

Table 2: Base Payment Chart <sup>2</sup>							
CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM (CACFP)							
Per Meal Rates in Whole or Fractions of U.S. Dollars							
Effective from July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023							
CENTERS		BREAKFAST		LUNCH AND SUPPER <sup>1</sup>		SUPPLEMENT	
CONTIGUOUS STATES	PAID	0.35		0.37		0.09	
	REDUCED PRICE	1.81		3.53		0.54	
	FREE	2.11		3.93		1.08	
ALASKA	PAID	0.54		0.61		0.16	
	REDUCED PRICE	3.08		5.97		0.87	
	FREE	3.38		6.37		1.75	
HAWAII	PAID	0.40		0.44		0.11	
	REDUCED PRICE	2.16		4.20		0.63	
	FREE	2.46		4.60		1.26	
DAY CARE HOMES		BREAKFAST		LUNCH AND SUPPER		SUPPLEMENT	
		TIER I	TIER II	TIER I	TIER II	TIER I	TIER II
CONTIGUOUS STATES		1.56	0.56	2.94	1.78	0.87	0.24
ALASKA		2.49	0.87	4.77	2.88	1.42	0.39
HAWAII		1.81	0.65	3.45	2.08	1.02	0.28
ADMINISTRATIVE REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS OF DAY CARE HOMES Per Home/Per Month Rates in U.S. Dollars				Initial 50	Next 150	Next 800	Each Additional
CONTIGUOUS STATES				137	104	81	72
ALASKA				221	169	132	116
HAWAII				160	122	95	84

<sup>1</sup>These rates do not include the value of USDA Foods or cash-in-lieu of USDA Foods which institutions receive as additional assistance for each CACFP lunch or supper served to participants. A notice announcing the value of USDA Foods and cash-in-lieu of USDA Foods is published separately in the *Federal Register*.

<sup>2</sup>This chart **does not** contain the KKFA rate increases

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 that Act. This notice has been determined to be exempt under Executive Order 12866.

CACFP is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.558 and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. (See 2 CFR 415.3–415.6).

This notice imposes no new reporting or recordkeeping provisions that are subject to OMB review in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3518).

*Authority:* Sections 4(b)(2), 11a, 17(c) and 17(f)(3)(B) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1753(b)(2), 1759a, 1766(f)(3)(B)) and section 4(b)(1)(B) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773(b)(1)(B)).

**Cynthia Long,**  
*Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.*  
 [FR Doc. 2022–15893 Filed 7–25–22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–30–C**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Food and Nutrition Service

#### National School Lunch, Special Milk, and School Breakfast Programs, National Average Payments/Maximum Reimbursement Rates

**AGENCY:** Food and Nutrition Service, Agriculture (USDA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This Notice announces the annual adjustments to the national average payments, the amount of money the Federal Government provides States for lunches, afterschool snacks, and breakfasts served to children

participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs; to the maximum reimbursement rates, the maximum per lunch rate from Federal funds that a State can provide a school food authority for lunches served to children participating in the National School Lunch Program; and to the rate of reimbursement for a half-pint of milk served to non-needy children in a school or institution that participates in the Special Milk Program for Children. The annual payments and rates adjustments for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs reflect changes in the Food Away From Home series of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers. The annual rate adjustment for the Special Milk Program reflects changes in the Producer Price Index for Fluid Milk Products. Further adjustments are made to these rates to reflect higher costs of providing meals in Alaska, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The payments and rates are prescribed on an annual basis each July. Overall, reimbursement rates this year for the National School Lunch, Breakfast Programs and the Special Milk Program increased compared to last year.

**DATES:** These rates are effective from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Penny Burke, Branch Chief, Program Monitoring and Operational Support Division, Child Nutrition Programs, Food and Nutrition Service, United States Department of Agriculture, 1320 Braddock Place, Suite 401, Alexandria, VA 22314, 303–844–0357.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### **Temporary Adjustments Authorized Under the Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022**

School meal operators face continued challenges related to the COVID–19 pandemic. To help alleviate some of those challenges, temporary additional funding for school lunch and school breakfast has been authorized under Section 2 of the Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022 (Pub. L. 117–158). This temporary funding will provide an additional reimbursement in the amount of 40 cents for each lunch served under the school lunch program authorized under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751), and an additional reimbursement in the amount of 15 cents for each breakfast served under the breakfast program established by section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773). These additional reimbursement amounts shall only be available for the school year

beginning July 1, 2022 and ending on June 30, 2023.

