

that they had requested. Several measures will be taken to support the response rate for the proposed information collection:

- Information will be collected via the internet rather than by mail. This data collection mode is more convenient for intended respondents and will allow for rapid follow up with non-respondents.
- This information collection will be cosponsored by the National Germplasm Resources Laboratory of USDA, which is familiar to the recipients as it is the agency that provided the requested germplasm.
- A well planned recruitment protocol will include sending the instrument with a cover letter from a senior staff member of the National Germplasm Resources Laboratory, who will be an individual familiar to many of the recipients. It also includes up to three reminder emails to non-respondents.

Should the response rate fall below 80%, a non-response bias study will be conducted. The web-based instrument was pretested for ease of use by fewer than 9 germplasm requestors from USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the average time spent completing the forms was 11 minutes.

Information from the Census of Users of the National Plant Germplasm System will be used for statistical purposes only and reported only in aggregate or statistical form. A public use data file will be created from this information collection. ERS does not intend to invoke CIPSEA or any other data protection statute for this collection, because it will not collect any sensitive or personal identifiable information.

Estimate of Burden: In order to answer our research question about the use of germplasm for adaptation to climate change, a census is needed to pinpoint geo-spatial demand for germplasm. Thus, all 7,207 requestors of germplasm will be asked to fill out a web instrument once during a one month data collection period; non-respondents will receive three reminder emails. 80% of requestors are assumed to provide a response to one of the four emailed instruments. The estimated time of response is to average 0.197 hour. This average includes time spent to complete questionnaire and reading reminder emails. 20% will be non-respondents and will incur less than 1 minute of time to read the material. Thus, response times are estimated adding an additional minute for each reminder sent, for a total of four minutes for requestors who never respond. These estimates of respondent burden are based on pretesting by ARS scientists,

conducted by the National Germplasm Resources Laboratory of the National Plant Germplasm System.

Type of Respondents: Respondents includes all individuals or institutions who requested germplasm for any of the aforesaid ten crops from the National Plant Germplasm System over the five year period as defined by this information collection.

Estimated Total Number of Respondents: 7,207.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,231.2 hours.

Comments: All written comments received will be available for public inspection in the Resource Center of the Economic Research Service during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday) at 355 E St. SW., Room 04P33, Washington, DC 20024-4221. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Date: February 19, 2014.

Mary Bohman,

Administrator, Economic Research Service.

[FR Doc. 2014-04850 Filed 3-4-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-18-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection

Activities: Proposed collection; Comment Request—Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Store Applications, Forms FNS-252, FNS-252-E, FNS-252-FE, FNS-252-R, FNS-252-2 and FNS-252-C

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 the proposed collection. This is a revision of a currently approved collection in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and concerns Retail Store Applications (Forms FNS-252; FNS-252-E; FNS-252-R; FNS-252-2; and FNS-252-C).

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before May 5, 2014.

ADDRESSES: 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 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 to: Shelly Pierce, Chief, Retailer Administration Branch, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Retailer Policy and Management Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 438, Alexandria, VA 22302. Comments may be faxed to the attention of Ms. Pierce at (703) 305-1863 or via email to: RPMDHQ-WEB@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 written comments will be open for public inspection at the FNS office located at 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 438, Alexandria, Virginia 22302, during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday).

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 Shelly Pierce at RPMDHQ-WEB@fns.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)—Store Applications.

Form Number: FNS-252; 252-E; 252-FE; 252-R; 252-2; and 252-C.

OMB Number: 0584-0008.

Expiration Date: July 31, 2014.

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

Abstract: Section 9(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, (the Act) (7 U.S.C. 2011 et. seq.) requires that FNS determine the eligibility of retail food stores and certain food service organizations to accept SNAP benefits and to monitor them for compliance and continued eligibility and to ensure program integrity.

