



Homeland Security

September 1, 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Neomi Rao
Administrator
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget

THROUGH: Stephen Rice *SR*
Acting Chief Information Officer
Department of Homeland Security

FROM: Tracey L. Showman *Tracey L. Showman*
Chief Administrative Officer
Mission Support
DHS Federal Emergency Management Agency

SUBJECT: Emergency Approval for OMB Collection 1660-NW111 (NEW) Survivor
Sheltering Assessment

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) seeks emergency approval for the new OMB Collection 1660-NW111 Survivor, Sheltering Assessment. As discussed below, it is vital that this collection be approved and implemented by **September 1, 2017**. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) and the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) implementing regulations at 5 C.F.R. § 1320.13: (1) this information is essential to the mission of the agency, (2) this information is needed prior to the expiration of time periods established under PRA, (3) public harm is reasonably likely to result if normal clearance procedures are followed, and (4) an unanticipated event has occurred.

1. Information is Essential to the Mission of the Agency

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Public Law 93-288) (the Stafford Act), as amended, is the legal basis for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide disaster related assistance, financial assistance, and services to individuals who apply for disaster assistance benefits in the event of a federally declared disaster. Regulations in title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Subpart D, "Federal Assistance to Individuals

and Households," implement the policy and procedures set forth in section 408 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. 5174, as amended. This program provides financial assistance and, if necessary, direct assistance to eligible individuals and households who, as a direct result of a major disaster or emergency, are uninsured or under-insured, have damage, necessary expenses, and serious needs which are not covered through other means.

OMB Collection 1660-NW111 Survivor Sheltering Assessments is a form that is used to collect pertinent information regarding displaced disaster survivor housing needs. The assessment of needs will be used to inform housing assistance program availability as well as shelter depopulation planning.

The new information collection is necessary to the mission of FEMA because FEMA cannot assess the need for housing or rental assistance to individuals without approval of this information collection. Specifically, the associated form that a disaster survivor uses is necessary to provide pertinent information to FEMA in order to determine what housing or rental assistance can be made available to facilitate moving the survivor into a more stable housing situation while they recover. It will be impossible for FEMA to quickly and efficiently determine disaster survivors housing needs without completion of the required form in OMB 1660-NW111. In addition, President Trump signed a major disaster declaration for Texas on August 25, 2017, and this form will be necessary to implement the declaration and to identify housing needs.

2. The Information is needed Prior to Expiration of Time Periods Established under PRA

President Trump signed a major disaster declaration for Texas on August 25, 2017, so the approval of this information collection is necessary in order for FEMA to assist disaster survivors populating shelters who are impacted by Hurricane Harvey. FEMA cannot comply with the regular 30- and 60-day notice requirements established under PRA before September 1, 2017 or when disaster survivors from Hurricane Harvey will begin to populating shelters due to being displaced from their homes.

3. Public Harm is Reasonably Likely to Result if Normal Clearance Procedures are Followed

Public harm is reasonably likely to result if normal clearance procedures are followed because it will delay FEMA's ability to quickly assess the shelter needs of affected survivors; and therefore, their placement in a clean, safe sheltering environment.

4. An Unanticipated Event has Occurred

Hurricane Harvey is currently impacting Texas and Louisiana and is the first Category 4 hurricane to hit the United States in the past 12 years. The National Weather Service has issued

a warning that "Widespread destructive winds of 115 to 145 mph will produce swaths of tornado-like damage" for portions of the Texas coast. In addition, the National Hurricane Center said it expects "catastrophic and life-threatening" flash flooding along the middle and upper Texas coast. An incredible amount of rain, 15 to 30 inches with isolated amounts of up to 40 inches, is predicted because the storm is expected to stall and unload torrents for four to six straight days. As a result, President Trump signed a major disaster declaration for Texas on August 25, 2017, permitting emergency aid to Texas. Without this emergency approval, FEMA will not be able to collect information from disaster survivors who are impacted by the unanticipated Category 4 hurricane.

FEMA is requesting an emergency approval of this collection so that it can determine survivor housing needs as quickly as possible after the hurricane has passed. Delay in approval of this information collection will disrupt FEMA's ability to comply with other provisions of the law and its overall mission.

5. Conclusion

Following the normal clearance procedures for approval of this informationn collection would delay FEMA's ability to comply with the requirements of the law. As discussed, FEMA certifies that the requirements of 5 CFR 1320.13(a) are met and it is vital this new collection be implemented by **September 1, 2017**, because: (1) this information is essential to the mission of the agency, (2) this information is needed prior to the expiration of time periods established under PRA, (3) public harm is reasonably likely to result if normal clearance procedures are followed, and (4) an unanticipated event has occurred.

Thank you for your consideration.