

## Plimpton, Suzanne H.

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**From:** Earle, Janice M.  
**Sent:** Friday, December 09, 2011 9:33 AM  
**To:** Plimpton, Suzanne H.; Johnson, Roosevelt Y.; Parks, DeMonica L.  
**Cc:** Stoel, Carol F.  
**Subject:** FW: Revised questions from OMB

Hi Suzanne,

Here's the third round of questions to return to OMB on the GRF program.

Thanks!

janice

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**From:** Stoel, Carol F.  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 08, 2011 7:11 PM  
**To:** Earle, Janice M.; Rjohnson@nsf.gov  
**Cc:** Lightbourne, James H.; Wilson, Valerie; Gmuller-parker@nsf.gov  
**Subject:** Revised questions from OMB

Hi Janice,  
NORC prepared these for us, and I checked them with Jackie Falkenheim from NCSES.  
Hope this will work.  
Please forward them to Suzanne Plimpton and OMB.  
Hope this works.  
Carol

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**From:** Jake Bartolone [<mailto:Bartolone-Jake@norc.uchicago.edu>]  
**Sent:** Thu 12/8/2011 3:08 PM  
**To:** Stoel, Carol F.; Marie Halverson  
**Cc:** Sheila Nataraj Kirby; Tom Hoffer; Gregory Wolniak; Lisa Setlak; Melissa Yisak; Muller-Parker, Gisele T.; John, Gilbert; Johnson, Roosevelt Y.  
**Subject:** RE: last few points from OMB

Hi Carol,

As requested, here are the final questions as they will appear in our questionnaire (i.e., without editing notes as displayed below).

Thanks, and please let me know if you have any further questions.

Jake

2. Which of the following best describes your ethnicity?  
 Hispanic or Latino (go to Question G.3)  
 Not Hispanic or Latino (go to Question G.4)
3. Which of the following best describes your Hispanic or Latino origin or descent?  
Mark one.

- Mexican or Chicano
  - Puerto Rican
  - Cuban
  - Other Hispanic
4. Do you consider yourself (select one or more)...
- American Indian or Alaska Native
  - Asian
  - Black or African American
  - Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
  - White

10.

Are you deaf or do you have serious difficulty hearing?

Are you blind or do you have serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses?

Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?

Do you have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs?

Do you have difficulty dressing or bathing?

Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping?

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**From:** Jake Bartolone

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 07, 2011 4:34 PM

**To:** 'Stoel, Carol F.'; Marie Halverson

**Cc:** Sheila Nataraj Kirby; Tom Hoffer; Gregory Wolniak; Lisa Setlak; Melissa Yisak; 'Muller-Parker, Gisele T.'; 'John, Gilbert'; 'Johnson, Roosevelt Y.'

**Subject:** RE: last few points from OMB

Hi Carol,

Here are our revised questions for the two OMB comments that you sent. For the race and ethnicity questions, OMB would like us to adapt the OMB standards. For the disability questions, they would like us to adopt the categories used in the American Community Survey (ACS). I've pulled the ACS questions for both race/ethnicity and disability and put them next to the current GRFP versions below. However, I do not believe that they want us to adopt the ACS race/ethnicity questions, but rather to alter our current version to remove the "two or more races" category, and instead allow multiple selections to that question. The OMB standards in question read:

-When self-identification is used, a method for reporting more than one race should be adopted.

- The method for respondents to report more than one race should take the form of multiple responses to a single question and not a "multiracial" category.
  - When a list of races is provided to respondents, the list should not contain a "multiracial" category.
  - Based on research conducted so far, two recommended forms for the instruction accompanying the multiple response question are "Mark one or more ..." and "Select one or more...."
- (Source: OMB website on Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity, <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/race/Ombdir15.html>)

I've included below a revised version of the GRFP question that hews to these standards – I believe that we should use this version, although I've included the ACS version (which has many more categories) for reference. Note that the OMB standards also include changing "Alaskan" to "Alaska Native", which I have incorporated below.

