



**United States Department of Agriculture**

Food and Nutrition Service

3101 Park Center Drive

Alexandria, VA 22302-1500

DATE: April 12, 2012

TO: OMB Desk Officer  
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget

THROUGH: Rachelle Ragland-Greene  
Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Clearance Office  
Food and Nutrition Service  
and  
Ruth Brown, OCIO Desk Officer

FROM: Kathryn Law  
Acting Director  
Family Nutrition Staff, Office of Research and Analysis

SUBJECT: Justification for a Change to Data Collection for the Study Reaching the Underserved Elderly and Working Poor in SNAP: Fiscal Year 2009 Pilots

This justification requests changes to the methodology through which FNS will obtain feedback on Washington SNAP applicants' satisfaction with the services they received through the Reaching the Underserved Elderly and Working Poor in SNAP: Fiscal Year 2009 Pilots Demonstration.

The Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009 (P.L. 118-8) provided funding for FNS to pilot and evaluate approaches for expanding access to SNAP among two key underserved populations—eligible households with elderly members and eligible households with adult members who are working or are looking for work (working poor households). The evaluation entails focus groups with SNAP applicants in each of the six states included in the demonstration (Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Washington, and Wisconsin) to collect data on their experiences with pilot program services.

On October 21, 2010 the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the data collection instruments and processes for the focus groups (OMB Number 0584-0558, Expiration date: 10/31/2013). In Washington, however, it has been difficult to identify a sufficiently-sized pool of applicants served by the pilot activities from which we could recruit in a focus group. Because the target population in Washington is spread across four rural counties in different areas of the state, transportation is a key barrier to bringing a group together, especially in the current environment of relatively low participation in pilot activities in each county in the state. The requested change to the data collection methodology is to replace the focus group in Washington with individual telephone interviews with 8-10 SNAP applicants.

We do not anticipate an increase in burden hours as a result of these changes.

Attached is a copy of the revised instrument (combining the screener and data collection protocol; a reminder letter and reminder call script are not necessary) to reflect the change in methodology in Washington.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Jenny Laster Genser of the Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Research and Analysis at (703) 305-2559.

Attachments