#### **Background**

*Special Milk Program for Children—*Pursuant to section 3 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1772), the Department announces the rate of reimbursement for a half-pint of milk served to non-needy children in a school or institution that participates in the Special Milk Program for Children. This rate is adjusted annually to reflect changes in the Producer Price Index for Fluid Milk Products, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.

*National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs—*Pursuant to sections 11 and 17A of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, (42 U.S.C. 1759a and 1766a), and section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773), the Department annually announces the adjustments to the National Average Payment Factors and to the maximum Federal reimbursement rates for lunches and afterschool snacks served to children participating in the National School Lunch Program and breakfasts served to children participating in the School Breakfast Program. Adjustments are prescribed each July 1, based on changes in the Food Away From Home series of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.

*Lunch Payment Levels—*Section 4 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1753) provides general cash for food assistance payments to States to assist schools in purchasing food. The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act provides two different section 4 payment levels for lunches served under the National School Lunch Program. The lower payment level applies to lunches served by school food authorities in which less than 60 percent of the lunches served in the school lunch program during the second preceding school year were served free or at a reduced price. The higher payment level applies to lunches served by school food authorities in which 60 percent or more of the lunches served during the second preceding school year were served free or at a reduced price.

To supplement these section 4 payments, section 11 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1759(a)) provides special cash assistance payments to aid schools in providing free and reduced price lunches. The section 11 National Average Payment Factor for each

reduced price lunch served is set at 40 cents less than the factor for each free lunch.

As authorized under sections 8 and 11 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1757 and 1759a), maximum reimbursement rates for each type of lunch are prescribed by the Department in this Notice. These maximum rates are to ensure equitable disbursement of Federal funds to school food authorities.

*Performance-Based Reimbursement—*In addition to the funding mentioned above, school food authorities certified as meeting the meal pattern and nutrition standard requirements set forth in 7 CFR parts 210 and 220 are eligible to receive performance-based cash assistance for each reimbursable lunch served (an additional eight cents per lunch available beginning July 1, 2022 and adjusted annually thereafter).

*Afterschool Snack Payments in Afterschool Care Programs—*Section 17A of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766a) establishes National Average Payments for free, reduced price and paid afterschool snacks as part of the National School Lunch Program.

*Breakfast Payment Factors—*Section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773) establishes National Average Payment Factors for free, reduced price, and paid breakfasts served under the School Breakfast Program and additional payments for free and reduced price breakfasts served in schools determined to be in “severe need” because they serve a high percentage of needy children.

#### **Adjusted Payments**

The following specific section 4, section 11, and section 17A National Average Payment Factors and maximum reimbursement rates for lunch, the afterschool snack rates, and the breakfast rates are in effect from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Due to a higher cost of living, the average payments and maximum reimbursements for Alaska, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands are higher than those for all other States. The District of Columbia uses figures specified for the contiguous States. These rates do not include the value of USDA Foods or cash-in-lieu of USDA Foods which schools receive as additional assistance for each meal served to participants under the Program. A notice announcing the value of USDA Foods and cash-in-lieu of USDA Foods is published separately in the **Federal Register**.

Adjustments to the national average payment rates for all lunches served

under the National School Lunch Program, breakfasts served under the School Breakfast Program, and afterschool snacks served under the National School Lunch Program are rounded down to the nearest whole cent.

In addition to the adjustments to the national average payment rates, beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023, Congress has authorized, under the Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022 (Pub. L. 117–158), an additional temporary 40 cents reimbursement for each lunch served under the National School Lunch Program and an additional temporary 15 cents reimbursement for each breakfast served under the School Breakfast Program.

#### Special Milk Program Payments

For the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, the rate of reimbursement for a half-pint of milk served to a non-needy child in a school or institution that participates in the Special Milk Program is 27.00 cents reflecting an increase of 5 cents from the School Year (SY) 2021–2022 level. This change is based on the 22.74 percent increase in the Producer Price Index for Fluid Milk Products from May 2021 to May 2022.