To be clear, I've highlighted the version of each question that we propose to use in the GRFP survey. Please let me know if you have any questions or if you'd like for us to send this information in another format.

Thanks,

Jake

*This is the current GRFP set of questions on race and ethnicity:*

2. Which of the following best describes your ethnicity?
  - Hispanic or Latino (go to Question G.3)
  - Not Hispanic or Latino (go to Question G.4)
3. Which of the following best describes your Hispanic or Latino origin or descent?  
Mark one.
  - Mexican or Chicano
  - Puerto Rican
  - Cuban
  - Other Hispanic
4. Do you consider yourself (choose one) ...
  - American Indian or Alaskan
  - Asian
  - Black or African American
  - Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
  - White
  - Two or more races
- 4a. If two or more races, please select the racial groups to which you belong (choose more than one) ...
  - American Indian or Alaskan
  - Asian
  - Black or African American
  - Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
  - White
  - Two or more races

*This is a revised version of the GRFP set of questions on race and ethnicity that conforms to OMB standards (changes are in red):*

2. Which of the following best describes your ethnicity?
  - Hispanic or Latino (go to Question G.3)
  - Not Hispanic or Latino (go to Question G.4)

3. Which of the following best describes your Hispanic or Latino origin or descent?

Mark one.

- Mexican or Chicano
- Puerto Rican
- Cuban
- Other Hispanic

4. Do you consider yourself (select one or more)...

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Two or more races

4a. If two or more races, please select the racial groups to which you belong (choose more than one)...

- American Indian or Alaskan
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Two or more races

*This is the ACS version for reference only (edited to change references from "this person" to "you"):*

**Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?**

No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin

Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano

Yes, Puerto Rican

Yes, Cuban

Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin – *Print origin, for example, Argentinian, Colombian, Dominican, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Spaniard, and so on.*

**What is your race? Mark (X) one or more boxes.**

White

Black, African Am., or Negro

American Indian or Alaska Native – *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.*

Asian Indian

Japanese

Native Hawaiian

Chinese

Korean

Guamanian or Chamorro

Filipino

Vietnamese

Samoan

Other Asian – *Print race, for example, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on.*

Other Pacific Islander – *Print race, for example, Fijian, Tongan, and so on.*

Some other race – *Print race.*

*This is the current GRFP set of questions on disability:*

10. Do you have the following disabilities? Please mark Yes or No for each. 1

- | Yes                      | No                       |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Hearing impairment             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Visual impairment              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mobility/orthopedic impairment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Learning/Cognitive Disability  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Vocal/Speech Disability        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (Please specify) _____   |

*This is the ACS version (edited to change references from "this person" to "you"):*

Are you deaf or do you have serious difficulty hearing?

Are you blind or do you have serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses?

Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?

Do you have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs?

Do you have difficulty dressing or bathing?

Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping?

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**From:** Stoel, Carol F. [<mailto:cstoel@nsf.gov>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 06, 2011 9:57 AM

**To:** Marie Halverson

**Cc:** Sheila Nataraj Kirby; Tom Hoffer; Jake Bartolone; Gregory Wolniak; Lisa Setlak; Melissa Yisak; Muller-Parker, Gisele T.; John, Gilbert; Johnson, Roosevelt Y.

**Subject:** last few points from OMB

Hi Everyone,

Just two little comments from OMB which I believe NORC folks can fix easily.

If you cannot find the references mentioned, please let us know.

As soon as you can turn it around, please send it back to us and we'll return it to OMB.

I can almost taste closure...

Thanks,

Carol

#### **FROM OMB**

We are happy with the changes made. However, there are two issues that remain in the survey instrument:

- Question G4 on the demographic section uses the wrong race format. There should not be a "two or more" category, and the prompt should comply with the OMB standard.
- Question G10- recommend changing the disability questions to match the prompt and answer categories on the American Community Survey, which provides a much more reliable measure of disability.

