Child Nutrition Reducing Burden Study Final State Agency Survey

April 2018

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☐ Frequency of report submission

OMB Number: 0584-0613 Expiration Date: 09/30/2019

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1. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The questions in this section ask about a number of standard reports that State Agencies must submit to USDA. These reports help States to establish trends, identify technical assistance needs, and ensure program integrity. We would like to better understand the effort required to collect and compile the data from SFAs and submit the reports to USDA.

collec	t and	a compile the data from SFAs and submit	the reports to USDA.
1.1:		r the <u>FNS-742: SFA Verification Collection</u> ost to the effort needed to collect and com	n Report, which of the following contribute npile the data and submit the report?_
	MA	RK ALL THAT APPLY	
		Availability of instructions and guidance on	completing the report1
		Clarity of instructions and guidance on com	pleting the report2
		Availability of training	3
		Quality of training	4
		Type of information required in report	5
		Amount of information required in report	6
		Timing of report submission 7	
		Frequency of report submission	
		Using the Food Programs Reporting System	m (FPRS) 9
		Reviewing and reconciling information acrobefore submission 10	ss sources
		Other (specify) 99	
		SPECIFY:	
		None, collecting and compiling the data and requires minimal effort	
1.2:	Re	r the <u>FNS-834: State Agency (NSLP/SNAF</u> port, which of the following contribute the mpile the data and submit the report?	
	MA	RK ALL THAT APPLY	
		Availability of instructions and guidance on	completing the report1
		Clarity of instructions and guidance on com	pleting the report2
		Availability of training	3
		Quality of training	4
		Type of information required in report	5
		Amount of information required in report	6
		Timing of report submission 7	

8

Using the Food Pro	grams Reporting System (FPRS) 9
Reviewing and reco	nciling information across sources 10
Other (specify)	99
SPECIFY:	
	d compiling the data and submitting this report ort0

1.3:	For the <u>FNS-640: Administrative Review Report</u> , which of the following contribute the most to the effort needed to collect and compile the data and submit the report?			
		e FNS-640: Administrative Review Report was recently <u>redesigned</u> , and State Agencies required to use the <u>new version</u> by March 2018.		
	MA	RK ALL THAT APPLY		
		Availability of instructions and guidance on completing the report1		
		Clarity of instructions and guidance on completing the report2		
		Availability of training3		
		Quality of training4		
		Type of information required in report 5		
		Amount of information required in report 6		
		Timing of report submission 7		
		Frequency of report submission 8		
		Using the Food Programs Reporting System (FPRS) 9		
		Reviewing and reconciling information across sources before submission 10		
		Don't know (haven't completed the FNS-640)		
		Other (specify) 99		
		SPECIFY:		
		None, collecting and compiling the data and submitting this report requires minimal effort0		
1.4:	to 1	the <u>FNS-828: SFA Paid Lunch Price Report</u> , which of the following contribute the most the effort needed to collect and compile the data and submit the report?		
		RK ALL THAT APPLY		
		Availability of instructions and guidance on completing the report1		
		Clarity of instructions and guidance on completing the report2		
		Availability of training3		
		Quality of training4		
		Type of information required in report 5		
		Amount of information required in report 6		
		Timing of report submission 7		
		Frequency of report submission 8		
		Using the Food Programs Reporting System (FPRS) 9		
		Reviewing and reconciling information across sources before submission 10		
		Other (specify) 99		
		SPECIFY:		

Appendix B.1. Data Collection Instrument SA

None, collecting and compiling the data and submitting this report
requires minimal effort0

1.5:	wh	r the <u>annual Community Eligibility Provision notification and publication requirement,</u> iich of the following contribute the most to the effort needed to collect and compile the ta and submit the report?
	MA	RK ALL THAT APPLY
		Availability of instructions and guidance on completing the report1
		Clarity of instructions and guidance on completing the report2
		Availability of training3
		Quality of training4
		Type of information required in report 5
		Amount of information required in report 6
		Timing of report submission 7
		Frequency of report submission 8
		Using the USDA-developed reporting template 9
		Reviewing and reconciling information across sources before submission 10
		Other (specify) 99
		SPECIFY:
		None, collecting and compiling the data and submitting this report requires minimal effort0
1.6:	sp re An	inking about the standard reports that your State Agency must submit to SDA, were there any that were especially problematic or that highlighted a ecific concern for your State Agency? If so, please provide one or more cent examples. Please specify the name(s) of the report(s) in your response by suggestions or commendations to share? If your State has no problems, incerns, suggestions or commendations to share, write "None."

2. FINANCIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

State Agencies are required to submit various financial reports throughout the fiscal year. These reports collect a wide array of information that allow USDA to monitor school meals program expenditures and revenues and monitor the status of grants. The information reported to USDA is used to provide reimbursement for the meals served. Reports are also used to monitor program operations, understand program participation, and ensure compliance with Federal rules and regulations. Financial reports may also be useful for States for monitoring, disseminating information, and planning purposes.

The questions in this section ask about a number of financial reports that State Agencies must submit to USDA. We would like to better understand the effort required to collect and compile the data from SFAs and submit the reports to USDA.

For the FNS-10: Report of School Program Operations, which of the following contribute 2.1: the most to the effort needed to collect and compile the data and submit the report? MARK ALL THAT APPLY □ Availability of instructions and guidance on completing the report......1 □ Clarity of instructions and guidance on completing the report......2 □ Availability of training......3 □ Quality of training......4 5 ☐ Type of information required in report ☐ Amount of information required in report ☐ Timing of report submission 7 ☐ Frequency of report submission ☐ Using the Food Programs Reporting System (FPRS) 9 ☐ Reviewing and reconciling information across sources before submission 10 □ Other (specify) 99 SPECIFY: ☐ None, collecting and compiling the data and submitting this report

2.2:	100	the <u>FNS-13: Annual Report of State Revenue Matching</u> , which of the following ntribute the most to the effort needed to collect and compile the data and submit the port?
	MA	RK ALL THAT APPLY
		Availability of instructions and guidance on completing the report1
		Clarity of instructions and guidance on completing the report2
		Availability of training3
		Quality of training4
		Type of information required in report 5
		Amount of information required in report 6
		Timing of report submission 7
		Frequency of report submission 8
		Using the Food Programs Reporting System (FPRS) 9
		Reviewing and reconciling information across sources before submission 10
		Other (specify) 99
		SPECIFY:
		None, collecting and compiling the data and submitting this report requires minimal effort0
2.3:	foll	the <u>FNS-525: State Administrative Expense Funds Reallocation Report</u> , which of the owing contribute the most to the effort needed to collect and compile the data and omit the report?
	MA	RK ALL THAT APPLY
		Availability of instructions and guidance on completing the report1
		Clarity of instructions and guidance on completing the report2
		Availability of training3
		Quality of training4
		Type of information required in report 5
		Amount of information required in report 6
		Timing of report submission 7
		Frequency of report submission 8
		Using the USDA-developed reporting template 9
		Reviewing and reconciling information across sources before submission 10
		Other (specify) 99
		SPECIFY:

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None, collecting and compiling the data and submitting this report
requires minimal effort0

2.4:		the <u>FNS-777: Financial Status Report</u> , which of the following contribute the most to the ort needed to collect and compile the data and submit the report?
	MAI	RK ALL THAT APPLY
		Availability of instructions and guidance on completing the report1
		Clarity of instructions and guidance on completing the report2
		Availability of training3
		Quality of training4
		Type of information required in report 5
		Amount of information required in report 6
		Timing of report submission 7
		Frequency of report submission 8
		Using the Food Programs Reporting System (FPRS) 9
		Reviewing and reconciling information across sources before submission 10
		Other (specify) 99
		SPECIFY:
		None, collecting and compiling the data and submitting this report requires minimal effort0
2.5:		the <u>SF-425: Federal Financial Report,</u> which of the following contribute the most to the ort needed to collect and compile the data and submit the report?
	MAI	RK ALL THAT APPLY
		Availability of instructions and guidance on completing the report1
		Clarity of instructions and guidance on completing the report2
		Availability of training3
		Quality of training4
		Type information required in report 5
		Amount of information required in report 6
		Timing of report submission 7
		Frequency of report submission 8
		Using the Food Programs Reporting System (FPRS) 9
		Reviewing and reconciling information across sources before submission 10
		Other (specify) 99
		SPECIFY:
		None, collecting and compiling the data and submitting this report requires minimal effort0

2.6:	Thinking about the <u>financial reports that your State Agency must submit to USDA</u> , were there any that were especially problematic or that highlighted a specific concern for your State Agency? If so, please provide one or more recent examples. Please specify the name(s) of the financial report(s) in your response. Any suggestions or commendations to share? If your State has no problems, concerns, suggestions or commendations to share, write "None."

