

The Census Bureau plans a screening operation to add housing units in independent living facilities to the American Housing Survey (AHS) sample under the generic clearance for the Master Address File (MAF) and Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (TIGER) update activities (OMB number 0607 - 0809, expiration date 04/30/2010). We define an independent living facility as a building with 5 or more housing units whose residents live independently and are generally self sufficient but are able to get help with services like meals, transportation, and managing finances, as well as personal care such as bathing, eating, or dressing. The residents tend to be elderly but also include the disabled of all ages.

We plan on placing a flag on the MAF to identify the independent living units added to the AHS by this operation. AHS is the first current survey to attempt to identify independent living units. If the operation is successful, other current surveys will use the criteria developed to identify such units for inclusion in their samples and will also flag these units on the MAF. Having these units identified on the MAF increases its functionality. Independent living is one of the fastest growing types of housing. The Census Bureau needs to begin the process of identifying units in these facilities.

Because there are only 24 units in sample for the 2009 AHS Metropolitan survey, we will screen from the Census Bureau's Seattle Regional Office March 1 - March 31, 2009. The Seattle Regional Office Supervisor will telephone the facility contacts to confirm the status of the units. We will never contact the housing unit itself for this information. We expect the screening questions to take about 6 minutes once a contact person is located which equates to total respondent burden of 2.4 hours.

All information that identifies individuals will be held in strict confidence according to the provisions of Title 13, United States Code, Section 9. When contact is made, The Seattle Regional Office Supervisor will read the statement in Attachment 2 that provides information on the confidential nature of Census Bureau data. This notice explains that any information given to the Census Bureau will be held in strict confidence. None of the questions asked during the screening are of a sensitive nature and there is no cost to facilities other than that of staff time to respond.

The contact person for questions regarding this operation is:

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