

green.gregory.b@dol.gov, subject line "January 2019 ACVETEO Meeting."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Gregory Green, Designated Federal Official for the ACVETEO, (202) 693-4734.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The ACVETEO is a Congressionally mandated advisory committee authorized under Title 38, U.S. Code, Section 4110 and subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, as amended. The ACVETEO is responsible for: Assessing employment and training needs of veterans; determining the extent to which the programs and activities of the U.S. Department of Labor meet these needs; assisting to conduct outreach to employers seeking to hire veterans; making recommendations to the Secretary, through the Assistant Secretary for VETS, with respect to outreach activities and employment and training needs of veterans; and carrying out such other activities necessary to make required reports and recommendations. The ACVETEO meets at least quarterly.

Agenda

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome and remarks, Sam Shellenberger, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Veterans' Employment and Training Service
- 9:05 a.m. Administrative Business, Gregory Green, Designated Federal Official
- 9:10 a.m. Discussion and review of the Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Report, Eric Eversole, ACVETEO Chairman
- 11:10 a.m. Break
- 11:20 p.m. Veterans' Employment and Training Service plan to answer the Fiscal Year 2018 Report Recommendations, Gregory Green, Designated Federal Official
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Veterans' Employment and Training Service year in review
- 2:00 p.m. Break
- 2:15 p.m. Public Forum, Gregory Green, Designated Federal Official
- 3:00 p.m. Adjourn

Signed in Washington, DC, this 19th day of December 2018.

Sam Shellenberger,

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Veterans' Employment and Training Service.

[FR Doc. 2018-28321 Filed 12-27-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-79-P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; The Study of the Great Recession and the Unemployment Insurance (UI) System in the 21st Century, New Collection

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Chief Evaluation Office, Department of Labor.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor (DOL), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95). This program helps to ensure that required data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, DOL is soliciting comments concerning the collection of information for the Study of the Great Recession and the Unemployment Insurance (UI) System in the 21st Century. A copy of the proposed Information Collection Request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the addressee section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addressee section below on or before February 26, 2019.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by either one of the following methods: *Email:* ChiefEvaluationOffice@dol.gov; *Mail or Courier:* Jennifer Daley, Chief Evaluation Office, OASP, U.S. Department of Labor, Room S-2312, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20210. *Instructions:* Please submit one copy of your comments by only one method. All submissions received must include the agency name and OMB Control Number identified for this information collection. Comments, including any personal information provided, become a matter of public record. They will also be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of the information collection request.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Daley by email at ChiefEvaluationOffice@dol.gov or by phone at (202) 693-5913.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background: The Chief Evaluation Office (CEO) is sponsoring a study on lessons learned regarding the Unemployment Insurance (UI) system in response to the Great Recession that began in 2007, the economic recovery that followed the Great Recession, and issues relevant to future UI policy and future economic downturns.

The main goal of the study is to identify, analyze, and report on the problems that state UI programs faced during the Great Recession and how they responded to those challenges, and lessons learned. The study will focus on the challenges and adjustments states made with respect to staffing, data, administrative processes and procedures, trigger mechanisms, and trust funds. It will also highlight structural issues that predate the Great Recession and lessons learned from the recession so that state UI programs are better prepared for future recessions and a changing labor market.

This **Federal Register** Notice provides the opportunity to comment on the proposed data collection instruments that will be used in the study: a survey of UI directors in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, and semi-structured interviews.

1. *Online survey.* The online survey of state UI directors will collect information on challenges faced by the states during the Great Recession, as well as the current state of administrative, financial, and programmatic features (if not available in other sources of reported data) that have been identified in previous research as presenting challenges to states during the previous recession.

2. *Semi-structured interviews.* The State UI staff, including UI directors, financial staff, Chief of Benefits staff, appeals staff, benefits determination staff, Human Resources (HR) staff, and Information Technology (IT) staff, in approximately 6 states will be interviewed during site visits. The semi-structured interviews will gather detailed information on challenges and lessons learned from a range of perspectives and will include respondents who were and were not working in UI agencies at the time of the Great Recession.

II. Desired Focus of Comments: Currently, DOL is soliciting comments concerning the above data collection for the Study of the Great Recession and the Unemployment Insurance (UI) System in the 21st Century. DOL is particularly interested in comments that do the following:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary

for the proper performance of the functions of the agency related to UI program oversight, including whether the information will have practical utility;

- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the ICR burden to survey and interview respondents, including the validity of the study approach and assumptions;

- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

- Minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology (e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses).

III. Current Actions: At this time, DOL is requesting clearance for the survey instrument and semi-structured interview protocols.

Type of review: New information collection request.

OMB Control Number: 1290–0NEW.

Affected Public: Individuals working in state UI agencies.

Comments submitted in response to this request will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval; they will also become a matter of public record.

ESTIMATED ANNUAL BURDEN HOURS

| Information collection instrument | Number of respondents | Number of responses per respondent | Total number of responses | Average burden per response (hours) | Estimated burden (hours) |
|---|-----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Survey— State UI Director | 17 | 1 | 17 | 0.75 | 13 |
| Interview Protocol—UI Directors | 6 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 6 |
| Interview Protocol—Financial Staff | 6 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 6 |
| Interview Protocol—Chief of Benefits | 6 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 6 |
| Interview Protocol—Appeals Staff | 6 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 6 |
| Interview Protocol—Benefits Determination Staff | 6 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 6 |
| Interview Protocol—HR Staff | 6 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 6 |
| Interview Protocol—IT Staff | 6 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 6 |
| Total | 59 | | 59 | | 55 |

Molly Irwin,

Chief Evaluation Officer, U.S. Department of Labor.

[FR Doc. 2018–28310 Filed 12–27–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510–HX–P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

AGENCY: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is soliciting comments

concerning the proposed reinstatement with change of the “Quick Business Survey Operations Test.” A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the individual listed below in the Addresses section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the Addresses section of this notice on or before February 26, 2019.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Carol Rowan, BLS Clearance Officer, Division of Management Systems, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Room 4080, 2 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20212. Written comments also may be transmitted by fax to 202–691–5111 (this is not a toll free number).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carol Rowan, BLS Clearance Officer, at 202–691–7628 (this is not a toll free number). (See **ADDRESSES** section.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) intends to conduct a second operations test for a Quick Business Survey (QBS). The BLS will build on the results of a prior test to further evaluate QBS survey processes and operations in a possible production environment. If successful, a QBS would permit BLS to collect information about the U.S. economy more efficiently than is currently possible. In addition, it would allow

data users to be able to understand the impact of specific events on the economy in a timely manner that would be relevant to data users.

As with the first operations test, the BLS will test using the Annual Refiling Survey (ARS) as a platform for conducting the QBS. Each year, the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) Program conducts the ARS by reaching out to approximately 1.2 million establishments requesting verification of their main business activity, and their mailing and physical location addresses. The fully web-based ARS provides a low-cost platform for conducting the QBS. The QBSs accompanying the ARS would have little data collection overhead, leveraging the address refinement, printing, and mailing efforts that are undertaken as part of the production ARS. Respondents already logged into the ARS secure website could be directed to a QBS and asked to answer a limited number of additional survey questions after completing the ARS.

II. Current Action

Office of Management and Budget clearance is being sought for a reinstatement with change of the Quick Business Survey (QBS) Operations Test in order to conduct a second test.

A QBS would allow BLS to leverage the multitude of information already known about the sample units to allow