Thanks,

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**From:** Jake Bartolone [<mailto:Bartolone-Jake@norc.uchicago.edu>]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 05, 2011 8:34 PM  
**To:** Muller-Parker, Gisele T.; Stoel, Carol F.; John, Gilbert  
**Cc:** Marie Halverson; Sheila Nataraj Kirby; Tom Hoffer; Gregory Wolniak; Lisa Setlak; Melissa Yisak  
**Subject:** RE: Next steps for GRFP federal program review

Thanks, Gisele. It's a lot to review -- if we were to meet early next week (Monday or Tuesday) would that give you enough time back in the office to review everything? I'm fine with meeting on the 15th if not.

Thanks again,

Jake

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Muller-Parker, Gisele T. [<mailto:gtmuller@nsf.gov>]  
**Sent:** Mon 12/5/2011 6:12 PM  
**To:** Jake Bartolone; Stoel, Carol F.; John, Gilbert  
**Cc:** Marie Halverson; Sheila Nataraj Kirby; Tom Hoffer; Gregory Wolniak; Lisa Setlak; Melissa Yisak  
**Subject:** RE: Next steps for GRFP federal program review

Jake,

This is great. I look forward to reviewing the documents. So far, the responses I have received are that the interviewees will be the members of the Inter-agency group. I agree that I should make the initial contact.

I'm sorry but Carol Stoel and I will be at the Council of Graduate Schools meeting in Arizona for the rest of this week. I can meet next week, Monday through Thursday. Is it best if we use our 3 pm Thursday time slot on Dec 15? If you want to meet earlier, I am available as early as Monday.

Gisele

Gisele Muller-Parker, PhD  
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Arlington, VA 22230  
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**From:** Jake Bartolone [<mailto:Bartolone-Jake@norc.uchicago.edu>]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 05, 2011 5:50 PM  
**To:** Muller-Parker, Gisele T.; Stoel, Carol F.; John, Gilbert  
**Cc:** Marie Halverson; Sheila Nataraj Kirby; Tom Hoffer; Gregory Wolniak;

Lisa Setlak; Melissa Yisak  
Subject: Next steps for GRFP federal program review

Hi Gisele, Carol, and Gilbert,

In order to keep things moving, I've attached a number of documents related to the federal program review that we'll need to finalize before moving forward. These are:

- 1) A draft interview protocol in the format we will be using to conduct interviews (program review interview protocol with intro edited.docx) - this shows the introduction and wrap-up as well as the question formulation and order that we plan to use. We will skip questions if we are able to find the relevant information beforehand, and I've made a preliminary attempt a prioritization that I would also like your feedback on. I've highlighted what I believe to be the most important questions in red (note that we may be answer some of the prioritized questions with publicly available information).
- 2) Drafts for two different emails to program officers (federal program review draft contact emails Dec 5.docx) - the first to be sent by Gisele, the second by me. The first email draft is a suggestion only, as it will be coming from NSF rather than NORC, but includes the type of information we would prefer be included (such as my contact information and a request for any program materials that may help us answer the questions prior to the interview).
- 3) The current list of programs to include (List of programs to be reviewed.docx), which has remained unchanged for a while now.
- 4) Two examples of information that we were able to find by reviewing program websites (Program Review Matrix--two examples, Nov 21 2011.docx) - Sheila filled out our matrix for the Department of Defense SMART program and the Department of Energy CSGF program. We note that there's a broad range in the amount of available information, and some programs have far less information available than these two, but that this should illustrate the types of information we are likely to be able to find prior to the interviews.

In addition to the attached documents, we'll need to discuss and decide upon a schedule for sending the initial contact email, conducting interviews, and delivering the report. I'd also like to briefly touch base about how we plan to move forward with selecting institutions for the site visits and institutional phone interview components that are coming up, so that we can start preparing for that work as well.

Would it be possible to meet later this week to discuss the attached documents and talk about our schedule moving forward?

Thanks,

Jake

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