As a reminder, schools or institutions with pricing programs that elect to serve milk free to eligible children continue to receive the average cost of a half-pint of milk (the total cost of all milk purchased during the claim period divided by the total number of purchased half-pints) for each half-pint served to an eligible child.

#### National School Lunch Program Payments (Including Temporary Increases Authorized by the Keep Kids Fed Act Which Expire on June 30, 2023)

Overall, payments for the National School Lunch Program and the Afterschool Snack Program increased from last year's payments due to additional funds for lunch reimbursement made available under the Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022 (P.L. 117–158) and a 7.40 percent increase in the national average payment rates for schools and residential child care institutions for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for the Food Away From Home series during the 12-month period May 2021 to May 2022 (from a level of 303.481 in May 2021, as previously published in the **Federal Register**, to 325.952 in May 2022).

*These changes are reflected below.*

**Section 4 National Average Payment Factors**—In school food authorities that served less than 60 percent free and

reduced price lunches in SY 2020–2021, the payments for meals served are: *Contiguous States*—paid rate—77 cents (42 cents increase from the SY 2021–2022 level), free and reduced price rate—77 cents (42 cents increase), maximum rate—85 cents (42 cents increase); *Alaska*—paid rate—1 dollar 1 cents (44 cents increase), free and reduced price rate—1 dollar 1 cents (44 cents increase), maximum rate—1 dollar 11 cents (43 cents increase); *Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands*—paid rate—84 cents (43 cents increase), free and reduced price rate—84 cents (43 cents increase), maximum rate—92 cents (43 cents increase).

In school food authorities that served 60 percent or more free and reduced price lunches in School Year 2020–2021, payments are: *Contiguous States*—paid rate—79 cents (42 cents increase from the SY 2021–2022 level), free and reduced price rate—79 cents (42 cents increase), maximum rate—85 cents (42 cents increase); *Alaska*—paid rate—1 dollar 3 cents (44 cents increase), free and reduced price rate—1 dollar 3 cents (44 cents increase), maximum rate—1 dollar 11 cents (43 cents increase); *Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands*—paid rate—86 cents (43 cents increase), free and reduced price rate—86 cents (43 cents increase), maximum rate—92 cents (43 cents increase).

School food authorities certified to receive the performance-based cash assistance will receive an additional 8 cents (adjusted annually) added to the above amounts as part of their section 4 payments.

**Section 11 National Average Payment Factors**—*Contiguous States*—free lunch—3 dollars and 56 cents (25 cents increase from the SY 2021–2022 level), reduced price lunch—3 dollars and 16 cents (25 cents increase); *Alaska*—free lunch—5 dollars and 76 cents (39 cents increase), reduced price lunch—5 dollars and 36 cents (39 cents increase); *Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands*—free lunch—4 dollars and 16 cents (29 cents increase), reduced price lunch—3 dollars and 76 cents (29 cents increase).

**Afterschool Snacks in Afterschool Care Programs**—The payments are: *Contiguous States*—free snack—1 dollar and 8 cents (8 cents increase from the SY 2021–2022 level), reduced price snack—54 cents (4 cents increase), paid snack—9 cents (no increase); *Alaska*—free snack—1 dollar and 75 cents (12 cents increase), reduced price snack—87 cents (6 cents increase), paid snack—16 cents (2 cents increase); *Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands*—free snack—1 dollar and 26 cents (9 cents

increase), reduced price snack—63 cents (5 cent increase), paid snack—11 cents (1 cent increase).

#### School Breakfast Program Payments (Including Temporary Increases Authorized by the Keep Kids Fed Act Which Expire on June 30, 2023)

Overall, payments for the National School Breakfast Program either remained the same or increased from last year's payments due to additional funds for breakfast reimbursement made available under the Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022 (Pub. L. 117–158) and a 7.40 percent increase in the national average payment rates for schools and residential child care institutions for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers in the Food Away from Home series during the 12-month period May 2021 to May 2022 (from a level of 303.481 in May 2021, as previously published in the **Federal Register**, to 325.952 in May 2022).

