

# **OMB Clearance Package**

## **NSF Survey of Nonprofit Research Activities (NPRA)**

### **Supporting Statement**

**for**

### **2017 Survey of Nonprofit Research Activities and Debriefing Interviews**

**Submitted by:**

**National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics  
National Science Foundation  
Arlington, VA**

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## **A. Justification**

The National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) of the National Science Foundation (NSF) serves as a clearinghouse for the collection, interpretation, analysis, and dissemination of objective data on science, engineering, technology, and research and development (R&D) for use by policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and the public. One component of this activity is NCSES's sponsorship of the Survey of Nonprofit Research Activities (NPRA), which is planned to collect information annually on research- and development-related (R&D) activities performed or funded by nonprofit organizations in the United States.

This revision of a currently approved collection clearance request is for two projects in the implementation of the Survey of Nonprofit Research Activities: (1) three survey cycles for the Fiscal Years (FY) 2016, 2017, and 2018 each with approximately 6,500 nonprofit organizations, and (2) Debriefing Interviews of 20 respondents and 20 non-respondents per year. The debriefing interviews with respondents will be conducted on a rolling basis approximately two weeks after survey completion and with non-respondents approximately two weeks after the final deadline.

The NPRA survey will be conducted in the following two phases: (1) Screener Phase and (2) Survey Phase. During the Screener Phase, NCSES will contact organizations for which we have no information about their R&D activities. These organizations will receive a brief screener asking whether the organization performed or funded research in FY 2016. The Survey Phase will include all organizations believed to have performed or funded research, organizations that self-identified as performers or funders of research during the Screener Phase, and organizations that did not respond during the Screener Phase. During the Survey Phase, organizations will receive mail, e-mail, and telephone requests to complete the survey by providing their organization's expenditures for R&D activities.

### **A.1 Need for Data Collection and Legislative Authorization**

The nonprofit sector is one of four major sectors ([1] business, [2] government, [3] higher education, and [4] nonprofit organizations) of the economy that perform and/or fund R&D. Historically, NCSES has combined nonprofit sector data with the other three sectors' data to estimate total national R&D expenditures via the annual *National Patterns of R&D Resources* report. The other sectors are surveyed annually; however, prior to fielding the FY 2015 NPRA Pilot Survey last year, NCSES last collected R&D data from nonprofit organizations nearly 20 years ago. Since then the *National Patterns of R&D Resources* has relied on statistical modeling based on those survey results to continue estimation of this sector's R&D expenditures.

Once viewed as a small contributor to the U.S. economy as a whole, the nonprofit sector has been one of the most consistent in national growth since the 1970s. Nonprofit sector revenue has grown 53% (by approximately \$457 billion) from 1997 to 2007, compared to private sector growth of 32%, as Salamon (2015) presented from his research in the Committee on National Statistics workshop, *Measuring Research and Development Expenditures in the U.S. Nonprofit Sector: Conceptual and Design Issues*,

Approval to conduct the NPRA Survey is being requested under the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 §505, codified in the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (NSF Act), as amended, at 42 U.S.C. §1862p, that under paragraph “b” directs the Foundation through NCSES to

- 1) collect, acquire, analyze, report, and disseminate statistical data related to the science and engineering enterprise in the U.S. and other nations that is relevant and useful to practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and the public, including statistical data on
  - (a) research and development trends;
  - (b) the science and engineering workforce;
  - (c) U.S. competitiveness in science, engineering, technology, and research and development; and
  - (d) the condition and progress of U.S. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education.

The NPRA Survey will provide essential data on the R&D activities performed and funded by nonprofit organizations in the U.S. The results of the survey will enable NCSES to produce valid and reliable estimates of nonprofit R&D expenditures in the U.S.

## ***A.2 How, by Whom, and for What Purpose the Information Is to Be Used***

The FY 2015 NPRA pilot data collection yielded vital information about the sample frame methodology, the survey methodology, and development of a weighting strategy that addressed unit non-response. Ultimately, the results from the FY 2016 NPRA survey will provide the first updated, valid, and reliable estimates of nonprofit R&D activity in the U.S. since the late 1990s, as well as a better understanding of the scope and nature of R&D in the nonprofit sector.

