Public: State and local agencies, households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,180,536.20.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 8.8567.

Estimated Total Annual Responses: 10,455,713.40.

Estimated Time per Response: 0.04989.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 521,719.02 hours. See the table below for estimated total annual burden for each type of respondent.

Regulation	Burden activity	Estimated number of respondents	Estimated responses per respondent	Estimated total annual responses	Estimated hours per response	Estimated total annual hours
State Agency Reporting Burden						
272.2	Program Activity Statement	0	0	0	0	0
272.15	NDNH—Applicant/Recipient Screening	53	147,162.75	7,799,626.00	0.0501	390,761.26
272.15	NDNH—Verification of Match	53	19,886.85	1,054,003.00	0.0668	70,407.40
272.15	NDND—Notice of Adverse Action or Notice of Denial.	53	7,954.74	421,601.20	0.0501	21,122.22
State Agency Total		53	175,004.34	9,275,230.20	0.051997726	482,290.88
Household Reporting Burden						
272.15	NDNH—Response to Request for Contact	758,882.00	1.00	758,882.00	0.0334	25,346.66
272.15	NDNH—Response to Notice of Adverse Action or Notice of Denial.	421,601.20	1.00	421,601.20	0.0334	14,081.48
Household Reporting Total		1,180,483.20	1	1,180,483.20	0.0334	39,428.14
Grand Totals		1,180,536.20	8.856749501	10,455,713.40	0.049897984	521,719.02

Pamilyn Miller,
Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Privacy Act of 1974; Computer Matching Program

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

ACTION: Notice of reestablished matching program.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is providing notice of a reestablished computer matching program between FNS and the State agencies that administer the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The matching program allows State agencies access to the Electronic Disqualified Recipient System (eDRS), a national database operated by FNS. The system maintains records of SNAP disqualifications imposed by State agencies on individuals who have been found to have committed an intentional program violation (IPV). State agencies need access to nationwide disqualification information to meet program integrity requirements because a disqualification in any State applies to SNAP nationally. Matches against eDRS enhance program integrity by providing State agencies assistance in determining eligibility for SNAP benefits and the proper disqualification length when imposing a new disqualification.

DATES: The deadline for comments on this notice is February 3, 2021. The effective date of the reestablished matching program will be not sooner than 30 days from the publication of this notice, provided no comments are received that result in a contrary determination. The matching program will be conducted for an initial term of 18 months and, within three months of expiration, may be renewed for one additional year if the parties make no change to the matching program and certify that the program has been conducted in compliance with the agreement.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties may submit written comments on this notice to Maribelle Balbes, Chief, State Administration Branch, Program Accountability and Administration Division, SNAP, by email at SM.FN.SNAPSAB@usda.gov, or by mail

at 1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions about the matching program, you may contact Maribelle Balbes, (703) 605–4272.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, 5 U.S.C. 552a, provides certain protections for individuals applying for and receiving federal benefits. The law governs the use of computer matching by federal agencies when records in a system of records, which contains information about individuals that are retrieved by name or other personal identifier, are matched with records of other Federal, State, or local government records. The Privacy Act requires agencies involved in a matching program to:

1. Obtain approval of a Computer Matching Agreement, prepared in accordance with the Privacy Act, by the Data Integrity Board of any Federal agency participating in a matching program.
2. Enter into a written Computer Matching Agreement.
3. Provide a report of the matching program to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and make it available to the public, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(o), (u)(3)(A), and (u)(4).
4. Publish a notice of the matching program in the **Federal Register** as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(12) after OMB and Congress complete their review of the report, as provided by OMB Circular A–108, Federal Agency Responsibilities for Review, Reporting, and Publication under the Privacy Act.
5. Notify the individuals whose information will be used in the matching program that the information they provide is subject to verification through matching, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(o)(1)(D).
6. Verify match findings before suspending, terminating, reducing, or making a final denial of an individual's benefits or payments or taking other adverse action against the individual, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(p).

This matching program meets these requirements.

Participating Agencies: FNS and the State agencies that administer SNAP to include all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the territories of Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Authority for Conducting the Matching Program: The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (the Act), as amended, 7 U.S.C. 2015(b), provides the legal authority for conducting the matching program. Section 6(b) of the

Act, prescribes mandatory periods of ineligibility for persons found to have committed an IPV such as fraud, misrepresentation, or other violation of statute or regulation in connection with SNAP. Section 6(b)(4) prescribes regulations to ensure that appropriate State and Federal entities forward information concerning determinations arising out of such proscribed activity by a specific individual.

Purpose: The eDRS matching program maintains program integrity and reduces payment errors by providing information to assist State agencies with establishing or verifying the eligibility of individuals for SNAP benefits and determining the appropriate disqualification period to be imposed for a new IPV as required in regulations at 7 CFR 273.16, Disqualification for intentional Program violation. Each State agency must submit information about individuals who have been disqualified from SNAP within their State to eDRS. As a participant in this matching program, each State agency has access to this national system to both submit the required information for their State and perform the required matches against information provided by all State agencies.

Categories of Individuals: SNAP applicants and new household members are matched against eDRS as part of the eligibility determination process to ensure the individual is not currently disqualified from receiving benefits due to an IPV. Individuals who are being disqualified by a State agency due to a new IPV finding are matched against eDRS to assist the State agency in determining the appropriate duration of the new disqualification.

Categories of Records: The data elements in eDRS provide information about individuals who have been disqualified, the disqualification details, and the agency that imposed the disqualification. State agencies submit this information about disqualifications imposed in their State and this information is then available to all participating State agencies with access to eDRS. State agencies use personally identifying information to search eDRS for the individual being matched.

1. Information about the disqualified individual:
 - Name
 - Social security number or alternative ID
 - Date of birth
 - Gender
 - Alias
2. Disqualification details:
 - Disqualification number
 - Disqualification decision date