

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
FOR PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

- 1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. What is the purpose for this information collection? Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Include a citation that authorizes the collection of information. Specify the review type of the collection (new, revision, extension, reinstatement with change, reinstatement without change). If revised, briefly specify the changes. If a rulemaking is involved, list the sections with a brief description of the information collection requirement, and/or changes to sections, if applicable.**

The current version of The Annual Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights (PAIR) Program Performance Report (Form RSA-509) is scheduled to expire on July 31, 2023. The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) has made minor changes to Part III., Statistical Information on Individuals Served, B. Gender of Individuals Served. More specifically, RSA added two data elements for “Nonbinary or another gender” and “Unknown.” In this section, the RSA-509 currently collects only data on “male” and “female” for gender. The data elements added by RSA for gender are consistent with those proposed by the U.S. Department of Education for its other information collection requests (ICRs) as they come up for renewal. RSA is requesting a revision of the RSA-509, to expire July 31, 2026.

The Form RSA-509 will be used to analyze and evaluate the PAIR Program administered by eligible protection and advocacy (P&A) systems in states and the P&A serving the American Indian Consortium. These systems provide services to eligible individuals with disabilities to protect their legal and human rights. RSA uses the form to meet specific data collection requirements of Section 509(k) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Rehabilitation Act), as amended by Title IV of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), 29 U.S.C. 794e(k), and its implementing Federal regulations at 34 C.F.R. § 381.32. The data reported by PAIR grantees using the form include demographic information about the individuals served, information describing the types of issues addressed through individual and systemic advocacy, and information about the results of these activities. PAIR grantees must report annually using the form that is due on or before December 30 each year.

- 2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.**

The collection of information through Form RSA-509 is necessary for RSA to furnish the President and Congress with data on the provision of PAIR services, as required by sections 13(a) and 509(k) of the Rehabilitation Act. Data reported by PAIR grantees through the RSA-509 have also helped RSA to establish a sound basis for future funding

requests. RSA also uses data from the form to evaluate the effectiveness of eligible systems within individual States and the PAIR serving the American Indian Consortium in meeting annual priorities and objectives, pursuant to section 13(b) of the Rehabilitation Act. Last, RSA has found the RSA-509 data useful in projecting trends in the provision of services from year to year.

3. **Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision of adopting this means of collection. Please identify systems or websites used to electronically collect this information. Also describe any consideration given to using technology to reduce burden. If there is an increase or decrease in burden related to using technology (e.g., using an electronic form, system or website from paper), please explain in number 12.**

RSA has developed an electronic management information system (MIS), which allows PAIR grantees to access and submit data online through its website (rsa.ed.gov). All 57 PAIR grantees submit the form using this method.

4. **Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item 2 above.**

Form RSA-509 provides information on the number of individuals with disabilities receiving protection and advocacy services authorized by Section 509 of the Rehabilitation Act for each Federal fiscal year (FFY). No similar information is available from other data sources.

5. **If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden. A small entity may be (1) a small business which is deemed to be one that is independently owned and operated and that is not dominant in its field of operation; (2) a small organization that is any not-for-profit enterprise that is independently owned and operated and is not dominant in its field; or (3) a small government jurisdiction, which is a government of a city, county, town, township, school district, or special district with a population of less than 50,000.**

The respondents to the RSA-509 are the P&A systems in each state and the P&A serving the American Indian Consortium. These organizations are State or private not-for-profit organizations. RSA included the respondents and the national organization that represents them (National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)) in the initial development of this collection of information in an effort to ensure that the information requested could be provided with minimal burden to the respondents.

- 6. Describe the consequences to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.**

Failure to collect the RSA-509 on an annual basis would result in non-compliance at both the Federal and State levels. As noted previously, section 13(b) of the Rehabilitation Act requires RSA to collect information from grantees to determine whether the purpose of the Rehabilitation Act is being met and to assess program performance. Section 13(a) of the Rehabilitation Act requires RSA to prepare a report to the President and to Congress on the activities carried out under the Rehabilitation Act, including the activities of the PAIR grantees. Finally, section 509(k) of the Rehabilitation Act requires RSA to submit a report to Congress each year describing the activities undertaken, the individuals served, and the types of issues addressed by the PAIR grantees. Because RSA uses the information obtained by this collection in preparing its annual report to the President and Congress, current data on PAIR services must be reported by PAIR grantees each year, in accordance with annual performance reporting requirements of 2 C.F.R. § 200.329(b) and (c).

- 7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner:**
- **requiring respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly;**
 - **requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;**
 - **requiring respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document;**
 - **requiring respondents to retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records for more than three years;**
 - **in connection with a statistical survey, that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results than can be generalized to the universe of study;**
 - **requiring the use of a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB;**
 - **that includes a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or that unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or**

- **requiring respondents to submit proprietary trade secrets, or other confidential information unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.**

There are no special circumstances that would require this information to be collected in any manner listed above.

