



**U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services**  
Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention

*Print Date:* 9/26/25

**Title:** National Environmental Assessment Reporting System (NEARS) OMB Package

**Project Id:** 0900f3eb81e72adc

**Accession #:** NCEH-FT-1/25/22-72adc

**Project Contact:** Laura G Brown

**Organization:** NCEH/ATSDR/DEHSP/WFEHSB/FT

**Status:** Project In Progress

**Intended Use:** Project Determination

**Estimated Start Date:** 03/01/2026

**Estimated Completion Date:** 02/28/2029

**CDC/ATSDR HRPO/IRB Protocol #:** N/A

**OMB Control #:** 0920-0980

**OMB Discontinuation Date:**

## **Determinations**

Determination	Justification	Completed	Entered By & Role
HSC: <b>Does NOT Require HRPO Review</b>	Not Research / Other <i>45 CFR 46.102(l)</i> Quality Assurance / Improvement	9/22/25	Ding_Yan (Shirley) (yad6) CIO HSC
PRA: <b>PRA Applies</b>		9/22/25	Ding_Yan (Shirley) (yad6) CIO OMB / PRA
ICRO: <b>PRA Applies</b>	OMB Approval date: 2/6/23 OMB Expiration date: 2/28/26	9/22/25	Zirger_Jeffrey (wtj5) ICRO Reviewer

## Description & Funding

### Description

**Priority:** Standard

**Date Needed:** 09/30/2025

**Priority Justification:**

**CDC Priority Area for this Project:** Readiness and Response

**Determination Start Date:** 03/25/22

This package requests a three-year Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) clearance for the National Environmental Assessment Reporting System (NEARS), OMB Control No. 0920-0980, Expiration Date: 02/28/2026. This includes revision of a previously approved information collection request (ICR).

**IMS/CIO/Epi-Aid/Lab-Aid/Chemical Exposure**

**Submission:**

No

**IMS Activation Name:** Not selected

**Submitted through IMS Clearance Matrix:** Not selected

**Primary Scientific Priority:** Not selected

**Secondary Scientific Priority (s):** Not selected

**Task Force Responsible:** Not selected

**CIO Emergency Response Name:** Not selected

**Epi-Aid Name:** Not selected

<b>Lab-Aid Name:</b>	Not selected
<b>Assessment of Chemical Exposure Name:</b>	Not selected
<b>Goals/Purpose</b>	The goal of NEARS is to continue to improve public health practice by providing a standardized, detailed reporting system for food safety programs, to collect foodborne outbreak environmental assessment data, and to establish a sound epidemiological basis for disease prevention activities.
<b>Objective:</b>	The foodborne outbreak environmental assessment data reported to NEARS will be used to characterize data on food vehicles and monitor trends; identify contributing factors and their environmental antecedents; generate hypotheses, guide planning, and implementation; evaluate food safety programs; and ultimately assist to prevent future outbreaks.
<b>Does your project measure health disparities among populations/groups experiencing social, economic, geographic, and/or environmental disadvantages?:</b>	No
<b>Does your project investigate underlying contributors to health inequities among populations /groups experiencing social, economic, geographic, and/or environmental disadvantages?:</b>	No
<b>Does your project propose, implement, or evaluate an action to move towards eliminating health inequities?:</b>	No
<b>Activities or Tasks:</b>	New Collection of Information, Data, or Biospecimens
<b>Target Populations to be Included/Represented:</b>	Businesses
<b>Tags/Keywords:</b>	Foodborne Diseases ; Outbreak investigation ; Public Health Surveillance
<b>CDC's Role:</b>	Activity originated and designed by CDC staff, or conducted at the specific request of CDC, or CDC staff will approve study design and data collection as a condition of any funding provided ; CDC employees will participate as co-authors in presentation(s) or publication(s) ; CDC employees will provide substantial technical assistance or oversight ; CDC is providing funding
<b>Method Categories:</b>	Individual Interviews (Qualitative); Observation; Outbreak Investigation; Technical Assistance
<b>Methods:</b>	During foodborne illness outbreak investigations, environmental health specialists collect detailed environmental data by conducting environmental assessments. These data identify how and why the food became contaminated with pathogens, and how and why these pathogens were not eliminated before ingestion. When reported to CDC via NEARS, this information provides an opportunity to systematically monitor and evaluate environmental factors, which can then be used to develop effective foodborne illness outbreak response and preventative controls.
<b>Collection of Info, Data or Biospecimen:</b>	Data from foodborne outbreak environmental assessments are collected by environmental health professionals responding to foodborne outbreaks at retail food establishments. Data are collected through direct observations at the establishment, and through manager interviews or pen-and-paper at the establishment. Participating food safety programs then enter their data into a secured web-based system designed to make data entry easy for respondents.
<b>Expected Use of Findings/Results and their impact:</b>	The information collected through NEARS is primarily used by the CDC to identify and understand environmental factors (contributing factors and environmental antecedents) associated with foodborne illness outbreaks. Data collected through NEARS will also be used to describe outbreaks and outbreak responses, describe environmental factors associated with outbreaks, and describe the associations between environmental antecedents and specific contributing factors.