*These changes are reflected below.*

For schools “not in severe need” the payments are: *Contiguous States*—free breakfast—2 dollars and 26 cents (29 cents increase from the SY 2021–2022 level), reduced price breakfast—1 dollar and 96 cents (29 cents increase), paid breakfast—50 cents (17 cent increase); *Alaska*—free breakfast—3 dollars and 53 cents (38 cents increase), reduced price breakfast—3 dollars and 23 cents (38 cents increase), paid breakfast—69 cents (19 cent increase); *Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands*—free breakfast—2 dollars and 61 cents (32 cents increase), reduced price breakfast—2 dollars and 31 cents (32 cents increase), paid breakfast—55 cents (17 cents increase).

For schools in “severe need” the payments are: *Contiguous States*—free breakfast—2 dollars and 67 cents (32 cents increase from the SY 2021–2022 level), reduced price breakfast—2 dollars and 37 cents (32 cents increase), paid breakfast—50 cents (17 cent increase); *Alaska*—free breakfast—4 dollars and 21 cents (43 cents increase), reduced price breakfast—3 dollars and 91 cents (43 cents increase), paid breakfast—69 cents (19 cent increase); *Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands*—free breakfast—3 dollars and 09 cents (35 cents increase), reduced price breakfast—2 dollars and 79 cents (35 cents increase), paid breakfast—55 cents (17 cent increase).

**Payment Chart Including Additional Temporary Reimbursement** The following chart illustrates the temporary increased reimbursement for breakfast and lunch as authorized under the Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022 (Pub. L. 117–158).

Lunch National Average Payment Factors have sections 4 and 11 already combined to indicate the per lunch amount; the maximum lunch reimbursement rates and the breakfast

National Average Payment Factors including severe need schools. All amounts are expressed in dollars or fractions thereof. The payment factors and reimbursement rates used for the

District of Columbia are those specified for the contiguous States.

**BILLING CODE 3410-30-P**

Temporary Reimbursement Payment Chart							
SCHOOL PROGRAMS							
MEAL, SNACK AND MILK PAYMENTS TO STATES AND SCHOOL FOOD AUTHORITIES							
Expressed in Dollars or Fractions Thereof							
Effective for the School Year Beginning July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023							
NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM <sup>1,3</sup>		LESS THAN 60%	LESS THAN 60% + 8 cents <sup>2</sup>	60% OR MORE	60% or MORE + 8 cents <sup>2</sup>	MAXIMUM RATE	MAXIMUM RATE + 8 cents <sup>2</sup>
CONTIGUOUS STATES	PAID	0.77	0.85	0.79	0.87	0.85	0.93
	REDUCED	3.93	4.01	3.95	4.03	4.10	4.18
	FREE	4.33	4.41	4.35	4.43	4.50	4.58
ALASKA	PAID	1.01	1.09	1.03	1.11	1.11	1.19
	REDUCED	6.37	6.45	6.39	6.47	6.62	6.70
	FREE	6.77	6.85	6.79	6.87	7.02	7.10
GUAM, HAWAII, PUERTO RICO and VIRGIN ISLANDS	PAID	0.84	0.92	0.86	0.94	0.92	1.00
	REDUCED	4.60	4.68	4.62	4.70	4.79	4.87
	FREE	5.00	5.08	5.02	5.10	5.19	5.27
SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM <sup>3</sup>				NON-SEVERE NEED		SEVERE NEED	
Temporary Additional Breakfast Reimbursement							
CONTIGUOUS STATES		PAID		0.50		0.50	
		REDUCED PRICE		1.96		2.37	
		FREE		2.26		2.67	
ALASKA		PAID		0.69		0.69	
		REDUCED PRICE		3.23		3.91	
		FREE		3.53		4.21	
GUAM, HAWAII, PUERTO RICO and VIRGIN ISLANDS		PAID		0.55		0.55	
		REDUCED PRICE		2.31		2.79	
		FREE		2.61		3.09	
SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM				ALL MILK	PAID MILK	FREE MILK	
PRICING PROGRAMS WITHOUT FREE OPTION				0.2700	N/A	N/A	
PRICING PROGRAMS WITH FREE OPTION				N/A	0.2700	Average Cost Per 1/2 Pint of	
NONPRICING PROGRAMS				0.2700	N/A	N/A	
AFTERSCHOOL SNACKS SERVED IN AFTERSCHOOL CARE PROGRAMS							
CONTIGUOUS STATES			PAID			0.09	
			REDUCED PRICE			0.54	
			FREE			1.08	
ALASKA			PAID			0.16	
			REDUCED PRICE			0.87	
			FREE			1.75	
GUAM, HAWAII, PUERTO RICO and VIRGIN ISLANDS			PAID			0.11	
			REDUCED PRICE			0.63	
			FREE			1.26	

