

Request for Approval under the “Generic Clearance for the Collection of Routine Customer Feedback” (OMB Control Number: 0503-0021)

TITLE OF INFORMATION COLLECTION:

Rural Development Broadband Programs Risk Assessment

PURPOSE: USDA Rural Development is conducting a risk assessment across its programs that fund broadband infrastructure. The assessment is required pursuant to GAO report number 17-301, Recommendation 2. The assessment is being conducted by the Office of the Chief Risk Officer, Rural Development. (OCRO).

In order to properly identify, categorize and prioritize existing and potential risks to the programs, the OCRO will analyze internal program data and collect information from both internal and external staff, leadership and stakeholders.

This request for approval is for the collection of information from a limited number of external customers and stakeholders. The information collected will be analyzed in incorporated into the overall risk assessment. The final risk report will be delivered to internal RD leadership for their consideration in future decision making. The results will not be made public.

DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS:

Respondent will include a small sample of current or prior customers of Rural Development’s broadband programs, consultants who assist applicants with filings, and stakeholders entities such as rural telecommunications associations. A select number of prior RD employees or managers will also be asked to participate.

TYPE OF COLLECTION: (Check one)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Customer Comment Card/Complaint Form | <input type="checkbox"/> Customer Satisfaction Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Usability Testing (e.g., Website or Software | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Discussion Group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Focus Group | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>combination of online</u> |
- questionnaire and small discussion groups. _____

CERTIFICATION:

I certify the following to be true:

1. The collection is voluntary.
2. The collection is low-burden for respondents and low-cost for the Federal Government.
3. The collection is non-controversial and does not raise issues of concern to other federal agencies.
4. The results are not intended to be disseminated to the public.
5. Information gathered will not be used for the purpose of substantially informing influential policy decisions.

- The collection is targeted to the solicitation of opinions from respondents who have experience with the program or may have experience with the program in the future.

Name: _____

To assist review, please provide answers to the following question:

Personally Identifiable Information:

- Is personally identifiable information (PII) collected? Yes No
- If Yes, will any information that is collected be included in records that are subject to the Privacy Act of 1974? Yes No
- If Yes, has an up-to-date System of Records Notice (SORN) been published? Yes No

Gifts or Payments:

Is an incentive (e.g., money or reimbursement of expenses, token of appreciation) provided to participants? Yes No

BURDEN HOURS

| Category of Respondent | No. of Respondents | Participation Time | Burden |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Former and Current Borrower (sample) | 10 | .5 hr | 5 hours |
| Industry Stakeholders /Association | 10 | .5 hour | 5 hours |
| Former RD employees | 10 | .5 hr | 5 hours |
| Applicant Consultants (engineers, financial or environmental specialists) | 10 | .5 hr | 5 hours |
| Totals | | | 20 hours |

FEDERAL COST: The estimated annual cost to the Federal government is \$6,000

If you are conducting a focus group, survey, or plan to employ statistical methods, please provide answers to the following questions:

The selection of your targeted respondents

- Do you have a customer list or something similar that defines the universe of potential respondents and do you have a sampling plan for selecting from this universe?
 Yes No

If the answer is yes, please provide a description of both below (or attach the sampling plan)? If the answer is no, please provide a description of how you plan to identify your potential group of respondents and how you will select them?

Administration of the Instrument

1. How will you collect the information? (Check all that apply)

Web-based or other forms of Social Media

Telephone

In-person

Mail

Other, Explain

2. Will interviewers or facilitators be used? Yes No. in some cases

Please make sure that all instruments, instructions, and scripts are submitted with the request.

Instructions for completing Request for Approval under the “Generic Clearance for the Collection of Routine Customer Feedback”

TITLE OF INFORMATION COLLECTION: Provide the name of the collection that is the subject of the request. (e.g. Comment card for soliciting feedback on xxxx)

PURPOSE: Provide a brief description of the purpose of this collection and how it will be used. If this is part of a larger study or effort, please include this in your explanation.

DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS: Provide a brief description of the targeted group or groups for this collection of information. These groups must have experience with the program.

TYPE OF COLLECTION: Check one box. If you are requesting approval of other instruments under the generic, you must complete a form for each instrument.

CERTIFICATION: Please read the certification carefully. If you incorrectly certify, the collection will be returned as improperly submitted or it will be disapproved.

Personally Identifiable Information: Provide answers to the questions. Note: Agencies should only collect PII to the extent necessary, and they should only retain PII for the period of time that is necessary to achieve a specific objective.

Gifts or Payments: If you answer yes to the question, please describe the incentive and provide a justification for the amount.

BURDEN HOURS:

Category of Respondents: Identify who you expect the respondents to be in terms of the following categories: (1) Individuals or Households;(2) Private Sector; (3) State, local, or tribal governments; or (4) Federal Government. Only one type of respondent can be selected per row.

No. of Respondents: Provide an estimate of the Number of respondents.

Participation Time: Provide an estimate of the amount of time required for a respondent to participate (e.g. fill out a survey or participate in a focus group)

Burden: Provide the Annual burden hours: Multiply the Number of responses and the participation time and divide by 60.

FEDERAL COST: Provide an estimate of the annual cost to the Federal government.

If you are conducting a focus group, survey, or plan to employ statistical methods, please provide answers to the following questions:

The selection of your targeted respondents. Please provide a description of how you plan to identify your potential group of respondents and how you will select them. If the answer is yes, to the first question, you may provide the sampling plan in an attachment.

Administration of the Instrument: Identify how the information will be collected. More than one box may be checked. Indicate whether there will be interviewers (e.g. for surveys) or facilitators (e.g., for focus groups) used.

Submit all instruments, instructions, and scripts are submitted with the request.