

A. Justification

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Attach a copy of the appropriate section of each statute and regulation mandating or authorizing the collection of information.

In August 2011, HUD awarded five grants totaling \$130 million, as a demonstration of the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, a community revitalization program intended to build on HOPE VI. Choice Neighborhoods is the centerpiece of HUD's place-based community revitalization approach, and is part of the interagency Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative. PD&R has issued a contract to the Urban Institute to evaluate this demonstration program.

This information collection is for a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Choice Neighborhoods Demonstration Small Research Grant Program, which would invite applications for research grants to complement the larger evaluation being carried out by the Urban Institute. This NOFA will provide the research community with an opportunity to identify important research topics that HUD may not have anticipated. This NOFA will also broaden the Choice Neighborhoods research community by expanding access to funding beyond the organizations that bid on HUD contracts.

The Choice Neighborhoods Demonstration Small Research Grant Program is approved by HUD's authority and administered under the Transformation Initiative Account. The funds will be made available in the form of cooperative agreements. Awardees will be selected through a competitive process, announced through a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). Applicants are required to submit certain information as part of their application for assistance. Awardees are required to prepare a quarterly status report so that HUD can monitor their progress in completion of their research.

2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.

The information will be collected during the application process. Collection of these data will serve two purposes:

- a) *It will enable HUD to select awardees under a competitive process. Without the information, it would be impossible to determine which applications were eligible for award.*

b) *It enables the Government Technical Monitor (GTM) to monitor each awardee's performance. It is the only way to determine if funds are being spent in accordance with the goals of the program.*

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden.

Applications may be submitted electronically.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item 2 above.

No similar information is available.

5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities (Item 5 of OMB Form 83-I), describe any methods used to minimize burden.

The program does not involve small businesses.

6. Describe the consequence to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.

If the information were not collected, HUD would have no way to select awardees for the research grants (cooperative agreements). If information were not collected for monitoring purposes, HUD would have no way to ensure that Federal dollars were being spent appropriately.

7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner:

- requiring respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly;
- requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;
- requiring respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document;

- requiring respondents to retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records, for more than three years;
- in connection with a statistical survey, that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study;
- requiring the use of a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB;
- that includes a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or which unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or
- requiring respondents to submit proprietary trade secrets, or other confidential information unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law

None.

8. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden. Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported. Consultation with representatives of those from whom information is to be obtained or those who must compile records should occur at least once every 3 years - even if the collection of information activity is the same as in prior periods. There may be circumstances that may preclude consultation in a specific situation. These circumstances should be explained.

The notice, number FR-5486-N-10, was published April 20, 2011. It is available at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-04-20/html/2011-9507.htm>. No comments were received.

9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

None.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

None.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. This justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.

None.

12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information. The statement should:

- Indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated. Unless directed to do so, agencies should not conduct special surveys to obtain information on which to base hour burden estimates. Consultation with a sample (fewer than 10) of potential respondents is desirable. If the hour burden on respondents is expected to vary widely because of differences in activity, size, or complexity, show the range of estimated hour burden, and explain the reasons for the variance. Generally, estimates should not include burden hours for customary and usual business practices.
- If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burdens in Item 13 of OMB Form 83-I.
- Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories. The cost of contracting out or paying outside parties for information collection activities should not be included here. Instead, this cost should be included in Item 13.

Pre-Award

HUD estimates that each applicant spends approximately 40 person-hours to complete an application. Almost all of this time is invested by a researcher or other administrator who would oversee the research. For 20 applications, that would be: 20 applications x 40 hours = 800 hours. HUD expects that this work will be completed by a research assistant at approximately \$50 per hour, for a total cost of \$40,000.

Post-Award

HUD estimates that each awardee will spend approximately four hours per year maintaining records. HUD also estimates that each awardee will spend approximately twenty-four hours a year preparing quarterly monitoring reports. Upon completion of the cooperative agreement, HUD estimates that each awardee will spend approximately six hours preparing a final report to HUD. With five grantees this amounts to 170 hours. HUD expects that this work will be done by research assistants and administrative assistants at approximately \$30 per hour, for a total cost of \$5,100.

	Number of respondents	Total annual responses	Hours per response	Total hours
Applicants	20	20	40	800
Quarterly Reports	5	20	6	120
Final Reports	5	5	6	30
Recordkeeping	5	5	4	20
TOTAL	35	50	56	970

13. Provide an estimate for the total annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers resulting from the collection of information. (Do not include the cost of any hour burden shown in Items 12 and 14).

- The cost estimate should be split into two components: (a) a total capital and start-up cost component (annualized over its expected useful life) and (b) a total operation and maintenance and purchase of services component. The estimates should take into account costs associated with generating, maintaining, and disclosing or providing the information. Include descriptions of methods used to estimate major cost factors including system and technology acquisition, expected useful life of capital equipment, the discount rate(s), and the time period over which costs will be incurred. Capital and start-up costs include, among other items, preparations for collecting information such as purchasing computers and software; monitoring, sampling, drilling and testing equipment; and record storage facilities.
- If cost estimates are expected to vary widely, agencies should present ranges of cost burdens and explain the reasons for the variance. The cost of purchasing or contracting out information collections services should be a part of this cost burden estimate. In developing cost burden estimates, agencies may consult with a sample of respondents (fewer than 10), utilize the 60-day pre-OMB submission public comment process and use **10/95** existing economic or regulatory impact analysis associated with the rulemaking containing the information collection, as appropriate.
- Generally, estimates should not include purchases of equipment or services, or portions thereof, made: (1) prior to October 1, 1995, (2) to achieve regulatory compliance with requirements not associated with the information collection, (3) for reasons other than to provide information or keep records for the government, or (4) as part of customary and usual business or private practices.

None.

14. Provide estimates of annualized costs to the Federal government. Also, provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and support staff), and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information. Agencies may also aggregate cost estimates from Items 12, 13, and 14 in a single table.

Pre-Award

Approximately 20 applications are expected. Each application goes through a threshold review, which takes one hour to conduct. This review is conducted by two people, having an average grade of GS-13 at an hourly rate of \$45. Thus, 20 applications x 2 persons x 1 hour x \$45 per hour = \$1,800. Applications that pass threshold review (assume 16 out of 20 pass) undergo more extensive review that is expected to take 6 hours to conduct. Each review will be conducted by two people, having an average grade of GS-13 and average hourly rate of \$45. Thus, 16 applications x 2 persons x 6 hours x \$45 per hour = \$8,640.

Post-Award

HUD will fund approximately five awards. Quarterly progress reports will be received for all awards. Progress reports require at least one hour to review. Assuming a GS-13 conducts the review, the cost is as follows: 1 hour x 20 reports x \$45 per hour = \$900.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB Form 83-I.

None.

16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.

Not applicable.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.

Such approval is not requested.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19, "Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions," of OMB Form 83-I.

None.

