

# **TANF Data Reporting for Work Participation**

**OMB Information Collection Request  
0970 - 0338**

## **Supporting Statement Part A - Justification**

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Submitted By:  
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Administration for Children and Families  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

## **SUPPORTING STATEMENT A – JUSTIFICATION**

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Data Reporting for Work Participation (formerly titled DRA TANF Final Rule; OMB #0970-0338) includes the TANF work verification procedures, the Caseload Reduction Documentation Process, the Reasonable Cause/Corrective Compliance Documentation Process, the TANF Data Report, the Separate State Programs - Maintenance of Effort (SSP-MOE) Data Report and TANF Sampling and Statistical Methods. We are proposing to continue these information collections without change. Although reporting requirements have not changed since the last renewal of this information collection in 2017, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) did not previously include a burden estimate for states who sample their data to prepare and submit their sampling plans (as outlined in the TANF Sampling and Statistical Methods instrument). As such, ACF is now proposing burden hours for this activity.

### **1. Circumstances Making the Collection of Information Necessary**

The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA) reauthorized the TANF program and imposed a new data requirement that States prepare and submit data verification procedures and replaced other data requirements with new versions including: the TANF Data Report, the SSP-MOE Data Report, the Caseload Reduction Documentation Process, and the Reasonable Cause/Corrective Compliance Documentation Process. These requirements are also discussed in Part 265 of the TANF Final Rule. We are proposing to continue these information collections without change.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 601, 607, 609, 611, 613, and 1302

### **2. Purpose and Use of the Information Collection**

These data will be used by ACF to assess and evaluate the TANF program and include documentation of each State's status in: (1) meeting statutorily required participation rates; (2) qualifying for work participation caseload reduction credit; (3) being subject to certain statutorily mandated penalties; (4) being considered for a "reasonable cause" exception and a reduction in the amount of the penalty for failure to meet the work participation requirements; and (5) validating data.

### **3. Use of Improved Information Technology and Burden Reduction**

States must file the quarterly TANF Data Report and the quarterly SSP-MOE Data Report electronically based on format specifications that ACF provides. The decision to use electronic filing was based on a need to reduce burden to States and territories and to increase the efficiency and timeliness of these data collections.

**4. Efforts to Identify Duplication and Use of Similar Information**

There are no TANF-specific data available that are similar to what we are proposing to collect.

**5. Impact on Small Businesses or Other Small Entities**

These information collections do not impact small businesses or other small entities.

**6. Consequences of Collecting the Information Less Frequently**

The statute mandates the quarterly collection of most of the data in the TANF Data Report and the SSP-MOE Data Report; Sampling from States and territories that submit sampled data are quarterly occurrences; The Caseload Reduction Documentation Process, and the Reasonable Cause/Corrective Compliance Documentation Process are annual occurrences because the statute provides for annual evaluation of caseload reduction and the annual imposition of penalties.

**7. Special Circumstances Relating to the Guidelines of 5 CFR 1320.5**

No special circumstances relating to the Guidelines of 5 CFR 1320.5

**8. Comments in Response to the Federal Register Notice and Efforts to Consult Outside the Agency**

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR Part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), ACF published a notice in the Federal Register announcing the agency's intention to request an OMB review of this information collection activity. This notice was published on June 23, 2020, Volume 85, Number 121, page 37664, and provided a 60-day period for public comment. We did not receive any comments.

**9. Explanation of Any Payment or Gift to Respondents**

These data collections do not involve any payment or gift to respondents other than remuneration of grantees.

**10. Assurance of Confidentiality Provided to Respondents**

ACF established a System of Record for the TANF Data Report and the SSP-MOE Data Report to ensure the level of confidentiality pursuant to the Privacy Act. The System of Records Notice was published on December 14, 2018 at 83 FR 6591-6600, Document Number: 2018-03014.

## **11. Justification for Sensitive Questions**

These data collections do not contain any questions of a sensitive nature.

## **12. Estimates of Annualized Burden Hours and Costs**

The 50 states, District of Columbia, and 3 territories are required to submit Work Verification Plan (WVP) 45 CFR §§ 261.60 - 261.63. The WVP is a planning document that may be phased-in over a period of time and may also require substantial revision in future months. The WVP contains six sections: countable work activities; hours engaged in work; work-eligible individuals; internal controls; verification of other data used in calculating the work participation rates; and submittal procedures. It takes an average of 640 hours to finish the WVP for each state.

The caseload reduction credit gives a state credit for reducing its caseload between a base year and a comparison year. States submit data for the calculation of their caseload reduction credit by completing form ACF-202 and it takes approximately 120 hours to finish the form.

