



To: Julie Wise, OMB

Through: Tomakie Washington, ACL

From: Susan Jenkins, ACL

Re: Approval for 3-Year PRA Clearance Package for the *National Survey of Older Americans Act Participants (NSOAAP)*

Date: 17 March 2021

In summary, ACL is submitting a 3-year renewal PRA clearance package with a) the addition of a rotating module to the collection instrument and b) non-substantive changes to the collection instrument (OMB Control Number: 0985-0023).

On August 20, 2019, OPE received Paperwork Reduction Act approval for the “National Survey of Older Americans Act Participants” (OMB Control Number: 0985-0023) – and this approval was to 1) inform OMB that the NSOAAP was not transitioning to a longitudinal survey, 2) state that NSOAAP would no longer need a one-year extension, 3) alert OMB to non-substantive changes to the information collection instrument, 4) inform OMB that NSOAAP is keeping the approved revisions to the information collection instrument, and 5) alert OMB to a forthcoming request to add a rotating module to the NSOAAP. The Terms of Clearance state:

Terms of the previous clearance remain in effect. Title updated (to remove "longitudinal ") and the change request is approved with the understanding that: a) NSOAAP is not transitioning to a longitudinal study, b) NSOAAP no longer needs a one-year extension at the end of the current 3-year approval period as is stated in the Terms of Clearance, c) non-substantive changes have been made to the information collection instrument, d) NSOAAP is keeping the revisions to the study questions that were approved on 4/11/18, and e) ACL still anticipates submitting a request to OMB to add a rotating module to the study. With this, only the “2019 14th NSOAAP Survey Instrument” is needed for the collection.

The purposes of this memo are to alert OMB to the submission of a 3-year renewal PRA clearance of the same information collection that was approved in 2019 with a request to add a) a rotating module to the collection instrument, b) non-substantive changes to the collection instrument, and c) correct references to the years covered by PRA packages in Table 1¹ (see below).

Anticipated Timelines Related to the Terms of Clearance

Table 1 outlines ACL’s timing and actions related to the Terms of Clearance for the NSOAAP.

¹Table 1 in the memo dated July 11, 2019, incorrectly included the statements “Currently Approved Information Collection Instrument to be collected **2019-2021**” and “Next 3-year Information Collection Instrument to be collected **2022-2024.**” The correct statements should be “Currently Approved Information Collection Instrument to be collected **2018-2020**” and “Next 3-year Information Collection Instrument to be collected **2021-2023.**”

Table 1.		
PRA Package	Action	Date
Currently Approved Information Collection Instrument to be collected 2018-2020	ACL submitted non-substantive modifications to OMB	7/11/19
	OMB approved with change (OMB Control Number: 0985-0023, expires 4/30/21)	8/20/19
	ACL collected information with collection instrument	Summer/Fall 2019
	ACL did not collect information with the collection instrument in 2020 due to the increased burden it may have put on the respondents during COVID-19	Summer/Fall 2020
Next 3-year Information Collection Instrument to be collected 2021-2023	ACL submitting PRA package for next 3-year clearance package, addition of rotating module, and non-substantive changes to the collection instrument	Anticipated 4/5/21
	Anticipated OMB approval of next 3-year clearance package	5/31/21
	ACL collects information with collection instrument and rotating module	Summer/Fall 2021

Summary of Substantive Change to the NSOAAP
Rotating Module

As previously indicated in correspondence dated, July 11, 2019, a rotating module is being added to the NSOAAP starting in 2021 (the survey was not fielded in 2020 due to the increased burden it may have put on respondents during COVID-19). The first rotating module topic is ‘The Effect of COVID-19 on Access to and Use of Older Americans Act Programs and Services.’ This module supplants the module on ‘Emergency Preparedness’ that was included in the 60-day FRN due to the ongoing health crisis older adults are experiencing as a result of COVID-19. The Emergency Preparedness module will be added to the 2022 collection instrument.

In developing the questions for the COVID-19 module, ACL collaborated with internal and external experts to select 10 to 13 questions (depending on the service received) directly from existing information collection instruments or slightly modified instruments to include on the module. These 10 to 13 questions are expected to result in a slight increase in burden for the respondents, approximately 5 minutes added to an approximately 35 minute survey. ACL welcomes public comments on the questions. As the survey maintains the same purpose, and retains the same sample, ACL requests the module only be required to undergo a 30-day public comment period. If this is acceptable to OMB, ACL proposes this streamlined process be used each year a rotating module is added to the survey.

Summary of Non-Substantive Changes to the NSOAAP

Non-Substantive Changes to the Collection Instrument

Due to COVID-19, several existing questions in the collection instrument need to be revised to reflect how older adults’ access to and use of Older Americans Act programs and services has changed during the pandemic.

ORIGINAL QUESTION	REVISED QUESTION
In the past year have you received home-delivered meals?	In the past year have you received meals from the meals program ?
How long have you been attending the lunch program?	How long have you been participating in the meals program ?
How many days each week do you eat at the senior center or meal site for lunch?	How many days each week do you receive a meal from the meals program ?
When was the last time you ate lunch at the at the senior center or meal site?	When was the last time you received a meal from the meals program ?
How would you rate the lunch program overall?	How would you rate the meal program overall?
Within the last 12 months, have you noticed any changes in the amount or quality of the food in your lunch program (CM)/ home-delivered meals (HDM)?	In the past 12 months since COVID, thinking about the meals or food you have received from {AAA}, how has the meals program changed for you?
Do the home-delivered meals arrive when expected?	In the past 12 months since COVID, how have you been receiving meals or food from {AAA}?
Does eating at the lunch program improve your health?	Does eating meals from the meal program improve your health?
On the days you eat a congregate meal, what portion of all the foods that you eat in a day does this meal represent?	On the days you received a meal , what portion of all the foods that you eat in a day does this meal represent?
How often is the meal delivered on time?	In the past 12 months since COVID, how have you been receiving meals or food from {AAA}?
Do home-delivered meals help you continue to live in your own home?	Do home-delivered food or meals from the meals program help you continue to live in your own home?
Do home-delivered meals help you eat healthier foods?	Does the meals program help you eat healthier foods?
Do you use the transportation service to get to a meals lunch program?	Do you use the transportation service to pick up food or to get a meal ?
Do the services you receive help you to continue to live at home?	Do the services you receive help you to continue to live independently ?
Does the meal program help you to continue to live at home?	Does the meal program help you to continue to live independently ?
Does the meal program help you to continue to live independently?	Do the home-delivered meals help you to continue to live independently ?
Does your family or friends provide assistance that helps you stay at home?	Does your family or friends provide assistance that helps you to continue to live independently ?