

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR
Application for Family Unity Benefits
OMB Control No.: 1615-0005
COLLECTION INSTRUMENT: From I-817**

A. Justification

- 1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Attach a copy of the appropriate section of each statute and regulation mandating or authorizing the collection of information.**

This application provides for an automatic stay of removal and employment authorization for the spouse or unmarried child of an alien who has been granted temporary or permanent residence status under section 245A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (Act). 8 CFR 236.14 and 245a.33 requires the submission of Form I-817.

INA 264(f) (8 U.S.C. 1304(f)) provides the Secretary of Homeland Security with the specific authority to collect SSNs of those applying for immigration benefits. USCIS collects the SSN to facilitate and expedite the adjudication of the applicant's request for a Form I-817, Application for Family Unity Benefits. The SSN information is used to establish and corroborate the applicant's identity.

The SSN information collected within Form I-817 is also used to assist DHS in enforcing the immigration laws of the United States by providing timely and accurate information about persons who are subject to those laws. USCIS personnel conduct background security checks on applicants for the purpose of determining whether the applicant has established eligibility for the benefit requested. Because the I-817 is typically a non-interview, paper-based adjudication, the SSN is especially useful and provides significant information to verify an applicant's identity and his/her claim to eligibility: providing a critical tool for more accurate and appropriate adjudication determinations for USCIS and the applicant.

- 2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.**

USCIS will use the data collected to determine whether the applicant meets the eligibility requirements. If the applicant fully demonstrates eligibility, the application will be approved. Per 8 CFR §236.15(d), an alien under Family Unity Program is authorized to be employed in the United States and will receive an employment authorization document after USCIS granted the benefits. Therefore, USCIS will issue an employment authorization document and approval notice to the applicant. The respondents for this information collection are foreign nationals who apply for Family Unity Benefits in the

United States.

3. **Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden.**

USCIS has the automated capability in place to accept electronic submission of application. Currently, this form can be completed electronically but cannot be submitted electronically. Form I-817 currently provides for partial GPEA compliance.

4. **Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item 2 above.**

A review of the USCIS automated forms tracking system was accomplished and revealed no duplication. There is no similar data collected.

5. **If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities (Item 5 of OMB Form 83-I), describe any methods used to minimize burden.**

There is no impact to small business or other small entities by this collection of information.

6. **Describe the consequence to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.**

If the information is not collected, USCIS adjudicating officer will be unable to determine whether the applicant is eligible for the benefits sought under 8 CFR 236.14 or 8 CFR 245a.33.

7. **Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner:**

- **Requiring respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly;**
- **Requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;**
- **Requiring respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document;**

- **Requiring respondents to retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records for more than three years;**
- **In connection with a statistical survey, that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study;**
- **Requiring the use of a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB;**
- **That includes a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or which unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or**
- **Requiring respondents to submit proprietary trade secret, or other confidential information unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.**

This information collection is conducted in a manner consistent with the guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.5(d)(2).

- 8. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the data and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden.**

Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

Consultation with representatives of those from whom information is to be obtained or those who must compile records should occur at least once every 3 years - even if the collection of information activity is the same as in prior periods. There may be circumstances that may preclude consultation in a specific situation. These circumstances should be explained.

On November 5, 2018 USCIS published a 60-day notice in the Federal Register at 83 FR 55389. USCIS received 1 comment after publishing the 60-day notice. The commenter expressed an opinion regarding immigration policy generally. The comment did not address the information collection or request any changes to the form or instructions. USCIS did not make any changes to the information collection as a result of the

comment.

On June 19, 2019, USCIS published a 30-day notice in the Federal Register at 84 FR 28576. USCIS did not receive any comments in connection with this notice.

9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

USCIS does not provide payments or gifts to respondents related to this information collection.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation or agency policy.

There is no assurance of confidentiality.