Could Individuals potentially be identified based on No  
Information Collected?

## Funding

Funding Type	Funding Title	Funding #	Original Budget Yr	# Years Award	Budget Amount
CDC Cooperative Agreement	Environmental Health Specialists Network	RFA-EH-20-001	2020	5	1540700.00

## HSC Review

### HSC Attributes

Quality Assurance / Improvement Yes

## Regulation and Policy

Do you anticipate this project will require review by No  
a CDC IRB or HRPO?

Estimated number of study participants

Population - Children Protocol Page #:

Population - Minors Protocol Page #:

Population - Prisoners Protocol Page #:

Population - Pregnant Women Protocol Page #:

Population - Emancipated Minors Protocol Page #:

#### **Suggested level of risk to subjects**

**Do you anticipate this project will be exempt research or non-exempt research**

#### **Requested consent process waivers**

<b>Informed consent for adults</b>	No Selection
<b>Children capable of providing assent</b>	No Selection
<b>Parental permission</b>	No Selection
<b>Alteration of authorization under HIPAA Privacy Rule</b>	No Selection

#### **Requested Waivers of Documentation of Informed Consent**

<b>Informed consent for adults</b>	No Selection
<b>Children capable of providing assent</b>	No Selection
<b>Parental permission</b>	No Selection

#### **Consent process shown in an understandable language**

<b>Reading level has been estimated</b>	No Selection
<b>Comprehension tool is provided</b>	No Selection
<b>Short form is provided</b>	No Selection
<b>Translation planned or performed</b>	No Selection
<b>Certified translation / translator</b>	No Selection
<b>Translation and back-translation to/from target language(s)</b>	No Selection
<b>Other method</b>	No Selection

#### **Clinical Trial**

<b>Involves human participants</b>	No Selection
<b>Assigned to an intervention</b>	No Selection
<b>Evaluate the effect of the intervention</b>	No Selection
<b>Evaluation of a health related biomedical or</b>	No Selection

**behavioral outcome**

**Registerable clinical trial**      No Selection

**Other Considerations**

**Exception is requested to PHS informing those  
bested about HIV serostatus**      No Selection

**Human genetic testing is planned now or in the  
future**      No Selection

**Involves long-term storage of identifiable biological  
specimens**      No Selection

**Involves a drug, biologic, or device**      No Selection

**Conducted under an Investigational New Drug  
exemption or Investigational Device Exemption**      No Selection

**Institutions & Staff**

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**Institutions**

Will you be working with an outside Organization or Institution? Yes

Institutions yet to be added .....

**Staff**

Staff Member	SIQT Exp. Date	CITI Biomedical Exp. Date	CITI Social & Behavioral Exp. Date	CITI Good Clinical Practice Exp. Date	CITI Good Laboratory Practice Exp. Date	Staff Role	Email	Phone	Organization
Adam Kramer	08/07 /2026		12/23/2025			Co-Investigator		404-498-1228	FOOD
Beth Wittry	08/16 /2026		10/31/2026			Co-Investigator		770-488-7333	FOOD
Erin Mortiz	08/28 /2026		02/21/2028			Co-Investigator	nrj8@cdc.gov	404-498-2756	FOOD
Laura Brown	08/07 /2026		07/18/2025			Principal Investigator		770-488-2	WATER FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BRANCH

## Data

### DMP

**Proposed Data Collection Start Date:** 9/1/22

**Proposed Data Collection End Date:** 8/31/25

**Proposed Public Access Level:** Public

**Public Access Justification:** Data will be released publicly with each publication.

**How Access Will Be Provided for Data:** Datasets will be release on the CDC Stacks Public Health Publications website. The sites of the food safety program will be de-identified and free text reviewed to ensure it contains no identifying information available for the restaurant or program. All data are stored behind the CDC firewall.

**Plans for Archival and Long Term Preservation:**

## Spatiality

Spatiality (Geographic Locations) yet to be added .....

## Dataset

Dataset Title	Dataset Description	Data Publisher /Owner	Public Access Level	Public Access Justification	Landing Page URL	Direct Download URL	Type of Data Released	Collection Start Date	Collection End Date
Dataset yet to be added...									