### **Federal Uses**

NCSES will use the results of the survey to report updated, valid, and reliable estimates of U.S. nonprofit R&D in *National Patterns of R&D Resources*. The data will also be incorporated into the National Science Board’s biennial report, *Science and Engineering Indicators (SEI)*. The *SEI* report is mandated by Congress (42 U.S.C. 1863, Section 4(j)), as follows:

"The Board shall render to the President and Congress, no later than January 15 of each even numbered year, a report on indicators of the state of science and engineering in the United States."

Other federal agencies that may be interested in the NPRA data include the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Congressional Budget Office, and Congressional Research Service. Policy officials and R&D proponents can use the data to explore questions about economic growth in the U.S. overall, as well as the nonprofit R&D sector specifically. These data will help federal agencies develop long-range plans and policies for R&D funding opportunities and the nonprofit sector as a whole.

## **International Uses**

NCSES expects the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) will request that NCSES provide NPRA Survey data for use in its periodic publications and for international comparisons of R&D efforts. NCSES anticipates statistical agencies in other countries that collect similar data, such as Statistics Canada, also will request NPRA data.

## **Professional Associations, Educational Centers, and Other Uses**

NCSES anticipates professional associations will use data from the NPRA Survey to enhance awareness of their member organizations' R&D. Likely users in this category include, but are not limited to, the Science Philanthropy Alliance, Association of Independent Research Institutes, Health Research Alliance, Consortium of Social Science Associations, American Educational Research Association, Urban Institute's Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy, Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action, Washington State University Social and Economic Sciences Research Center, National Academy of Sciences, American Hospital Association, and Council on Foundations.

### ***A.3 Use of Automated, Electronic, Mechanical, or Other Technological Collection Techniques***

The NPRA survey will primarily be a web-based data collection effort. The website will include a link to download a PDF and print a paper version of the questionnaire (see Attachment A). The web instrument simplifies certain aspects of the survey process for the respondents, such as automatically skipping questions that do not apply based on previous answers, performing arithmetical operations, and edit checks that will help to limit certain types of respondent errors (such as providing totals that do not match a total previously reported). The web version of the survey will have a real-time monitoring system that allows NCSES to monitor data, response status, and comments from respondents. From the perspective of the respondents, a web version of the survey is more convenient and simplifies the survey (e.g., by automatically calculating totals). NCSES benefits from the use of the web version by receiving improved data quality and timely responses.

### ***A.4 Efforts to Avoid Duplication***

The NPRA Survey collects essential information on the financial resources allocated to R&D by nonprofit organizations. There are no other statistical sources of comprehensive national data for this information. The IRS collects information from nonprofits on IRS Form 990 (Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax) and IRS Form 990-PF (Return of Private Foundation). However, these forms do not specifically collect R&D expenditures and other information included in the NPRA Survey.

The potential exists for some overlap with nonprofit hospitals affiliated with universities and colleges where R&D expenditure data may be collected through the NSF Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) Survey and state-affiliated nonprofits where data may be collected in the NCSES/Census State Government Research and Development Survey. Once the

sample is drawn for NPRA, NCSES will compare it with the institutions surveyed through HERD and the State R&D Surveys and remove any duplication. NCSES will also ask the sampled organizations to inform us if they are part of a university to eliminate any component units of universities not already removed during the initial sample de-duplication. The NPRA Survey includes a new question (not asked in the NPRA Pilot Survey) that asks, “Is your organization affiliated or considered part of another for-profit, nonprofit, or higher education organization?” If the respondent replies yes, they are asked to provide the name of the organization with which their organization is affiliated. Throughout the fielding period, NCSES will monitor the responses to this question and follow up as necessary to eliminate duplication.

#### ***A.5 Collection of Data From Small Businesses or Other Small Entities***

This survey of nonprofit organizations may have an impact on small entities. However, the survey was intentionally designed to be brief to reduce burden and to be easy to complete. Also, the NPRA Survey will be offered over the web, which has branching logic that reduces the number of questions that need responses for entities engaged in only funding or only performing R&D. To boost the response rate, a personalized survey booklet will be mailed at two different intervals during data collection to non-respondents including small entities.

Representatives from the smaller nonprofits interviewed during cognitive testing indicated minimal difficulty providing the requested financial information. Some modifications were made as a result of the debrief interviews to mitigate issues encountered by the small entities (refer to A.8 Consultation with Persons Outside the Agency for additional information).