Part of FNS' responsibility is to accept applications from retail food stores that wish to participate in SNAP, review the applications in order to determine whether applicants meet eligibility requirements, make determinations whether to grant or deny authorization to accept SNAP benefits and to ensure program integrity. There are four forms designed for that purpose and approved under the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) clearance number 0584-0008—the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Application for Stores, Form FNS-252 (English and Spanish) and FNS-252-E (paper and online version respectively); the Meal Service Application, Form FNS-252-2; and the Corporate Supplemental Application, Form FNS-252-C used for individual (chain) stores under a corporation.

FNS is responsible for reviewing retail food store applications at least once every five years to ensure that each firm is under the same ownership and continues to meet eligibility guidelines. In order to accomplish this regulatory requirement, FNS collects information from retail food stores using the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Application for Stores—Reauthorization, Form FNS-252-R.

During authorization or reauthorization, FNS may conduct an on-site store visit of the firm. The store visit of the firm helps FNS confirm that the information provided on the application is correct. An FNS representative or store visit contractor obtains permission to fill in the store visit checklist, photograph the store and asks the store owner or manager about the continued ownership of the store.

Currently, individual retail food stores and wholesale food concerns, along with farmers' markets and produce stands complete and submit

forms FNS-252 and FNS-252-E. A farmers' market is defined as a multi-stall market at which farmer-producers sell agricultural products directly to the general public at a central or fixed location. FNS has received comments from various stakeholders including farmers and farmer's market advocates that the application title; retail food store questions; instructions and terminology do not address their business process and practices; and may be confusing to this unique group of respondents.

In order to reduce confusion and address any barriers to program participation respondents may have, FNS is creating a new online application specifically for farmers' markets, form FNS-252-FE, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Farmers' Market Application. Data collected on form FNS-252-FE will be modified from the approved information collection associated with form FNS-252-E. Questions and instructions will be revised to clarify and/or re-phrase information requested, specific to the targeted group of respondents. The proposed information collection will otherwise be used in the same manner as the existing form FNS-252-E application.

Retailer and farmers' market applicants wishing to complete an online application (forms FNS-252-E and FNS-252-FE) must also first self-register for a Level 1 access account through the USDA eAuthentication system in order to initially start an online application. USDA eAuthentication facilitates the electronic authentication of an individual. FNS does not anticipate that form FNS-252-FE will increase the hourly burden estimate on respondents.

Upon OMB approval, FNS intends to incorporate form FNS-252-FE into the information collection associated with OMB No. 0584-0008, as these respondents are also considered the "normal channels of trade" for delivery of SNAP benefits to low-income households.

FNS also seeks to renew the current information collection, and minor enhancements are proposed to forms FNS-252 (English and Spanish), FNS-252-E and FNS-252-R in order to (1) clarify and/or re-word questions, instructions, and examples by making design and formatting changes to the paper and on-line application and help screens; (2) provide additional

inventory stock examples; (3) revise the content and design formation of the ownership and signature titles on Form FNS-252 to be consistent with this information found on Form FNS-252-R; and (4) add a new, optional question, for retailers to provide additional information or comments to FNS. The types of additional information or comments could include any special circumstances that the retailer would want FNS to know, or who FNS should contact for questions about the application.

FNS is also revising Form FNS-252-2 in order to (1) expand the meal service type categories regarding private ownership and meal delivery service entries; (2) add a meal service location address; (3) delete "optional" and add "required" to email address; and (4) revise the Agreement and Signature section to further clarify information regarding violations also pertain to individual(s) completing the application.

FNS is amending all SNAP application forms, where applicable to (1) expand the Use and Disclosure section—routine uses to clarify the use of information for conducting computer matches; (2) to collect an email address for each owner; add a new question asking if the applicant has other stores that currently accept SNAP benefits; and (3) re-word or re-phrase the General Instruction section and on-line help screens to clarify information requested. The response time per respondent varies from 1 minute to 11.38 minutes, and we estimate the new burden, on average, to be 6.20 minutes per respondent. There is no recordkeeping burden associated with these forms.

Affected Public: Business for Profit; Retail food stores; Farmers' Markets.

Estimated Number of Respondents: The total estimated number of respondents is 151,859.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: Respondents complete either 1 application form at initial authorization or 1 reauthorization application, as appropriate, for a total of 1 response each.

