



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Economics and Statistics Administration**  
**U.S. Census Bureau**

Washington, DC 20233-0001  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

May 1, 2015

Ms. Jennifer Park  
OMB Desk Officer  
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Ms. Park:

The U.S. Census Bureau respectfully requests your assistance in submitting to OMB the attached request for emergency clearance of an information collection request, "Current Population Survey (CPS) Basic Demographics, OMB Control Number 0607-0049." We are requesting OMB conclude its review as soon as possible, but no later than May 12, 2015.

This request relates to a revision to the basic CPS questionnaire that would be fielded beginning May 2015. Specifically, the revision adds response categories to enable respondents to report household relationships that are same-sex partners and same-sex spouses. The resulting data will serve to update the CPS so that it captures these rapidly emerging demographics. Importantly, this change addresses OMB's objective to align CPS demographic information with demographics collected on the American Community Survey (ACS) and the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), both of which are capturing information on same-sex partnerships and marriages. The American Housing Survey (AHS) is also collecting these data starting this month.

This change is limited to the addition of response categories used to capture an individual's relationship to others in the household. These will be asked in conjunction with the CPS relationship flashcard that is used only in personal visit interviews.

The nature of the CPS is such that a personal visit occurs in all first month interviews and only sporadically thereafter; thus we anticipate that it will take 16 months to phase in these data to the full CPS sample. We must start collecting these items in CPS *no later than May 2015* in order to ensure data are complete for the 2017 ASEC sample. Given that these items are already present in ACS, SIPP, and AHS, it is urgent that we add these items to CPS to provide comparability across these data sources. Any delay beyond May 2015 means that the Census Bureau will not be able to provide data on same-sex households until the 2018 ASEC, compromising our mission to provide timely and relevant data that informs on an evolving social dynamic in our country.

The May CPS commences on May 17, 2015; *we are requesting approval from OMB no later than May 12, 2015*, to field these items. A 60-day Federal Notice related to this revision was published in the September 30, 2014, edition of the Federal Register (Document Citation 79 FR 58728). The Census Bureau received two queries about the proposal, but did not receive any comments deemed relevant to the collection.

If you have any questions or need more information regarding this request, contact Lisa Clement at 301-763-5482.

Sincerely,

John H. Thompson  
Director