#### ***A.6 Consequences of Less Frequent Data Collection***

The current request is for three cycles of the NPRA Survey. The survey was piloted in 2016 with 3,640 nonprofit organizations. Prior to the NPRA Pilot Survey, no similar project had been conducted in 20 years. During that time, NCSES extrapolated the R&D expenditures for the nonprofit sector using statistical modeling. Because the number of nonprofit organizations filing IRS nonprofit Form 990 (EZ, PF) has increased by over 20% in this timeframe, NCSES believes that the statistical modeling based on the previous version of the survey is out of date and may be producing imprecise estimates for R&D expenditures. Conducting a new survey of nonprofit research activities will provide more accurate national estimates of R&D and better support for economic policy decisions.

The current request is for three years, which will enable NCSES to conduct annual surveys in 2017, 2018, and 2019, each with approximately 6,500 nonprofit organizations. Based on the findings from the NPRA Pilot Survey and from the last survey in the late 1990s, the number of nonprofit organizations performing or funding research activities is estimated to be a very small proportion of the overall population of nonprofits. Given the large and heterogeneous population, accurate and complete identification of all research performers and funders is an extremely challenging task. Each survey iteration will help us identify research performers and funders not previously surveyed and eliminate organizations that do not conduct or fund research and further

refine our list of known performers and funders. This frame refinement will make the survey administration more efficient, less costly, and more accurate in future cycles.

### **A.7 Special Circumstances**

Information collection will be conducted in a manner consistent with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidelines, and there are no special circumstances.

### **A.8 Federal Register Notice and Consultation with Persons Outside the Agency**

#### **Federal Register Notice**

On May 4, 2017, NCSES published a notice in the Federal Register (82 FR 20921 - <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2017-09044>) inviting the general public and other federal agencies to comment on NCSES's plans to submit this request. NCSES received one request for a copy of the questionnaire and the OMB supporting statement from Andrew Reamer, Research Professor in the George Washington Institute of Public Policy at George Washington University (Attachment B). The questionnaire was provided to him, and the supporting statement will be provided upon submission to OMB.

#### **Consultation With Persons Outside the Agency**

Many people and organizations have been consulted to develop the questionnaire. In 2014, the Committee for National Statistics convened a steering committee on measuring R&D expenditures in the U.S. nonprofit sector. A workshop was held in June 2014 that included experts in survey methodology and nonprofit R&D. Potential data users who attended the workshops included academics, government employees, and other stakeholders.

During the summer of 2014, NCSES conducted 23 exploratory interviews with representatives of nonprofit organizations in Atlanta, GA; Austin, TX; Boston, MA; and Seattle, WA. During these interviews, staff gathered information about how nonprofits are organized; the types of research they performed or funded; their familiarity with the terms "research" and "development"; types of financial data they maintain that are specific to R&D; benefits and barriers to participating in an NCSES-sponsored survey; and possible topics to include in a new survey.

In September 2014, an expert panel was convened to help NCSES shape the content and coverage of data related to R&D in the nonprofit sector. Information was garnered to gain a better understanding of the similarities and differences among nonprofit sectors, learn about the needs of data users, and obtain advice on priorities and strategies for content to be included in the survey.

Using the information from the Committee on National Statistics, exploratory interviews, and the expert panel, NCSES began the NPRA Pilot Survey efforts including developing the NPRA pilot instrument and accompanying communications. In the summer of 2015, 28 cognitive tests were conducted with representatives of nonprofit organizations that perform and/or fund R&D in the Washington DC Metropolitan area; Los Angeles, CA; and Chicago, IL. Participants in the



cognitive interviews were asked to provide feedback on the prenotification letter, a handout that would be included with the letter, and the survey instrument.

In the spring/summer of 2016, two rounds of usability testing were conducted with nonprofits before the NPRA Pilot Survey was launched. Testing was completed remotely with participants controlling wireframe prototypes (Round 1, n=8) or the online web survey (Round 2, n=9) in a browser on the facilitator's computer.

The NPRA Pilot Survey was conducted from September 12, 2016 through February 10, 2017. Afterward, debriefing interviews were conducted with 37 organizations—16 with organizations that submitted a survey and 21 with non-respondents, including four organizations that answered a few questions but did not submit a survey. Additional cognitive testing was completed with eight nonprofit organizations to test revisions made to the FY 2016 NPRA Survey. Copies of the reports from these activities are available upon request and were the basis for modifying the FY 2016 NPRA Survey. The NSF 2016 NPRA Pilot Survey evaluation report is available on request from the NCSSES Project Officer.

