**DATE:** December 6, 2018

**TO:** Steph Tatham

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA)

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

**FROM:** Ivelisse Martinez-Beck

Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE)

Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

**SUBJECT:** Request for Non-Substantive Change to the 2019 National Survey of Early Care and Education (OMB NO: 0970-0391)

The Administration for Children and Families submitted a package for the 2019 National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE) for review by the Office of Management and Budget on August 21, 2018, with clearance received on October 19, 2018. This memo documents non-substantive changes proposed for the NSECE questionnaires since the initial submission date. These changes come primarily from: 1) expert panel recommendations, 2) feedback from partner agencies regarding questionnaire content, 3) recent analyses of 2012 NSECE data, 4) new findings from recent research using other data sources, and 5) review of the sampling frame being built for 2019 NSECE administration.

Table 1 below summarizes the proposed non-substantive changes to the NSECE questionnaires, including the questionnaire construct, a summary of the revision, and the source of the revision. Page numbers refer to versions of questionnaires with ‘tracking changes’ in the filenames. Clean copies of the questionnaires are also provided.

**Table 1**

| **Page**  | **Question** | **Construct**  | **Summary of Proposed Revision** | **Source of Revision** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Center-based Provider Screener and Questionnaire (Attachment 2)** |
| 2 | Screener 1a | Determination of eligibility of center-based provider | Conversion of introductory text about hours of operation and before/after school care of young children into question items. | 2019 NSECE sampling frame includes some types of programs that should be screened as ineligible for the main interview. |
| 14 | B1\_5\_M | Prices charged | Deletion of selected words in question text, and addition of clarifying definition | Expert Panel recommendation, recent analyses of 2012 data |
| 20 | C11 | Languages spoken by staff | Items about languages other than English revised to better align across questionnaires | Expert recommendation: Revision of approach across questionnaires for high-priority topic  |
| 21 | R1 | Child-level blending of funding | Additional sentence defining terms | Expert recommendation |
| 24 | R5 | Meeting multiple standards | Revision of wording to clarify question intent | Expert recommendation |
| 25 | R7  | Additional fees paid by subsidy families | Additional clarifying phrase | Request from partner agency |
| 35 | E7 | Background checks | Change wording from ‘your experiences’ to ‘your opinions’ to broaden question relevance | Request from partner agency to expand question administration |
| 40 | F18 | Inspections | Refocus of items on monitoring and inspection visits from agencies to reasons for visits | Expert recommendation |
| 42 | H16 | Director professional development | Decomposed original list of examples into separate sub-items | Expert recommendation: More detail on high-priority topic |
| **Home-based Provider Screener and Questionnaire (Attachment 4a)** |
| 5 | A\_SCRN\_4 | Reason for no longer providing home-based care | Clarification of response category | Request from partner agency |
| 10 | B8C2\_M | Child’s schedule with provider | Item inadvertently omitted from original OMB package | Correction of error |
| 11 | B13\_M | Child home language | Change in question wording to drop ‘usually’ | Expert recommendation: Revision of approach across questionnaires for high-priority topic |
| 12 | B13b\_M | Language spoken  | Change in question wording to include parents | Expert recommendation: Revision of approach across questionnaires for high-priority topic |
| 24 | C12C\_2\_M | Prices charged | Deletion of selected words in question text to simplify cognitive task, and addition of clarifying definition | Expert Panel recommendation, recent analyses of 2012 data |
| 25 | C\_affordcare | Assistance to families to pay for care | Replace sub-item with ‘other’ category | Expert recommendation |
| 26 | C13\_1 | Children home language | Change in question wording to drop ‘usually’ | Expert recommendation: Revision of approach across questionnaires for high-priority topic |
| 27 | C13B\_1\_M | Number needing interpretation | Change in question wording to refocus from family count to child count | Expert recommendation: Revision of approach across questionnaires for high-priority topic |
| 27 | C13D\_M | Languages spoken with families | Change in question wording to include languages spoken with parents or children | Expert recommendation: Revision of approach across questionnaires for high-priority topic |
| 27 | C13E\_M | Percent time speaking English | Change in question to capture percentage of time speaking English with children. | Expert recommendation: Revision of approach across questionnaires for high-priority topic |