<sup>1</sup> Payment listed for Free and Reduced Price Lunches include both section 4 and section 11 funds

<sup>2</sup> Performance-based cash reimbursement (adjusted annually for inflation)

<sup>3</sup> The Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022 provides an additional 40 cents for each lunch served and allows an additional 15 cents for each breakfast served for the school year starting July 1, 2022 ending on June 30, 2023.

BILLING CODE 3410-30-C

**Base Payment Chart (Excludes The Temporary Increases Authorized by Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022)**

The following chart illustrates the lunch National Average Payment Factors with the sections 4 and 11

already combined to indicate the per lunch amount; the maximum lunch reimbursement rates; the reimbursement rates for afterschool snacks served in afterschool care programs; the breakfast National Average Payment Factors including severe need schools; and the

milk reimbursement rate. All amounts are expressed in dollars or fractions thereof. The payment factors and reimbursement rates used for the District of Columbia are those specified for the contiguous States.

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

Base Payment Chart <sup>1</sup>							
SCHOOL PROGRAMS							
MEAL, SNACK AND MILK PAYMENTS TO STATES AND SCHOOL FOOD AUTHORITIES							
Expressed in Dollars or Fractions Thereof							
Effective from: July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023							
NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM <sup>2</sup>		LESS THAN 60%	LESS THAN 60% + 8 cents <sup>3</sup>	60% OR MORE	60% or MORE + 8 cents <sup>3</sup>	MAXIMUM RATE	MAXIMUM RATE + 8 cents <sup>3</sup>
CONTIGUOUS STATES	PAID	0.37	0.45	0.39	0.47	0.45	0.53
	REDUCED PRICE	3.53	3.61	3.55	3.63	3.70	3.78
	FREE	3.93	4.01	3.95	4.03	4.10	4.18
ALASKA	PAID	0.61	0.69	0.63	0.71	0.71	0.79
	REDUCED PRICE	5.97	6.05	5.99	6.07	6.22	6.30
	FREE	6.37	6.45	6.39	6.47	6.62	6.70
GUAM, HAWAII, PUERTO RICO and VIRGIN ISLANDS	PAID	0.44	0.52	0.46	0.54	0.52	0.60
	REDUCED PRICE	4.20	4.28	4.22	4.30	4.39	4.47
	FREE	4.60	4.68	4.62	4.70	4.79	4.87
SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM				NON-SEVERE NEED		SEVERE NEED	
CONTIGUOUS STATES		PAID		0.35		0.35	
		REDUCED PRICE		1.81		2.22	
		FREE		2.11		2.52	
ALASKA		PAID		0.54		0.54	
		REDUCED PRICE		3.08		3.76	
		FREE		3.38		4.06	
GUAM, HAWAII, PUERTO RICO and VIRGIN ISLANDS		PAID		0.40		0.40	
		REDUCED PRICE		2.16		2.64	
		FREE		2.46		2.94	
SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM				ALL MILK	PAID MILK	FREE MILK	
PRICING PROGRAMS WITHOUT FREE OPTION				0.2700	N/A	N/A	
PRICING PROGRAMS WITH FREE OPTION				N/A	0.2700	Average Cost Per 1/2 Pint of Milk	
NONPRICING PROGRAMS				0.2700	N/A	N/A	
AFTERSCHOOL SNACKS SERVED IN AFTERSCHOOL CARE PROGRAMS							
CONTIGUOUS STATES			PAID			0.09	
			REDUCED PRICE			0.54	
			FREE			1.08	
ALASKA			PAID			0.16	
			REDUCED PRICE			0.87	
			FREE			1.75	
GUAM, HAWAII, PUERTO RICO and VIRGIN ISLANDS			PAID			0.11	
			REDUCED PRICE			0.63	
			FREE			1.26	

<sup>1</sup>These rates **do not** include the increased reimbursement authorized by the Keep Kids Fed Act

<sup>2</sup>Payment listed for Free and Reduced Price Lunches include both section 4 and section 11 funds

<sup>3</sup>Performance-based cash reimbursement (adjusted annually for inflation)

been determined to be exempt under Executive Order 12866.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507), no new recordkeeping or reporting requirements have been included that are subject to approval from the Office of Management and Budget.