3. CONDUCTING ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEWS AND PARTICIPATING IN FNS MANAGEMENT EVALUATIONS AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REVIEWS

State Agencies contribute to the integrity of the school meals programs by overseeing program operations and ensuring compliance with program regulations. State Agencies are required to conduct official reviews of SFAs to assess compliance with specific regulations, including administrative reviews. In addition, FNS is legislatively mandated to evaluate State Agency operations through FNS Management Evaluations and Financial Management Reviews.

First, we would like to better understand the effort required to conduct Administrative Reviews.

3.1: For <u>Administrative Reviews</u>, which of the following contribute the most to the effort needed to prepare for, conduct, and report on the results of the reviews?

MARK ALL THAT APPLY □ Availability of instructions and guidance on conducting reviews......2 □ Clarity of instructions and guidance on conducting reviews......3 □ Availability of training......4 □ Quality of training......5 ☐ Amount of time required to prepare for reviews......6 ☐ Type of information collected during reviews......8 ☐ Amount of information collected during reviews......9 ☐ Timing of reviews.......10 □ Availability of SA staff to conduct reviews......12 ☐ Providing feedback after reviews (technical assistance, corrective action).......13 □ Responding to feedback (findings) after reviews......14 □ Other (specify).......99 SPECIFY:

Next, we would like to better understand the effort required of your State Agency to prepare for and participate in FNS Management Evaluations and Financial Management Reviews.

3.2:		r <u>Management Evaluations conducted by FNS Regional Offices</u> , which of the following ntribute the most to the effort needed to prepare for and participate in the evaluations?
	MΑ	ARK ALL THAT APPLY
		Availability of instructions and guidance on preparing for evaluations1
		Clarity of instructions and guidance on preparing for evaluations2
		Availability of training3
		Quality of training4
		Amount of time required to prepare for evaluations5
		Type information collected during evaluations6
		Amount of information collected during evaluations6
		Timing of evaluations7
		Frequency of evaluations8
		Availability of SA staff to participate in evaluations9
		Responding to feedback (findings) after evaluations10
		Other (specify)99
		SPECIFY:
		I have not participated in a Management Evaluation0
3.3:	fol	r <u>Financial Management Reviews conducted by FNS Regional Offices</u> , which of the lowing contribute the most to the effort needed to prepare for and participate in the riews?
	MA	ARK ALL THAT APPLY
		Availability of instructions and guidance on preparing for reviews1
		Clarity of instructions and guidance on preparing for reviews2
		Availability of training3
		Quality of training4
		Amount of time required to prepare for reviews5
		Type of information collected during reviews6
		Amount of information collected during reviews7
		Timing of reviews8
		Frequency of reviews9
		Availability of SA staff to participate in reviews10
		Responding to feedback (findings) after reviews11
		Other (specify)99
		SPECIFY:

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		OMB Number: 0584-0613 Expiration Date: 09/30/2019
П	I have not participated in a Financial Management Review	0

3.4:	Thinking about Administrative Reviews, Management Evaluations, and Financial Management Reviews, were there any that were especially problematic or that highlighted a specific concern for your State Agency? If so please provide one or more recent examples. Please specify the name(s) of the reviews or evaluations in your response. Any suggestions or commendations to share? If your State has no problems, concerns, suggestions or commendations to share, write "None."

4. PROCUREMENT

The procurement of all foods, goods, and services for the school meal programs must comply with procurement standards, including Federal policy requirements and USDA regulations. The standards facilitate SFA procurement of domestic and locally-sourced foods by using competitive procedures and spending program funds effectively and efficiently.

The questions in this section ask about procurement-related activities that your State Agency is asked to perform. We would like to better understand the effort needed to perform these activities.

