Supporting Statement for the
FNS 380-1 Quality Control Review Schedule
OMB # 0584-0299

B.   Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods

1.   Describe the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used.

The QC system and its reporting requirements are applicable to all of the 53 State agencies administering the Food Stamp Program. Each State agency is required to select a sample of households from its active case universe, the universe of households certified and issued benefits. State sample selection choices result in an estimated yearly national sample of 57,146 cases. Historically, response rates in the form of completed case reviews have ranged between 90 and 95 percent.

2.   Describe the procedures for the collection of information.

The active case sample procedure is generally in the form of systematic random sampling. Stratification is an option available to State agencies subject to FNS approval. State agencies opting to use stratification divide their sample universe according to household case characteristics, such as household size, geographic area, or program area (i.e., public assistance or general assistance), prior to random selection.

3.   Describe the methods to maximize response rates and deal with issues of non-response.

The QC system attempts to control the potential bias of non-response with a completion standard of 100 percent for both the active and negative case samples. This percentage is the ratio of the number of completed reviews to the number of cases selected subject to review or to the minimum number of cases computed from the sample size equations, whichever is larger. A State agency's entitlement to the increased Federal share of administrative costs depends on the satisfactory completion of all of the required active and negative case reviews. If a State agency does not complete the required number of reviews, its error rates are adjusted by assigning two standard deviations of the estimated error rates added to the regressed error rates to those cases not completed in order to calculate the State agency's official error rates. Two standard deviations correspond to approximately a 95 percent confidence interval. The use of standard deviations of the mean is a common device for measuring the dispersion in a simple distribution and represents a natural breakpoint.

4.   Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken.

No testing of information-collection procedures is planned.

5.   Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on statistical aspects of the design and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s),grantee(s), or other person(s) who

will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.

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