Changes from the NPRA Pilot to the FY 2016 NPRA Survey include

- 1) Modifications to mitigate duplication and ensure the correct organizations respond:
  - a. confirming each organization's Employee Identification Number (EIN)
  - b. asking if the organization is affiliated or considered part of another for-profit, nonprofit, or higher education organization
- 2) Modifications to improve the consistency and accuracy of question responses:
  - a. adding information which clarifies the types of employees to include in the organization's calculation of full-time equivalents
  - b. clarifying that work performed by contract employees should be included in Question 6 (intramural R&D performance) and not in Question 7 (R&D funded by the nonprofit but performed by others)
  - c. providing space for additional detail or clarification about responses to some questions
- 3) Modifications to encourage participation in the survey:
  - a. allowing organizations to provide a brief description of research they perform or fund
  - b. allowing organizations to opt out of having their organization's data released by name

Adding a new question asking organizations to categorize research expenditures performed and/or funded by type of research (basic research, applied research, and experimental development) and by source (federal and nonfederal). Additionally, due to the lower than average response rates from the hospital sector to the NPRA Pilot Survey, NCSSES identified a need to modify the survey communication to increase salience for nonprofit hospitals. Beginning with the FY 2016 NPRA Survey, nonprofit hospitals will receive a customized version of the survey and of communications with language associated with hospitals (see Attachment A-2).

#### **A.9 *Payments to Respondents***

No payments will be made to NPRA Survey respondents.

#### **A.10 *Assurance of Confidentiality***

No items on the NPRA Survey are deemed confidential. It is NCSSES's intention to publish detailed results of the full implementation of the NPRA Survey with tables showing R&D funding and expenditures for the nonprofit organizations surveyed. Organizations will be able to opt out of having their organization-level data published on the NCSSES website. However, their data will be included in published aggregate estimates and also be used to prepare estimates of R&D expenditures in the *National Patterns of R&D Resources*. Examples of the tables that will be produced are presented in Exhibits A.10.1 and A.10.2.

**Exhibit A.10.1: Example of a Table for Public Dissemination of the Data with Organizational Data**

Table XX. Total research performance expenditures at nonprofit organizations, by organization and Federal/Nonfederal source of funds: FY 2016

Organization	All research performance	Federal government	Nonfederal sources
All nonprofit organizations	11,111,111	1,111,111	1,111,111
Organization A	0,000,000	0,000,000	0,000,000
Organization B	0,000,000	0,000,000	0,000,000
Organization C	0,000,000	0,000,000	0,000,000
Organization D	0,000,000	0,000,000	0,000,000
Organization E	0,000,000	0,000,000	0,000,000
Organization F	0,000,000	0,000,000	0,000,000
Organization G	0,000,000	0,000,000	0,000,000
Organization H	0,000,000	0,000,000	0,000,000
...	...	...	...
Organization Z	0,000,000	0,000,000	0,000,000
All other surveyed nonprofit organizations <sup>a</sup>	000,000	000,000	000,000

<sup>a</sup> Expenditures included under All other surveyed nonprofit organizations are for those organizations that did not want their data reported by name.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Nonprofit Research Activities, FY 2016.

**Exhibit A.10.2: Example of a Table for Public Dissemination of the Data with Aggregate Data**

Table XX. Total research performance expenditures at nonprofit organizations, by source: FY 2016

Source	All research performance
All sources	11,111,111
Federal government	1,111,111
State and local government	1,111,111
Business	1,111,111
Foundations	1,111,111
Universities	1,111,111
Other nonprofits	1,111,111
Internal funds	1,111,111
Individual donors	1,111,111
Other sources	1,111,111

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Nonprofit Research Activities, FY 2016.

## **A.11 Sensitive Questions**

The NPRA Survey has no sensitive questions. During the cognitive interviews, usability testing, and debriefing interviews, no respondents said that they found the questions to be sensitive. NPRA is a voluntary survey, and no organizations are required to respond to it. The voluntary aspect of the survey is stated clearly in the introduction.