4.1: For procurement reviews, which of the following contribute the most to the effort needed to prepare for, conduct, and report on the results of the reviews? MARK ALL THAT APPLY □ Timeliness of instructions □ Availability of instructions and guidance on conducting reviews......2 □ Availability of training......4 Quality of training......5 ☐ Amount of time required to prepare for reviews......6 ☐ Amount of information collected during reviews......10 □ Frequency of reviews......12 ☐ Providing feedback after reviews (technical assistance, corrective action) □ Responding to feedback (findings) after reviews......15 □ Other (specify)......99 SPECIFY: □ None, preparing for, conducting, and reporting on the results of procurement reviews requires minimal effort......0 4.2: Which of the following contribute the most to the effort needed of your State Agency for understanding procurement standards in general? MARK ALL THAT APPLY ☐ Availability of instructions and guidance......1

□ Clarity of instructions and guidance.....2

	_	Availability of training3
		, ,
		Quality of the graph and standards
		Clarity of the procurement standards
		Other (specify) 99
	_	SPECIFY:
		None, understanding procurement standards in general requires minimal effort0
	ing 1	wering the following questions, please consider effort related to monitoring and technical assistance that is needed during formal procurement reviews, as well as any
4.3:		nich of the following contribute the most to the effort needed of your State Agency for initoring food purchases and contracts for compliance with Buy American policies?
	MA	RK ALL THAT APPLY
		Availability of instructions and guidance1
		Clarity of instructions and guidance2
		Availability of training 3
		Quality of training 4
		Providing technical assistance to SFAs5
		Other (specify) 99
		SPECIFY:
		None, monitoring food purchases and contracts for compliance with Buy American requires minimal effort0
4.4:		nich of the following contribute the most to the effort needed of your State Agency for onitoring other SFA food purchases and contracts?
	MA	RK ALL THAT APPLY
		Availability of instructions and guidance1
		Clarity of instructions and guidance2
		Availability of training 3
		Quality of training 4
		Providing technical assistance to SFAs5
		Other (specify) 99
		SPECIFY:
		None, monitoring other SFA food purchases and contracts requires minimal effort0
4.5:		nich of the following contribute the most to the effort needed of your State Agency for enitoring equipment purchasing?

2
0
0
0
0
0
e Agency for
1
2
0
NA

5. USDA GUIDANCE AND POLICY MEMOS

USDA regularly issues guidance documents and policy memos in order to provide State Agencies and SFAs with the most up-to-date information on operating the school meal programs, including complying with legislative mandates and Federal rules and regulations. The questions in this section ask for your thoughts on the guidance documents and policy memos.

First, thinking generally only about the <u>guidance documents</u> that are issued by USDA, please answer the following questions. (Examples of guidance documents include manuals, handbooks, toolkits, fact sheets, and other resources provided on USDA websites.)

	•	•	•	
5.1:			y are the <u>guidance documents</u> provided, so that your State the information discussed within the documents?	e Agency
	MA	RK ONLY ONE		
	O	Very timely 1		
	O	Moderately timely	2	
	O	Somewhat timely	3	
	O	Not very timely	4	
	O	Not at all timely	5	
	O	Don't know DK		
5.2:	ln (general, how clear	and concise is the information in the guidance document	<u>s</u> ?
	O	Very clear and con-	cise1	
	O	Moderately clear a	nd concise2	
	O	Somewhat clear an	nd concise3	}
	O	Not very clear and	concise4	<u> </u>
	O	Not at all clear and	l concise5	
	0	Don't know		ΣK
5.3:	In	general, how much	n detail do you think is provided in the guidance documen	<u>ts</u> ?
	O	Far too much	1	
	O	Too much	2) -
	O	About the right amo	ount3	}
	O	Too little	4	<u> </u>
	O	Far too little	5)
	O	Don't know	C	ΣK

5.4:		In general, how easy or not easy is it to obtain and navigate through the <u>guidance</u> <u>documents</u> ?					
	O	Very easy			1		
	O	Moderately easy			2		
	O	Somewhat easy			3		
	O	Not very easy			4		
	O	Not at all easy			5		
	O	Don't know			DK		
	as th	e SP40-2017 and S			e, the "SP" series policy memor lease answer the following		
5.5:		general, how timely ply the information			hat your State Agency can		
	MA	ARK ONLY ONE					
	O	Very timely 1					
	O	Moderately timely	2				
	O	Somewhat timely	3				
	O	Not very timely	4				
	O	Not at all timely	5				
	0	Don't know DK					
5.6:	In	In general, how clear and concise is the information in the policy memos?					
	O	Very clear and con	cise		1		
	O	Moderately clear a	nd concise		2		
	O	Somewhat clear ar	nd concise		3		
	O	Not very clear and	concise		4		
	O	Not at all clear and	concise		5		
	0	Don't know			DK		
5.7:	In	general, how much	detail do you	think is provided in the	policy memos?		
	O	Far too much			1		
	O	Too much			2		
	O	About the right amo	ount		3		
	O	Too little			4		
	O	Far too little			5		
	\circ	Don't know			DK		