## Supporting Info

Current	CDC Staff Member and Role	Date Added	Description	Supporting Info Type	Supporting Info
	Zirger_Jeffrey (wtj5) ICRO Reviewer	09/22/2025	NOA 0920-0980 (2023)	Notice of Action	NOA 0920-0980_2023.pdf
	Brown_Laura R (lrg0) Project Contact	09/19/2025	This file contains the data collection forms for this PRA revision.	Data Collection Form	NEARS data collection forms 9-25.zip
	Brown_Laura R (lrg0) Project Contact	09/19/2025	This is the 60 day FRN for NEARS OMB package.	Paperwork Reduction Act Form	0 - 60-day_FRN_NEARS 9-25.docx
	Brown_Laura R (lrg0) Project Contact	09/19/2025	This is our 60-day FRN request for the NEARS OMB package.	Paperwork Reduction Act Form	0 - 60-day FRN Publication Request Form 9-25.docx
Current	Brown_Laura R (lrg0) Project Contact	09/19/2025	This file contains the data collection forms for this PRA revision.	Data Collection Form	NEARS data collection forms 9-25.zip
Current	Brown_Laura R (lrg0) Project Contact	09/19/2025	This is the 60 day FRN for NEARS OMB package.	Paperwork Reduction Act Form	0 - 60-day_FRN_NEARS 9-25.docx
Current	Brown_Laura R (lrg0) Project Contact	09/19/2025	This is our 60-day FRN request for the NEARS OMB package.	Paperwork Reduction Act Form	0 - 60-day FRN Publication Request Form 9-25.docx
	Zirger_Jeffrey (wtj5) ICRO Reviewer	07/26/2022	NOA 0920-0980 (2019)	Notice of Action	0920-0980_2019.pdf
	Davis_Stephanie I. (sgd8) PRA Reviewer	07/25/2022	NEARS 30D package	Paperwork Reduction Act Form	NEARS 30D to ICRO 20220725.zip
	Moritz_Erin (nrj8) PRA Reviewer	07/22/2022	Updated package and associated documents.	Paperwork Reduction Act Form	NEARS Submitted 7-22-22.zip
	Davis_Stephanie I. (sgd8) PRA Reviewer	07/18/2022	30D ICR zipfile with comments /edits.	Paperwork Reduction Act Form	Files rev OS.zip
	Moritz_Erin (nrj8)	07/15/2022	Zip file containing the revised 30 day FRN and ICR and supporting	Paperwork Reduction Act Form	NEARS OMR Submitted 7-15-22.zip

PRA Reviewer	07/12/2022	30 day FRN and ICR and supporting documents.	Paperwork Reduction Act Form	NEARS OMB Submitted 7/12/2022
Davis_Stephanie I. (sgd8) PRA Reviewer	07/12/2022	Zipfile of NEARS 30D FRN and Revision ICR. Please address comments and revisions. Add attachments marked PLACEHOLDER. I have edited the burden table to include NEARS registration to match the NCEZID DFWED OES PIA system description.	Paperwork Reduction Act Form	NEARS 30D FRN ICR rev OS.zip
Moritz_Erin (nrj8) PRA Reviewer	07/07/2022	Zip file containing the 30 day FRN and ICR for the NEARS surveillance system.	Paperwork Reduction Act Form	NEARS OMB Submitted 7722.zip
Davis_Stephanie I. (sgd8) PRA Reviewer	06/24/2022	Zipfile of 30D FRN and ICR reviewed with comments from OS	Paperwork Reduction Act Form	Files rev OS.zip
Moritz_Erin (nrj8) PRA Reviewer	06/22/2022	Compressed file includes supporting statements A and B, relevant attachments, the 30-day FRN, and burden worksheets.	Paperwork Reduction Act Form	NEARS OMB Submitted 06222022.zip
Davis_Stephanie I. (sgd8) PRA Reviewer	05/09/2022	30D FRN publication request and revision ICR files with OS comments to address.	Paperwork Reduction Act Form	Files rev OS.zip
Moritz_Erin (nrj8) Project Contact	04/27/2022	The updated compressed file contains: Supporting Statement A, Supporting Statement B, attachments and appendix documents, the 30 day FRN, and the 30 day FRN Publication Request Form.	Paperwork Reduction Act Form	Submit to STARS 04272022.zip
Moritz_Erin (nrj8) Project Contact	03/17/2022	Compressed file contains: Supporting Statement A, Supporting Statement B, 10 attachments (including the 60 day FRN [Attachment 3]), and the 60 day FRN Publication Request Form.	Paperwork Reduction Act Form	NEARS OMB Package.zip



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