Estimated Total Annual Responses: 151,859.

Estimated Time per Response: 6.20 minutes (0.1056592). The estimated time response varies from 1 minute to 11.38 minutes depending on respondent group, as shown in the table below.

TABLE A—REPORTING ESTIMATE OF HOUR BURDEN: SUMMARY OF BURDEN—# 0584–0008

Affected public	Description of collection activity	Form number	Number respondents	Number responses per respondent	Total annual responses (cxd)	Hours per response	Total burden (ext)
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
Retailers	Applications Received	252–E	29,335	1	29,355	0.16861	4,946
	E-Authentication	252–E and FNS–252–FE	30,347	1	30,347	0.13360	4,054
	Applications Received	252	3,372	1	3,372	0.18638	628
	Applications Received	252–FE	1,012	1	1,012	0.16861	171
	Applications Received	252–2	904	1	904	0.19416	175
	Applications Received	252–C	3,610	1	3,610	0.08350	301
	Store Visits .....	.....	40,667	1	40,667	0.01670	679
	Reauthorization	252–R	42,614	1	42,614	0.11944	5,090
Total Reporting Burden .....	.....	.....	151,859	1	151,859	.....	16,045
SUMMARY OF BURDEN FOR THIS COLLECTION.	.....	.....	151,859	1	151,859	0.1056592	16,045

Dated: February 26, 2014.

Jeffrey J. Tribiano,

Acting Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 2014–04786 Filed 3–4–14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–30–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC): Income Eligibility Guidelines

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (“Department”) announces adjusted income eligibility guidelines to be used by State agencies in determining the income eligibility of persons applying to participate in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC). These income eligibility guidelines are to be used in conjunction with the WIC Regulations.

DATES: *Effective Date:* July 1, 2014.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Donna Hines, Chief, Policy Branch, Supplemental Food Programs Division, FNS, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22302, (703) 305–2746.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Executive Order 12866

This notice is exempt from review by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Order 12866.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

This action is not a rule as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C.

601–612) and thus is exempt from the provisions of this Act.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

This notice does not contain reporting or recordkeeping requirements subject to approval by the Office of Management and Budget in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507).

Executive Order 12372

This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Programs under No. 10.557, and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials (7 CFR part 3015, Subpart V, 48 FR 29100, June 24, 1983, and 49 FR 22675, May 31, 1984).

Description

Section 17(d)(2)(A) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1786(d)(2)(A)), requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish income criteria to be used with nutritional risk criteria in determining a person’s eligibility for participation in the WIC Program. The law provides that persons will be income-eligible for the WIC Program only if they are members of families that satisfy the income standard prescribed for reduced-price school meals under section 9(b) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(b)). Under section 9(b), the income limit for reduced-price school meals is 185 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines, as adjusted.

Section 9(b) also requires that these guidelines be revised annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index. The annual revision for 2014/2015 was published by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) at 79 FR 3593, January 22, 2014. The guidelines

published by HHS are referred to as the “poverty guidelines.”

Section 246.7(d)(1) of the WIC regulations (Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations) specifies that State agencies may prescribe income guidelines either equaling the income guidelines established under section 9 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act for reduced-price school meals, or identical to State or local guidelines for free or reduced-price health care. However, in conforming WIC income guidelines to State or local health care guidelines, the State cannot establish WIC guidelines which exceed the guidelines for reduced-price school meals, or which are less than 100 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines. Consistent with the method used to compute income eligibility guidelines for reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program, the poverty guidelines were multiplied by 1.85 and the results rounded upward to the next whole dollar.

At this time, the Department is publishing the maximum and minimum WIC income eligibility guidelines by household size for the period July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015. Consistent with section 17(f)(17) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1786(f)(17)), a State agency may implement the revised WIC income eligibility guidelines concurrently with the implementation of income eligibility guidelines under the Medicaid Program established under Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396, et seq.). State agencies may coordinate implementation with the revised Medicaid guidelines, i.e., earlier in the year, but in no case may implementation take place later than July 1, 2014.

State agencies that do not coordinate implementation with the revised