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5.8:	In	general, how easy or not easy is it to obtain and navigate th	rough the policy memos?
	O	Very easy	1
	0	Moderately easy	2
	0	Somewhat easy	3
	0	Not very easy	4
	0	Not at all easy	5
	O	Don't know	DK
	St St	rere especially problematic or that highlighted a spetate Agency? If so, please provide one or more receuggestions or commendations to share? If your State and concerns, suggestions or commendations to share, write "No	ent examples. Any Agency has no problems,

6. AD HOC REPORTING REQUESTS

To address questions from Congress, the White House, senior USDA officials, and others, USDA national or regional offices may issue a request to State Agencies to gather and submit additional information related to various aspects of the school meals programs.

6.1:	Thinking about ad hoc requests that your State Agency may receive from either the USD. National or Regional Office, were there any that were especially problematic or that highlighted a specific concern for your State Agency? If so, please provide one or more recent examples. Any suggestions or commendations to share? If your State Agency has no problems, concerns, suggestions or commendations to share, write "None."

7. PARTICIPATING IN RESEARCH AND EVALUATION STUDIES

State Agencies operating the school meal programs are required to cooperate with officials and Federal contractors in the conduct of research and evaluation studies of the programs. Throughout the year, State Agencies are asked to participate in USDA/FNS research and/or evaluation studies.

The questions in this section ask about your State Agency's experience participating in research and/or evaluation studies.

7.1:	Over the last 5 years, how often per year on average has your State Agency been asked to
	participate in any USDA/FNS research and/or evaluation study? Please do not include this
	study in your answer.

\mathbf{O}	1 to 4 times per year	1	
O	5 to 9 times per year	2	
O	10 or more times per year	.3	
O	Not required to participate over the last 5 years	.0	SKIP TO 7.4
O	Don't know	DK	SKIP TO 7.4

7.2: For <u>USDA/FNS research and/or evaluation studies</u> in which your State Agency has been asked to participate over the last 5 years, how often:

	MARK ONE ONLY PER ROW						
		1	2	3	4	5	Don't
		Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	know
a.	were you given adequate advance notice for participation?	1 O	2 O	3 O	4 O	5 O	DK O
b.	was the purpose of the research communicated to you clearly?	1 O	2 Q	O ε	4 O	5 O	DK O
C.	did you feel that the research study would produce useful information?	O 1	2 Q	O ε	4 O	5 O	DK O
d.	was the focus of the research redundant with other USDA/FNS studies you participated in?	1 Q	2 Q	O 8	4 O	5 Q	дк О
e.	was the focus of the research redundant with other non- <u>USDA/FNS</u> studies you participated in?	1 Q	2 Q	3 Q	4 O	5 Q	рк О
f. g.	did you consider the time required to participate in the studies excessive? did you consider the effort required to	1 O	2 Q	O E	4 O	5 O	DK O

	participate in the studies excessive?						
h. i.	did the time required to participate adversely impact your ability to perform other responsibilities? did the effort required to participate adversely impact your ability to perform other responsibilities?	O ₁	2 Q	Oε	4 O	5 Q	рк О
j. k.	did the time required to participate in the studies require a new allocation of resources? did the effort required to participate in the studies require a new allocation of resources?	1 Q	2 O	Oε	4 O	5 Q	рк 🔾
l.	were you given information on how to find the results of the studies after they had been published?	1 Q 1	2 Q	3 O	4 O	5 O	рк О

7.3:	Thinking about USDA/FNS research and/or evaluation studies in which your State Agency may have participated, were there any that were especially problematic in terms of time or effort for your State Agency? If so, please provide one or more recent examples. Any research and/or evaluation studies for which you have suggestions or commendations to share? If your State Agency has no problems, concerns, suggestions or commendations to share, write "None."
7.4:	If your State Agency did not participate in a USDA/FNS research and/or evaluation study, please give one or more reason(s) why. Were there any studies where your participation was requested but would have been problematic? If so, please provide one or more examples. Any research and/or evaluation studies for which you have suggestions or commendations to share? If your State Agency has no problems, concerns, suggestions or commendations to share, write "None."
7.5:	If your agency did participate in a USDA/FNS research and/or evaluation study and found participation difficult, please provide one or more example(s) why. Any research and/o evaluation studies for which you have suggestions or commendations to share? If your State Agency has no problems, concerns, suggestions or commendations to share, write "None."