The privacy impact assessments associated with this information collection are:

- DHS/USCIS/PIA-003(b) Integrated Digitization Document Management Program;
- DHS/USCIS/PDHS/USCIS/PIA-016(a) Computer Linked Application Information Management System (CLAIMS 3) and Associated Systems

The system of record notices associated with this information collection are:

- DHS/USCIS/ICE/CBP-001 Alien File, Index, and National File Tracking System of Records;
- DHS/USCIS-007 Benefits Information System;
- DHS/USCIS-018 Immigration Biometric and Background Check (IBBC)

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. This justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to person's form whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.

USCIS asks questions of a sensitive nature. Sensitive questions are asked to determine: whether an individual might be inadmissible under INA 212 (a)(3) (A)-(F)– Security Grounds for Unlawful Activity, Control or Overthrow of the U.S. Government, Terrorist grounds, Adverse Foreign Policy Consequence, Communist or Totalitarian Affiliation; whether an individual might be inadmissible under INA 212 (a)(2)(A)(i)(I) – Conviction or Commission of a Crime Involving Moral Turpitude (CIMT) or INA 212(a)(2)(A)(i) (II), (B), or (C) – Controlled Substance Violations, Multiple Criminal Convictions, or

Controlled Substance Traffickers.

Aliens currently reside in the U.S. as Entry Without Inspection when they file Form I-817 applications and apply for the benefits under Family Unity Program.

When an alien received the benefits under Family Unity Program, the alien will receive voluntary departure for 2 years and will receive an employment authorization document.

Due to security concern, USCIS asks questions related to sensitive nature to evaluate and determine the eligible for the benefits under Family Unity Program.

12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information. The statement should:

- **Indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated. Unless directed to do so, agencies should not conduct special surveys to obtain information on which to base hour burden estimates. Consultation with a sample (fewer than 10) of potential respondents is desirable. If the hour burden on respondents is expected to vary widely because of differences in activity, size, or complexity, show the range of estimated hour burden, and explain the reasons for the variance. Generally, estimates should not include burden hours for customary and usual business practices.**
- **If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burdens in Item 13 of OMB Form 83-I.**
- **Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories. The cost of contracting out or paying outside parties for information collection activities should not be included here. Instead, this cost should be included in Item 14.**

		A	B	C (=AxB)	D	E (=Cx D)	F	(=ExF)
Type of Respondent	Form Name / Form Number	#. of Respondents	#. of Responses per Respondent	# of Responses	Avg. Burden per Response (in hours)	Total Annual Burden (in hours)	Avg. Hourly Wage Rate*	Total Annual Respondent Cost
Primary: Individuals or	Application for Family	1,000	1	1,000	2	2,000	\$35.54	71,080

	Unity Benefits, Form I-817							
Primary: Individuals or	Biometrics Processing	1,000	1	1,000	1.17 (1 hr. 10 mins.)	1,170	\$35.54	41,582
Total				2,000		3,170		112,662

** The above Average Hourly Wage Rate is the May 2017 Bureau of Labor Statistics average wage for all occupations of \$24.34 times the wage rate benefit multiplier of 1.46 (to account for benefits provided) equaling \$35.54. The selection of "All Occupations" was chosen as the expected respondents for this collection could be expected to be from any occupation.*

Many Form I-817 respondents obtain assistance in preparing their application form third parties. USCIS requires a preparer to sign the form as a preparer. USCIS has included no burden for the respondent to use a preparer to assist in the form completion. USCIS will request public comment on the time burden incurred by respondents for securing the services of preparers for the preparation and submission of this form. USCIS will include the results of the public comments and its own analysis in the next submission.

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers resulting from the collection of information. (Do not include the cost of any hour burden shown in Items 12 and 14).