## **A.12 Estimates of Response Burden**

The response rate for the NPRA Pilot Survey was 43.4%<sup>1</sup>. Of these organizations, 16.4% (n=255) reported that they performed, and/or funded R&D activities. The average reported burden hours for those that performed or funded R&D activities was 4 hours. The reported burden was 20 minutes for those who reported no R&D activity.

On the basis of changes in our sampling and contact procedures, NCSES expects to improve upon the response rate to the NPRA Pilot Survey to achieve a 60% response for the full implementation of the NPRA Survey. See section B.3 for a discussion of our plans for nonresponse bias analysis.

To achieve this response rate, NCSES will conduct the full implementation of the NPRA Survey for approximately 6,500 organizations in two phases: (1) a screener for those organizations for which NCSES has no information concerning their R&D activities (referred to as “Unknowns”) and (2) a survey for organizations identified as likely research performers and/or funders, for those that self-identify via the screener as a performer and/or funder of research (referred to as “Knowns”), and for those that do not complete the screener.

### **Phase I: Screener**

The screener will be sent to an estimated 4,100 nonprofit organizations for which NCSES has no indication of research performance or funding. It is estimated that the screener will take approximately 10 minutes to review, complete, and return by mail to our survey contractor. NCSES anticipates around 70% (2,870) of these organizations will return the screener. The expected burden for Phase I is 478 (2,870 organization x 10 minutes) hours.

### **Phase II: Survey**

In Phase II, nonprofit organizations will be asked to complete the NPRA Survey instrument. These organizations will fall into one of three groups:

- Organizations identified at the start of the study as likely performers or funders of research (Knowns)
- Organizations that responded to the screener as performing or funding research (Screened-Ins), and
- Organizations that did not respond to the screener (Unknowns)

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<sup>1</sup> 1,555 nonprofits provided partial or complete data out of 3,587 eligible organizations.

Upon response, these three groups will get collapsed into two groups: a) organizations that perform and/or fund research, and b) organizations that neither perform nor fund research. It is anticipated that it will take organizations that perform and/or fund research approximately 4 hours to respond to the survey. The estimated burden for organizations that neither perform nor fund research is 20 minutes.

#### a) Organizations that Perform and/or Fund Research

It is estimated that this group contains approximately 1,222 nonprofit organizations (922 organizations from the Knowns group, 241 from the Screen-Ins group, and 59 from the Unknowns group). These estimates are based on response rates and eligibility rates from the NPRA Pilot Survey. The estimated burden for this group is 4,888 hours (1,222 organizations x 4 hours).

Based on the NPRA Pilot Survey, the Knowns group, which will include approximately 2,400 organizations, is expected to have a response rate of approximately 60% (1,440). Of the responding organizations, approximately 64% (922) will report performing or funding research activities.

The NPRA Pilot Survey indicated that approximately 12% (344) of the 2,800 organizations that respond to the screener in Phase 1 will self-identify as research performers or funders. These organizations will be invited to participate in Phase II. Of those organizations, it is anticipated that 70% (241) will participate in the survey.

Lastly, based on the NPRA Pilot Survey, the Unknowns group, which will include approximately 1,230 non-respondents to Phase 1, is anticipated to have a response rate of 40% (492). Of those responding organizations, 12% (59) will report that they perform and/or fund research.

#### b) Organizations that Neither Perform Nor Fund Research

It is estimated that this group contains approximately 951 nonprofit organizations (518 from the Knowns group, 433 from the Unknowns group). These estimates are based on response rates and eligibility rates from the NPRA Pilot Survey. The estimated burden for this group is 317 hours (951 organizations x 20 minutes).

The NPRA Pilot Survey indicated that approximately 36% (518) of the responding organizations in the Knowns group and approximately 86% (433) of the responding organizations in the Unknowns group will not actually have performed or funded research.

### **Debriefing Interviews**

After the survey fielding period, the NCSES survey contractor will conduct debriefings of 20 respondents and 20 non-respondents (see Attachments C and D, Debriefing Interview Protocols and Debriefing Interview Correspondence, respectively). Debriefing interviews for respondents will last no more than 60 minutes per organization; interviews with non-respondents should be approximately 30 minutes. NCSES estimates a total of 30 burden hours for the debriefing interviews.

