



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U.S. Census Bureau
Office of the Director
Washington, DC 20233-0001

April 30, 2020

TO: Desk Officer for the U.S. Census Bureau
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs/OMB

FROM: Victoria Velkoff, Associate Director for Demographic Programs, U.S. Census Bureau

SUBJECT: Request for Approval for Non-Substantive Change: Household Pulse Survey

The Census Bureau is writing to request approval of a Non-Substantive Change to the Household Pulse Survey protocol approved on April 19, 2020 (OMB No. 0607-1013). This notice is in keeping with the Census Bureau's commitment to foster transparency in its efforts to produce new, relevant and timely data on the social and economic experiences individuals are having during this period of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The non-substantive changes are as follows:

- 1) **Introduction of a Spanish language version of the Household Pulse Questionnaire in production.** The first week of data collection, which started April 23, 2020, was administered only in English to allow a thorough review of the Spanish language instrument by cognitive experts and certified translators. The Spanish language questionnaire is attached (Attachment NSC-1.1).
- 2) **Change in Production for the First Week.** The Census Bureau will extend the first week of production into the second week. This will enable us to address a limitation in the initial week with the online data collection platform. Specifically, the platform could not support the need to send survey invitations to more than one email per sampled household, despite the fact that in many cases there are multiple emails associated with a household. This technical issue has been resolved and, in keeping with our proposed methodology, we are now able to reach households with alternative email addresses that were otherwise unreachable when the initial email address on record was not successful.

Consequently, we will be extending data collection for the first week of sample for an additional week to improve our ability to make effective contact with survey participants. With this extension, we will be delaying by one week the planned first release of the data. The first release of data will include this first wave of sample (with the adjusted collection period of two weeks, from April 23-May 6, 2020) and the second wave of sample (from May 7 - May 13, 2020).

The launch of the Household Pulse Survey represents a significant paradigm shift for the Census Bureau and the other federal statistical agencies collaborating with us on this project. While we take a more

agile approach towards the production these data, we are mindful of preserving the system's reputation for data quality, integrity and objectivity. In this vein, we seek to ensure that changes to these efforts as planned are communicated clearly and in a timely manner.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.