National School Lunch, School Breakfast, and Special Milk Programs are listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.555, No. 10.553, and No. 10.556, respectively, and are subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials (See 2 CFR 415.3–415.6).

**Authority:** Sections 4, 8, 11, and 17A of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 1753, 1757, 1759a, 1766a) and sections 3 and 4(b) of the Child Nutrition Act, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 1772 and 42 U.S.C. 1773(b)).

**Cynthia Long,**

*Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.*

[FR Doc. 2022–15892 Filed 7–25–22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410–30–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Census Bureau

#### **Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Generic Clearance for Census Bureau Field Tests and Evaluations**

**AGENCY:** Census Bureau, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of Information collection, request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment on the proposed extension of the Generic Clearance for Census Bureau Field Tests and Evaluations, prior to the submission of the information collection request (ICR) to OMB for approval.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before September 26, 2022.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by email to Jennifer Hunter Childs ([jennifer.hunter.childs@census.gov](mailto:jennifer.hunter.childs@census.gov)). Please reference Generic Clearance for Census Bureau Field Tests and Evaluations in the subject line of your comments. You may also submit comments, identified by Docket Number USBC–2022–0013, to the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <https://www.regulations.gov>. All comments received are part of the public record. No comments will be posted to <https://www.regulations.gov> for public viewing until after the comment period has closed. Comments will generally be posted without change. All Personally Identifiable Information (for example, name and address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. You may submit attachments to electronic comments in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Jennifer Hunter Childs, Assistant Center Chief, Emerging Methods and Applications, Center for Behavioral Science Methods, (202) 603–4827, [jennifer.hunter.childs@census.gov](mailto:jennifer.hunter.childs@census.gov).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **I. Abstract**

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to request an extension of the current OMB approval to conduct a series of studies to research and evaluate how to improve data collection activities for data collection programs at the Census Bureau. These studies will explore how the Census Bureau can improve efficiency, data quality, and response rates and reduce respondent burden in future census and survey operations, evaluations and experiments.

This information collection will operate as a generic clearance. The estimated number of respondents and annual reporting hours requested cover both the known and yet to be determined tests. A generic clearance is needed for these tests because though each share similar methodology, the exact number of tests and the explicit details of each test to be performed has yet to be determined. Once information collection plans are defined, they will be submitted on an individual basis in order to keep OMB informed as these tests progress.

The Census Bureau plans to test the use of new and improved data collection techniques for self-enumeration and interviewer data-collection tasks surrounding and following the ongoing census and survey operations. The research and evaluation may include: developing alternative enumeration or follow-up questionnaires; usability issues; conducting interviews or debriefings; and non-English language training and interviews. To study enumeration, the Census Bureau may conduct the enumeration directly with a household member or knowledgeable respondent. The questions asked in these studies will be typical census or survey questions and questions related to that content, along with potential attitudinal and satisfaction debriefing questions.

## **II. Method of Collection**

The information will be collected through observations, self-response, face-face interviews, and/or telephone interviews.

## **III. Data**

*OMB Control Number:* 0607–0971.

*Form Number(s):* Not yet determined.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission, Request for an Extension, without Change, of a Currently Approved Collection.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households, businesses or other for profit, farms.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 100,000 per year.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 25 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 41,667 hours annually.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* There is no cost to the respondent other than time to answer the information request.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary or Mandatory, depending on cited authority.

*Legal Authority:* Data collection for this project is authorized under the authorizing legislation for the questionnaire being tested. This may be Title 13, Sections 131, 141, 161, 181, 182, 193, and 301 for Census Bureau sponsored surveys, and Title 13 and 15 for surveys sponsored by other Federal agencies. We do not now know what other titles will be referenced, since we do not know what survey questionnaires will be pretested during the course of the clearance.

## **IV. Request for Comments**

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed