

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Necessity of the Information

The purpose of this request is to allow the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) to facilitate and expedite the granting of access to qualified researchers under BLS data sharing programs. An important aspect of the mission of the BLS is to disseminate to the public the maximum amount of information possible. Not all data are publicly available because of the importance of maintaining the confidentiality of BLS data. However, the BLS has opportunities available on a limited basis for eligible researchers to access confidential data for purposes of conducting valid statistical analyses that further the mission of the BLS as permitted in the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA) and under 29 U.S.C. 1 & 2.

The BLS makes confidential data available to eligible researchers through three major programs:

1. The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), as part of the BLS occupational safety and health statistics program, compiles a count of all fatal work injuries occurring in the U.S. in each calendar year. Multiple sources are used in order to provide as complete and accurate information concerning workplace fatalities as possible. A research file containing CFOI data is made available offsite to eligible researchers.
2. The National Longitudinal Surveys of Youth (NLSY) is designed to document the transition from school to work and into adulthood. The NLSY collects extensive information about youths' labor market behavior and educational experiences over time. The NLSY includes three different cohorts: the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 (NLSY79), the NLSY79 Young Adult Survey, and the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (NLSY97). NLSY data beyond the public use data are made available in greater detail through an offsite program to eligible researchers.
3. Additionally, the BLS makes available data from several employment, compensation, prices, and working conditions surveys to eligible researchers for onsite use. Researchers can access these data in researcher rooms at the BLS national office in Washington, D.C.

2. Purpose of the Information Collection

In order to provide access to confidential data, the BLS must determine that the researcher's project will be exclusively statistical in nature and that the researcher is eligible based on guidelines set out in CIPSEA, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) implementation guidance on CIPSEA, and BLS policy. This information collection provides the vehicle through which the BLS will obtain the

necessary details to ensure all researchers and projects comply with appropriate laws and policies.

3. Use of Improved Technology

Applicants have the option of submitting their applications by email.

4. Efforts to Identify Duplication

The information collected will not duplicate any existing information being collected by the BLS.

5. Minimizing Small Employer Burden

The information is collected from individuals; no small businesses or other small entities are involved.

6. Consequences of Less Frequent Collection

Each individual project must be granted access separately due to the singular uniqueness of each research proposal, the BLS responsibility to determine the statistical nature of each proposed project, and the need to determine the eligibility of each researcher attempting to access confidential data.

7. Special Circumstances

There are no special circumstances. The data are collected in a manner that is consistent with the guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.5.

8. Federal Register and Consultation Outside the BLS

No comments were received as a result of the Federal Register notice published in 80 FR 44154 on July 24, 2015.

9. Payment to Respondents

No payments or gifts are provided to respondents.

10. Assurance of Confidentiality

Each application will include the following Privacy Act Statement:

The information you provide will be used by staff at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) to determine your eligibility for access to confidential BLS data and for other administrative purposes. Providing the information on this form is voluntary; however, the BLS will not be able to grant access to confidential BLS data without this

information. The BLS is authorized to request the information on this form under Title 5, United States Code, Section 301.

11. Justification for Sensitive Questions

There are no sensitive questions.

12. Estimate of Respondent Burden

CFOI:

Number of respondents: 6
 Response time: 35 minutes
 Burden Hours: 3.5

NLSY:

Number of respondents: 160
 Response time: 30 minutes
 Burden Hours: 80

Onsite Researcher:

Number of Respondents: 25
 Response time: 30 minutes
 Burden Hours: 12.5

Burden estimates include only the time to complete the application and questionnaire forms. It does not include the time for the development of the research proposal.

Total Burden Hours: 96

Activity	# of Respondents	Frequency	Total Annual Responses	Time Per Response in hours	Total Annual Burden (Hours)	Hourly Rate*	Monetized Value of Respondent Time
CFOI	6	1	6	0.58	3.5	7.25	25.38
NLSY	160	1	160	0.5	80.0	7.25	580
Onsite Researcher	25	1	25	0.5	12.5	7.25	90.63
Unduplicated Totals	191		191	1.58	96		\$696.01

* [Hourly Rate is based on the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour, according to *The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, As Amended*, revised May 2011, <http://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/statutes/FairLaborStandAct.pdf>]

13. Estimate of Cost Burden

- a. Capital start-up costs: \$0
- b. Total operation and maintenance and purchase of services: \$0

There are no costs to the potential applicants other than the time it takes to complete the applications. Applicants complete the forms based on personal knowledge and experience, which requires no record-keeping or other expenses.

14. Cost to the Federal Government

The total estimated cost to the Federal government is \$100,000. This reflects staff time spent reviewing researcher applications, processing data files, providing technical assistance, and associated administrative support. The Federal pay table used in the calculation of staff salaries can be found at <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/2015/general-schedule/>

15. Changes in Respondent Data

None. The burden hours have decreased because the method of calculating burden for Onsite Researchers has been altered. Previously, Onsite Researcher burden included the time to write the research proposal, but not the time to complete the questionnaire application form. This has been reversed, so that only the time to complete the questionnaire has been counted in order to be consistent with CFOI and NLSY burden estimation methods.

16. Plans for Publication

The information collected will not be for public use, but rather to ensure that only eligible researchers, using the data for an exclusively statistical purpose under CIPSEA, may access certain confidential datasets as outlined in item 2.

17. Request to Not Display Expiration Date

BLS is requesting OMB approval for permission to suppress the expiration date on the application forms. A printed expiration date would restrict BLS' ability to use these same forms in subsequent years.

18. Exceptions to the Certification

There are no exceptions to the certification.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This information collection does not employ statistical methods.