- 8. As applicable, state that the Department has published the 60 and 30 Federal Register notices as required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB.**

Include a citation for the 60-day comment period (e.g., Vol. 84 FR ##### and the date of publication). Summarize public comments received in response to the 60-day notice and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden. If only non-substantive comments are provided, please provide a statement to that effect and that it did not relate or warrant any changes to this information collection request. In your comments, please also indicate the number of public comments received.

For the 30-day notice, indicate that a notice will be published. Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instruction and record keeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

Consultation with representatives of those from whom information is to be obtained or those who must compile records should occur at least once every 3 years – even if the collection of information activity is the same as in prior periods. There may be circumstances that may preclude consultation in a specific situation. These circumstances should be explained.

During its initial development, RSA shared Form RSA-509 with NDRN, an organization representing the respondents (P&A system in each State and the P&A serving the American Indian Consortium), and the respondents themselves. Changes were made pursuant to the comments received. A 60-day Federal Register Notice published on April 21, 2023 (88 FR 24605). One non-substantive comment was received, and no changes were made to the collection. In addition, RSA will publish a 30-day Federal Register Notice to allow public comment as part of this request for OMB approval of the revision of this information collection.

- 9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees with meaningful justification.**

There is no payment or gift to respondents.

10. **Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy. If personally identifiable information (PII) is being collected, a Privacy Act statement should be included on the instrument. Please provide a citation for the Systems of Record Notice and the date a Privacy Impact Assessment was completed as indicated on the IC Data Form. A confidentiality statement with a legal citation that authorizes the pledge of confidentiality should be provided.¹ If the collection is subject to the Privacy Act, the Privacy Act statement is deemed sufficient with respect to confidentiality. If there is no expectation of confidentiality, simply state that the Department makes no pledge about the confidentiality of the data. If no PII will be collected, state that no assurance of confidentiality is provided to respondents. If the Paperwork Burden Statement is not included physically on a form, you may include it here. Please ensure that your response per respondent matches the estimate provided in number 12.**

Confidentiality is assured because Form RSA-509 is an aggregate report.

11. **Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. The justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.**

Data for the RSA-509 are reported in aggregate. RSA periodically uses data from the RSA-509 to respond to information requests from PAIR grantees or from national stakeholder organizations. In the past, several of these requests have sought aggregated data on gender, among other datapoints. In addition, other programs in the national protection and advocacy system, of which the PAIR program is a component, have received requests for data regarding gender. Finally, there is a notable increase in public and government interest regarding gender in Federally-administered programs. For these reasons, RSA maintains a reasonable expectation that it will receive requests in the future regarding gender, and retains the corresponding question in this information collection instrument (Part III, Question B).

12. **Provide estimates of the hour burden for this current information collection request. The statement should:**

- **Provide an explanation of how the burden was estimated, including identification of burden type: recordkeeping, reporting or third-party disclosure. Address changes in burden due to the use of technology (if**

¹ Requests for this information are in accordance with the following ED and OMB policies: Privacy Act of 1974, OMB Circular A-108 – Privacy Act Implementation – Guidelines and Responsibilities, OMB Circular A-130 Appendix I – Federal Agency Responsibilities for Maintaining Records About Individuals, OMB M-03-22 – OMB Guidance for Implementing the Privacy Provisions of the E-Government Act of 2002, OMB M-06-15 – Safeguarding Personally Identifiable Information, OM:6-104 – Privacy Act of 1974 (Collection, Use and Protection of Personally Identifiable Information)

applicable). Generally, estimates should not include burden hours for customary and usual business practices.

- Please do not include increases in burden and respondents numerically in this table. Explain these changes in number 15.
- Indicate the number of respondents by affected public type (federal government, individuals or households, private sector – businesses or other for-profit, private sector – not-for-profit institutions, farms, state, local or tribal governments), frequency of response, annual hour burden. Unless directed to do so, agencies should not conduct special surveys to obtain information on which to base hour burden estimates. Consultation with a sample (fewer than 10) of potential respondents is desirable.
- If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burden in the table below.
- Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents of the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories. [Use this site](#) to research the appropriate wage rate. The cost of contracting out or paying outside parties for information collection activities should not be included here. Instead, this cost should be included in Item 14. If there is no cost to respondents, indicate by entering 0 in the chart below and/or provide a statement.

Provide a descriptive narrative here in addition to completing the table below with burden hour estimates.

The number of respondents required to complete this form is 57. All 57 respondents are PAIR grantees. RSA estimates the time required for each respondent to complete the form is an average of 16 hours, totaling 912 total burden hours for the 57 respondents combined (57 respondents x 16 hours). At an average hourly wage of \$51.81, the total annual cost is \$47,250.72 (912 hours x \$51.81). The cost per response is \$828.96 (16 hours X \$51.81). The estimate is consistent with that used in connection with similar reporting instruments used by RSA. RSA believes that the form can be completed by PAIR grantees within this estimated timeframe.