| 30 |  C\_subfees | Additional fees paid by subsidy families | Additional clarifying phrase | Request from partner agency |
| 41 | F\_BKGD | Background checks | Change wording from ‘your experiences’ to ‘your opinions’ so more respondents can be asked the questions | Request from partner agency to expand question administration |
| 41 | F\_INSP | Inspections | Replacement of items on specific agency monitoring and inspection visits with question about reasons for visits | Expert recommendation |
| 44 | G\_ACTIVITY\_IT | Activities in the classroom | Capture activities involving singing/rhyming and reading | Expert recommendation |
| 72 | J12b | Types of child care provided | Expansion of sub-item to include an additional category of care | Request from partner agency |
| 75 |  J21a\_M | Languages spoken by workforce  | Items about languages other than English revised to better align across questionnaires | Expert recommendation: Revision of approach across questionnaires for high-priority topic  |
| 77 | J23b\_M | Household income | Add introductory statement to avert non-response | New findings: Recent analysis of 2012 NSECE data |
| **Classroom Staff (Workforce) (Attachment 6a)** |
| 15 | G\_ACTIVITY\_IT | Activities in the classroom | Capture activities involving singing/rhyming and reading | Expert recommendation |
| 19 | CL9 | Languages spoken by children | Items about languages other than English revised to better align across questionnaires | Expert recommendation: Revision of approach across questionnaires for high-priority topic based on feedback from researchers |
| 19 | CL10 | Languages spoken by children | Items about languages other than English revised to better align across questionnaires | Expert recommendation: Revision of approach across questionnaires for high-priority topic based on feedback from researchers |
| 19 | CL11 | Languages spoken by children | Items about languages other than English revised to better align across questionnaires | Expert recommendation: Revision of approach across questionnaires for high-priority topic  |
| 24 | D\_BKGD | Background checks | Change wording from ‘your experiences’ to ‘your opinions’ so more respondents can be asked the questions | Request from partner agency to expand question administration |
| 26 | E5 | Languages spoken by workforce  | Items about languages other than English revised to better align across questionnaires | Expert recommendation: Revision of approach across questionnaires for high-priority topic  |
| 26 | E6 | Languages spoken in classroom | Items about languages other than English revised to better align across questionnaires | Expert recommendation: Revision of approach across questionnaires for high-priority topic  |
| **Household Screener and Questionnaire (Attachment 15a)** |
| 60 | J4\_E3 | Source of assistance for paying | Re-organized response categories | New findings: Analysis of 2012 NSECE data linked with administrative data suggested improvements for identifying child care subsidies |
| 59 | J3\_E2\_M | Receipt of child care payment assistance | Removed the word ‘voucher’ from example types of assistance  | Partner agency guidance in light of recent subsidy practices |
| 60 | J9\_E9 | Receipt of child care payment assistance | Removed the word ‘voucher’ from example types of assistance  | Partner agency guidance in light of recent subsidy practices |
| 60 | J9\_E9a | Receipt of child care payment assistance | Removed the word ‘voucher’ from example types of assistance  | Partner agency guidance in light of recent subsidy practices |
| 61 | J9\_1 | Receipt of child care payment assistance | Removed the word ‘voucher’ from example types of assistance  | Partner agency guidance in light of recent subsidy practices |
| 62 | J7\_E4\_M | Co-pay | Additional clarifying phrase | Expert recommendation |
| 62 | J8A\_E2A\_M | Proof of employment-related activity | Revision to ask about employment-related activity documentation instead of work hours link to arrangement eligibility | Expert recommendation to reflect CCDF Final Rule |
| 62 | J8B\_E2B\_M | Use of relevant program in child care search | Revision of question to ask about state subsidy program rather than local resource and referral agency | Expert recommendation  |
| 63 | J11 | Payment information for ECE arrangement | Clarification of individual-type provider payment arrangement | New findings: Analysis of 2012 data indicates opportunity to reduce burden. |
| 63 | J11\_SAME | Payment information on ECE arrangement | Combination of payment confirmation questions | New findings: Analysis of 2012 data indicates opportunity to reduce burden. |
| 69 | F7 | Methods of child care search | Revised and re-ordered response options | New findings: Updated based on newly identified literature on child care search |
| 80 | G12B\_M | Receipt of child care subsidies | Addition of a clarification sentence | Request from partner agency |
| 80 | G12D\_M | Reason for end of child care subsidies | Two additional response categories, one category with clarification text | Expert recommendation |