

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

Part A. Justification:

1. Necessity of Information Collection.

On September 13, 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Pub. L. 103-322). Title I of the "crime bill," the Public Safety Partnership and Community Policing Act of 1994 (the Act), authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to states, units of local government, Indian tribal governments, other public and private entities, and multi-jurisdictional or regional consortia thereof to increase police presence, to expand and improve cooperative efforts between law enforcement agencies and members of the community, to address crime and disorder problems, and to otherwise enhance public safety.

Children whose parents abuse alcohol or drugs are three times more likely to be verbally, physically, or sexually abused, and four times more likely to be neglected. Approximately 9.2 million children live in a home where a parent or other adult uses illicit drugs, resulting in 9.2 million drug-endangered children. Whenever law enforcement responds to a call, there is no universal method for identifying these children exposed to drugs, violence, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and even commercial sexual exploitation. The Colorado Drug Endangered Children, Inc. (CODEC) Drug Endangered Children Tracking System (DECSYS) ensures quick identification of drug-endangered children, that appropriate agencies are involved, and that fewer drug-endangered children go unnoticed. The project purpose is to increase the ability of law enforcement and child welfare agencies to respond to drug endangered children. Ongoing evaluation of DECSYS is a necessary component of the system implementation and expansion efforts.

2. Needs and Uses

As part of an effort to evaluate the implementation process for DECSYS on improving cooperative efforts between law enforcement agencies and child welfare agencies, this survey will gather feedback from DECSYS users (both law enforcement and child welfare) to assess outcomes including: how reliably sites are using DECSYS and why or why not, whether users feel DECSYS provides a valuable service, whether sites have a system in place for ongoing use of DECSYS, and impacts on relationships between law enforcement and child welfare. The survey will also gather information about best practices and lessons learned from the implementation of DECSYS.

3. Efforts to Minimize Burden

There is only one measurement point for this research project. DECSYS users who have been trained on the system and their supervisors will be invited to complete the survey when it is launched. The survey will not be repeated at additional time points.

4. Efforts to Identify Duplication

There is no duplicative effort. The survey does not duplicate a current information collection instrument.

5. Methods to Minimize Burden on Small Business

There is no significant impact on small business.

6. Consequences of Less Frequent Collection

The survey will be conducted one time. Not conducting the survey at all would result in insufficient information to evaluate DECSYS outcomes regarding relationships between law enforcement agencies and child welfare agencies.

7. Special Circumstances Influencing Collection

There are no special circumstances that would influence the collection of information.

8. Reasons for Inconsistencies with 5 CFR 1320.6

There are no inconsistencies with 5 CFR 1320.6.

9. Payment or Gift to Respondents

No government funds will be used as payment or for gifts to respondents.

10. Assurance of Confidentiality

No assurance of confidentiality has been made to respondents.

11. Justification for Sensitive Questions

There are no questions of a sensitive nature. No information commonly considered as private is included in the proposed requested information.

12. Estimate of Hour Burden

We estimate that approximately 70 persons will complete the survey at 10 minutes each, for a total of 12 hours of annual burden.

13. Estimate of Cost Burden

This collection will not generate any costs other than those associated with the applicants' time. Therefore, the estimated burden cost is 0.

14. Estimated Annualized Cost to Federal Government

There is no estimated annualized cost to the Federal Government.

15. Reason for Change in Burden

No changes, proposed new collection.

16. Publication

The collected information will be presented in a white paper/toolkit to be published on the website resource center for the COPS Office.

17. Request not to Display OMB Control Number

The COPS Office will display the OMB approval number and expiration date on the upper right hand corner of the collection instrument.

18. Exceptions to Certification Statement

The COPS Office does not request an exception to the certification of this information collection.