## Total Burden

The combined burden for the survey and debriefing interviews is estimated at 5,713 hours. A summary of the FY 2016 NPRA Survey burden estimates is included in the following table. At an estimated cost of \$79.31 per hour (based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics May 2016 average hourly wages for “Top Executives” within NAICS Sector 54 - Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services),<sup>2</sup> Table A.12.1 shows the annual burden estimates for the NPRA Survey and debriefing interviews.

**Table A.12.1: Combined Annual Burden Estimates for Phases I and II and Debriefing Interviews**

Category	Respondent Burden	Estimated # of Responses	Total Burden Hours	Total Cost Burden	Cost per Respondent (average)
Phase I					
NPRa screener	10 minutes	2,870	478	\$ 37,910	\$13.21
Phase II					
Organizations that neither perform nor fund research	20 minutes	951	317	\$ 25,141	\$26.44
Organizations that perform and/or fund research	4 hours	1,222	4,888	\$ 387,667	\$317.24
Debriefing Interviews					
Respondents interviews	1 hour	20	20	\$ 1,586	\$79.31
Non-respondent interviews	30 minutes	20	10	\$ 793	\$39.66
<b>Total Annual Burden</b>		<b>5,083</b>	<b>5,713</b>	<b>\$ 453,097</b>	

### ***A.13 Estimate for the Total Annual Cost Burden to Respondents or Recordkeepers***

Not applicable. Respondents are not expected to incur any capital and start-up costs, or systems maintenance costs in responding.

### ***A.14 Annualized Estimates of Cost to the Federal Government***

The total estimated cost to the federal government for the NPRA Survey for FYs 2016, 2017, and 2018 is approximately \$6,899,043 over a period of 63 months, for an annualized cost of \$1,314,103.

### ***A.15 Changes in Burden***

The burden rate for the NPRA Pilot Survey was based on the cognitive interviews described earlier and was estimated to be 10 hours for those who performed and/or funded R&D activities and 1 hour or less from organizations that did not perform or fund. The NPRA Pilot Survey included a question that asked the respondent the total amount of staff time it took their organization to

<sup>2</sup> Available at [http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics3\\_541000.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics3_541000.htm). Accessed on April 26, 2017.

complete the questionnaire. Respondents were further instructed to include the time spent reading the instructions, working on questions, and obtaining information, as well as time spent by all employees collecting and providing the information. An analysis of the data revealed that the survey is far less burdensome than anticipated.

The addition of the Phase I screener in the FY 2016 NPRA Survey will allow those organizations that do not perform or fund research to select out of the larger survey. Reviewing the materials and returning the screener will take an estimated 10 minutes. For the NPRA FY 2016 Survey instrument, NCSES estimates a burden of 4 hours for organizations that perform and/or fund research, and 20 minutes for those organizations that do not perform or fund R&D based on the NPRA Pilot Survey responses.

### **A.16 Plans for Tabulation and Publication**

NCSES plans to tabulate and publish the results in aggregate and individual form. During the debriefing interviews with organizations that (1) participated in the NPRA Pilot Survey and (2) performed and/or funded R&D, participants were asked how they would feel seeing their research performing and/or funding expenditures shared in data tables on NCSES’s website. Draft data tables showing both aggregate and organization level data were provided as examples to clarify the request. Approximately half (n = 8) had no problem having their data published. The other half (n = 8) said that they would need to consult their president, executive director, or chief operating officer for approval to complete and submit the survey. One organization mentioned that its legal team would also have to review the survey before submission. Based on this feedback, NCSES drafted a new final question (number 24) that allows all organizations to let us know their preferences for public release of their data. The question specifies that if they choose to opt out of organization level data release, their data will still be included in published aggregate estimates and will also be used to prepare estimates of R&D expenditures in the *National Patterns of R&D Resources*.

### **Timeline**

The schedule for data collection, report completion, and publication of statistical tables is shown below in Table A.16.1.

**Table A.16.1: Proposed Schedule of Activities**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date*</b>
Phase I: Data Collection Begins (Screener)	January 2018
Phase II: Data Collection Begins (Survey)	February 2018
Data Collection Closes	July 2018
Summary and Debrief Report	September 2018
Publication of Statistical Tables	March 2019

\*Dates are tentative and based on OMB approval.

***A.17 Approval to Not Display Expiration Date***

Not applicable. The survey will display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection.

***A.18 Exceptions to the Certification Statement***

Not applicable. No exceptions to the certification statement are being sought.