States, the District of Columbia, and territories are able to file the Reasonable Cause/Corrective Compliance Documentation Process 45 CFR §§ 262.4, 262.6, & 262.7; § 261.51 if they failed the work participation requirement. An average of 240 hours are needed to complete the documentation process.

States, the District of Columbia, and territories need to collect, prepare the data files, and submit TANF Data Report Part 265 (45 CFR § 265), and it requires an average of 2201 hours to complete the process for one quarter of data.

States and territories that have the SSP-MOE program need to collect, prepare the data files, and submit SSP-MOE Data Report Part 265 (45 CFR § 265), and it requires an average of 2201 hours to complete the process for one quarter of data.

States and territories that submit sampled data need to sample their data according to the sample plans that are approved by ACF (45 CFR § 265.5). The procedure to sample data and send sample lists to ACF will take an average of 48 hours for each sampling state/territory.

**The cost to respondents was calculated using the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) job code**

For Social and Human Services Assistants [21-1093] State Government, excluding schools and hospitals and wage data from May 2019, which is \$19.58 per hour. To account for fringe benefits and overhead the rate is multiplied by two which is \$39.16. The estimate of annualized cost to respondents for hour burden is \$39.16 times 630,960 hours or \$24,708,393.60

| Information Collection Title                                                                    | Total/Annual Number of Respondents | Annual Number of Responses Per Respondent | Average Burden Hours Per Response | Total Burden Hours | Annual Burden Hours | Average Hourly Wage                 | Total Annual Cost    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Work Verification Plan §§ 261.60 - 261.63                                                       | 54                                 | 1                                         | 640                               | 103,680            | 34,560              | 39.16                               | 1,353,369.60         |
| Caseload Reduction Documentation Process, ACF-202 §§ 261.41 & 261.44                            | 54                                 | 1                                         | 120                               | 19,440             | 6,480               | 39.16                               | 253,756.80           |
| Reasonable Cause/Corrective Compliance Documentation Process §§ 262.4, 262.6, & 262.7; § 261.51 | 54                                 | 2                                         | 240                               | 77,760             | 25,920              | 39.16                               | 1,015,027.20         |
| TANF Data Report Part 265                                                                       | 54                                 | 4                                         | 2201                              | 1,426,248          | 475,416             | 39.16                               | 18,617,290.60        |
| SSP-MOE Data Report – Part 265                                                                  | 29                                 | 4                                         | 714                               | 248,472            | 82,824              | 39.16                               | 3,243,387.84         |
| TANF Sampling and Statistical Methods Manual Part 265.5                                         | 30                                 | 4                                         | 48                                | 17,280             | 5,760               | 39.16                               | 225,561.60           |
| <b>Estimated Annual Burden Total:</b>                                                           |                                    |                                           |                                   |                    | <b>630,960</b>      | <b>Estimated Annual Cost Total:</b> | <b>24,708,393.64</b> |

**13. Estimates of Other Total Annual Cost Burden to Respondents and Record Keepers**

There are no other costs to respondents.

**14. Annualized Cost to the Federal Government**

We estimate total annual federal burden to be 40,000 hours. This includes the costs of information collection, development, tests, printing forms, mailing list compilation and maintenance, mailing or enumeration, editing, coding, tabulation, analysis, publication of results, technical assistance, and monitoring. Based on an estimated average hourly federal salary of \$42 per hour for federal employee (GS12 -14), to account for fringe benefits and overhead the rate is multiplied by two which is \$84, the total estimated average annual cost to the federal government is \$3,360,000.

#### **15. Explanation for Program Changes or Adjustments**

Although reporting requirements have not changed since the last renewal of this information collection in 2017, ACF did not previously include a burden estimate for states who sample their TANF data to prepare and submit their sampling plans (as outlined in the TANF Sampling and Statistical Methods instrument, required by 45 CFR § 265.5). Of 53 states, territories, and the District of Columbia, only 22 entities submitted sampled data in previous years. ACF anticipates additional entities submitting sampled data in the coming years, so ACF is requesting burden for 30 entities to report sampled data. ACF is proposing 5,760 annual burden hours for this activity.

#### **16. Plans for Tabulation and Publication and Project Time Schedule**

ACF analyze these data upon submission by 50 states, District of Columbia and 3 territories. One of the primary purposes of these information collections is to calculate participation rates as required by section 407(a) of the Social Security Act (SSA) as amended by PRWORA and DRA. Work Participation Rates and the characteristics of TANF populations are published yearly in the TANF Annual Report to Congress.

#### **17. Reason(s) Display of OMB Expiration Date is Inappropriate**

Not applicable.

#### **18. Exceptions to Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions**

No exceptions are necessary for this information collection.