Estimated Annual Burden and Respondent Costs Table

Information Activity or IC (with type of respondent)	Sample Size (if applicable)	Respondent Response Rate (if applicable)	Number of Respondents	Number of Responses	Average Burden Hours per Response	Total Annual Burden Hours	Estimated Respondent Average Hourly Wage	Total Annual Costs (hourly wage x total burden hours)
RSA-509		100%	57	1	16	912	\$51.81	\$47,250.72

Information Activity or IC (with type of respondent)	Sample Size (if applicable)	Respondent Response Rate (if applicable)	Number of Respondents	Number of Responses	Average Burden Hours per Response	Total Annual Burden Hours	Estimated Respondent Average Hourly Wage	Total Annual Costs (hourly wage x total burden hours)
Annualized Totals			57	1	16	912	\$51.81	\$47,250.72

Please ensure the annual total burden, respondents and response match those entered in IC Data Parts 1 and 2, and the response per respondent matches the Paperwork Burden Statement that must be included on all forms.

13. **Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers resulting from the collection of information. (Do not include the cost of any hour burden shown in Items 12 and 14.)**
 - **The cost estimate should be split into two components: (a) a total capital and start-up cost component (annualized over its expected useful life); and (b) a total operation and maintenance and purchase of services component. The estimates should take into account costs associated with generating, maintaining, and disclosing or providing the information. Include descriptions of methods used to estimate major cost factors including system and technology acquisition, expected useful life of capital equipment, the discount rate(s), and the time period over which costs will be incurred. Capital and start-up costs include, among other items, preparations for collecting information such as purchasing computers and software; monitoring, sampling, drilling and testing equipment; and acquiring and maintaining record storage facilities.**
 - **If cost estimates are expected to vary widely, agencies should present ranges of cost burdens and explain the reasons for the variance. The cost of contracting out information collection services should be a part of this cost burden estimate. In developing cost burden estimates, agencies may consult with a sample of respondents (fewer than 10), utilize the 60-day pre-OMB submission public comment process and use existing economic or regulatory impact analysis associated with the rulemaking containing the information collection, as appropriate.**
 - **Generally, estimates should not include purchases of equipment or services, or portions thereof, made: (1) prior to October 1, 1995, (2) to achieve regulatory compliance with requirements not associated with the information collection, (3) for reasons other than to provide information or keep records for the government or (4) as part of customary and usual business or private**

practices. Also, these estimates should not include the hourly costs (i.e., the monetization of the hours) captured above in Item 12.

Total Annualized Capital/Startup Cost :N/A
 Total Annual Costs (O&M) :N/A _____
 Total Annualized Costs Requested :N/A

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government. Also, provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and support staff), and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information. Agencies also may aggregate cost estimates from Items 12, 13, and 14 in a single table.

Annual cost to Federal government	85 hours x \$44/hour	\$3,740.00
Annual Federal computer costs		\$500.00
Total cost to Federal government		\$4,240.00

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments. Generally, adjustments in burden result from re-estimating burden and/or from economic phenomenon outside of an agency's control (e.g., correcting a burden estimate or an organic increase in the size of the reporting universe). Program changes result from a deliberate action that materially changes a collection of information and generally are result of new statute or an agency action (e.g., changing a form, revising regulations, redefining the respondent universe, etc.). Burden changes should be disaggregated by type of change (i.e., adjustment, program change due to new statute, and/or program change due to agency discretion), type of collection (new, revision, extension, reinstatement with change, reinstatement without change) and include totals for changes in burden hours, responses and costs (if applicable).

Provide a descriptive narrative for the reasons of any change in addition to completing the table with the burden hour change(s) here.

This submission requires no changes to the burden for hours in current OMB inventory. RSA is using a higher Estimated Respondent Average Hourly Wage than it previously used. More specifically, RSA is using an hourly compensation rate of \$51.81 for VR counselors, which is the wage rate based on State-employed rehabilitation counselors (\$33/hr.) multiplied by the loaded wage factor of 1.57. The loaded wage factor accounts for benefits and other costs associated with an employee's hourly wage. This increase in the Estimated Respondent Average Hourly Wage accounts for an increase in costs totaling \$17,155.

	Program Change Due to New Statute	Program Change Due to Agency Discretion	Change Due to Adjustment in Agency Estimate
Total Burden			

Total Responses			
Total Costs (if applicable)			

- 16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.**

Reports are due to RSA within 90 days following the end of the fiscal year (approximately December 30 of each year). Data reported are evaluated and transmitted to the President and Congress in the Annual Report prepared by the Commissioner.

- 17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.**

RSA is not seeking approval to not display the expiration date.

- 18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in the Certification of Paperwork Reduction Act.**

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.