

12/08/2023

EDA Build Back Better Regional Challenge - Regional Impact Data Collection
OMB Control Number: 0610-0110

Proposed Survey Updates:

We have concluded the third quarter of data collection with this survey and have gathered feedback from coalitions (respondents) and the EDA team regarding the enhancement of survey flow and clarity. The modifications listed below will not impact the essence of the survey or the data collection process significantly. Below is a concise explanation of each change made to the existing OMB-approved survey (OMB Control Number 0610-0110), the existing survey question, and the reasoning behind the proposed change.

1. Combined Q13 and Q14 into a tabled response, sorting workforce development efforts by program length, and participants and completions.

Existing question: Q13 How many of the following workforce development efforts directly related to the BBBRC efforts this past quarter were: Developed, Funded, Launched, Expanded

Existing question: Q14 How many participants completed workforce training programs? If none, use 0 (zero).

Revised/Combined question: Q13 Provide the counts of participants and completions in workforce training programs by length of program in the table below. Workforce training programs may include any activity (training, course, credential program, etc.) that aims to increase the knowledge and skills of program participants in a vocation.

Participants should include any newly enrolled participant in any activity including but not limited to a training, course, or credential program. If programming began and ended within this past quarter, please include count in both columns.

Length of Program	Participants	Completions
Less than 1 month		
1-2 months		
3-6 months		
7-12 months		
13-24 months		
25-36 months		
37+ months		

Justification for the change: Feedback received from coalitions indicated that their workforce development efforts were not fully reflected or being captured with the current wording. This revised question and answer format very closely resembles the OMB-approved EDA Workforce Data Collection Instrument ([OMB Control Number: 0610-0109](#)) so there is precedent for this already.

Removing Q14 changes the survey numbering to change from Q14a-Q34, see below for a numbering change in “Sustain Regional Governance” as well.

2. Reworded a question for consistency and clarity

Existing Question: Q18 How much PRIVATE investment was secured (roundup dollars, no decimals) by type directly related to the BBBRC effort over the past quarter? If none, use 0 (zero).

Please note that investments by philanthropy, local, state, regional, and federal government is asked for on Q1 under the coalition progress section.

Revised question: How much PRIVATE investment was secured (roundup dollars, no decimals) by type for projects directly related to the BBBRC coalition? If none, use 0 (zero). Please note that investments by philanthropy, local, state, regional, and federal government is asked for on Q1 under the coalition progress section.

Justification for the change: To increase clarity, we have mirrored this question’s wording to align with the wording of Q1 (“Regarding your coalition's implementation/progress over the past quarter: How much PUBLIC investment from federal, state, and local governments as well as philanthropy was secured (roundup dollars, no decimals) by type for projects directly related to the BBBRC coalition? If none, use 0 (zero). Please note that PRIVATE investment, if any, is asked for on Q18 under the increasing new business growth and entrepreneurial activity section.”)

3. Added a hyperlink to support respondent understanding of each of the following questions (note that the numbering reflects that of the existing survey numbering):

Q14a	Q25a	Q17a
Q15a	Q27a	

Justification for the change: For these DEI questions, coalition/respondent feedback expressed confusion and disagreement with the definition of rural provided in the survey. We have added a hyperlink to the Census resource: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/12/29/2022-28286/2020-census-qualifying-urban-areas-and-final-criteria-clarifications>

4. Modified response options to separate the existing option of “Neither/N.A.”

Existing question: Q30 This section will ask about sustaining regional governance about your coalition. Would you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the members of your coalition this past quarter? Please note that if for example MOU was put in place and reported previously, select NA.

Existing question: Q34 Over this past quarter, would you agree or disagree on the following statements concerning coalition members and stakeholders:

Existing question: Q35 Would you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the BBBRC Community of Practice (CoP) you are part of?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Neither / N.A.

Justification for the change: Coalition/respondent feedback suggested to separate the Neither/NA option on the scale range. We moved Neither between Agree/Disagree for all of the above questions.

5. Removed a question

Existing question: Q29 How many businesses were involved in any of the following processes related to innovation? If none, use 0 (zero).

Access new sources of information

Impact of customer complaints on business practices

Monitor customer satisfaction

Improve goods or services over the past year

Sell new goods/services early or before competitors

Other

Justification for the removal/change: Coalitions/respondents reported confusion, did not understand the purpose of this question, or it did not apply. Due to the confusion and lack of relevant data, we have removed this entirely.

The removal of this question will cause the numbering of the final section, "Sustain Regional Governance" to change from Q30-36 to Q28-34.

6. Added guiding information

Existing question: Q26 How many businesses invested in or adopted new technologies this past quarter due to the direct efforts/activities of the coalition? If none, use 0 (zero).

Justification for the change: Coalitions reported confusion with this question and needed more context, we have added an info button with examples: "Refers to any technology not previously utilized by businesses (sub-awardees, partners or beneficiaries) including but not limited to

manufacturing, renewable and clean energy, Industry 4.0 and robotics, AI and Machine learning, etc."

7. Removed the following DEI Questions (note that the numbering reflects that of the existing survey numbering):

Q10a

Q18a

Q29a

Justification for the change/removal: Coalitions/respondents reported a difficulty in gathering DEI information, EDA proposed these DEI sub questions as the least relevant/essential of the DEI questions, therefore decreasing burden of reporting for coalitions.