- **The cost estimate should be split into two components: (a) a total capital and start-up cost component (annualized over its expected useful life); and (b) a total operation and maintenance and purchase of services component. The estimates should take into account costs associated with generating, maintaining, and disclosing or providing the information. Include descriptions of methods used to estimate major cost factors including system and technology acquisition, expected useful life of capital equipment, the discount rate(s), and the time period over which costs will be incurred. Capital and start-up costs include, among other items, preparations for collecting information such as purchasing computers and software; monitoring, sampling, drilling and testing equipment; and record storage facilities.**
- **If cost estimates are expected to vary widely, agencies should present ranges of cost burdens and explain the reasons for the variance. The cost of purchasing or contracting out information collection services should be a part of this cost burden estimate. In developing cost burden estimates, agencies may consult with a sample of respondents (fewer than 10), utilize the 60-day pre-OMB submission public comment process and use existing economic or regulatory impact analysis associated with the rulemaking containing the information collection, as appropriate.**

- **Generally, estimates should not include purchases of equipment or services, or portions thereof, made: (1) prior to October 1, 1995, (2) to achieve regulatory compliance with requirements not associated with the information collection, (3) for reasons other than to provide information or keep records for the government or (4) as part of customary and usual business or private practices.**

There are no capital, start-up, operational or maintenance costs associated with this collection of information. For informational purposes only, the filing fee for Form I-817 is \$600.

This information collection may impose some out-of-pocket costs on respondents in addition to the time burden for the form's preparation. Costs may include payments for document translation and preparation services, attorney and legal fees, postage, and costs associated with gathering documentation. USCIS estimates the cost of this information collection may vary widely, from as little as \$20 to \$1,000 per respondent. USCIS estimates that the cost for these activities is \$122.50 and that approximately 100 percent of the total respondent population may incur this cost. The estimated out of pocket cost to respondents is 1,000 respondents multiplied by 100 percent of the population multiplied by the average cost per response of \$122.50, which equal \$122,500.

- 14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government. Also, provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and support staff), and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information. Agencies also may aggregate cost estimates from Items 12, 13, and 14 in a single table.**

USCIS establishes its fees using an activity-based costing model to assign costs to an adjudication based on its relative adjudication burden and use of USCIS resources. Fees are established at an amount that is necessary to recover these assigned costs, plus an amount to recover unassigned overhead (which includes the suggested average hourly rate for clerical, officer, and managerial time with benefits) and immigration benefits provided for free. USCIS uses the fee associated with an information collection as a reasonable measure of the collection's costs to USCIS, since these fees are based on resource expenditures related to the benefit in question. In addition, this figure includes the estimated overhead cost for printing, stocking, distributing and processing of this form.

The filing fee for Form I-817 is \$600, which is paid by all I-817 applicants. A biometric services fee of \$85 is also paid by all regular I-817 applicants. The total estimated cost to the Federal government is calculated by multiplying \$600 by the estimated total number of respondents (1,000), which equals \$600,000, and adding that product to the \$85

biometric services fee multiplied by the estimated number of respondents who will pay that fee (1,000), which equals \$85,000. The total estimated cost to the Federal government is \$685,000.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reporting in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB Form 83-I.

Data collection Activity/ Instrument	Program Change (hours currently on OMB Inventory)	Program Change (New)	Difference	Adjustment (hours currently on OMB Inventory)	Adjustment (hours in this request)	Difference
Form I-817 Application for Family Unity Benefits				2,716	2,000	-716
Biometric Processing				1,589	1,170	-419
Total(s)				4,305	3,170	-1,135

There is an estimated decrease in the annual hour burden from 4,302 to 3,170; an estimated total decrease of 1,132. This is due to a decrease in the agency’s estimation of the number of respondents for the form. There is no change in the information being collected. The privacy notice in the instructions was updated.

Data collection Activity/ Instrument	Program Change (cost currently on OMB Inventory)	Program Change (New)	Difference	Adjustment (cost currently on OMB Inventory)	Adjustment (New)	Difference
I-817				\$166,355	\$122,500	-\$43,855
Total(s)				\$166,355	\$122,500	-\$43,855

There is a decrease in the estimated cost burden associated with this information collection due to the collection of more accurate data on the number of Form I-817 filings since the previous information collection.

- 16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation, and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.**

This information collection will not be published for statistical purposes.

- 17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.**

USCIS will display the expiration date for OMB approval of this information collection.

- 18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19, "Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submission," of OMB 83-I.**

USCIS does not request an exception to the certification of this information collection.

B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods.

There is no statistical methodology involved with this collection.