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Comment Submitted by Anonymous

Posted by the **Department of Housing and Urban Development** on Apr 20, 2026[Docket \(/docket/HUD-2006-0262\)](/docket/HUD-2006-0262) / [Document \(HUD-2006-0262-0013\) \(/document/HUD-2006-0262-0013\)](/document/HUD-2006-0262-0013)
/ [Comment](#)

Comment

Comment on HUD 60-Day PRA Notice: Public Housing Reform; Change in Admission and Occupancy Requirements

OMB Control No. 2577-0230 | Docket: HUD-2006-0262

I. Legal Standard

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, an agency seeking OMB approval of an information collection must provide a specific, objectively supported estimate of respondent burden. 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(2). This requires the agency to identify the activities that constitute a response and to support the time estimate with reference to those defined activities. Where a collection encompasses activities that differ in kind, trigger, or frequency, the estimate must be supported at the level of those activities. This requirement applies to revisions as well as initial approvals; where the scope of underlying activities has changed, the burden estimate must reflect those changes with corresponding specificity.

II. The Burden Estimate Cannot Be Validated Because the Underlying Activities Are Not Defined or Separated

HUD presents this collection as a single annual response per public housing agency, estimated at 24 hours. The notice describes, however, at least three materially distinct activities: maintenance and periodic updating of written admission and occupancy policies; annual reporting obligations introduced by the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act of 2016, including over-income family counts and waiting list data; and provision of policies in response to requests from tenants, legal aid organizations, HUD, and other parties.

These activities are not interchangeable. Policy maintenance is ongoing and internally driven. HOTMA reporting is a distinct statutory obligation — established under Section 103 of HOTMA, amending the United States Housing Act of 1937 — that requires PHAs to compile and transmit specific data on defined subject matter on an annual cycle. Request-driven disclosure is externally triggered, event-dependent, and variable in frequency and scope. These functions cannot be represented as a single “response” with a single associated time estimate without identifying how each component contributes to the total.

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HUD does not identify which of these activities constitute the single annual “response” reflected in its estimate of 1 response per respondent and 24 hours per response, nor does it provide a basis for allocating that time across activities. HOTMA reporting — a recurring data-based requirement with defined outputs — cannot be treated as a component of policy maintenance without analytical justification HUD has not provided. The request-driven component presents an additional structural problem: HUD provides no volume assumptions, frequency estimates, or variability bounds. Without such information, there is no basis to derive a fixed annual burden per respondent from activities that are externally triggered and variable in occurrence.

Because the underlying activities are not defined or separated, the 24-hour estimate cannot be disaggregated or tested. The collection as described requires separate identification of policy maintenance activities, HOTMA reporting requirements, and request-driven disclosure, along with independent burden estimates for each. Where HOTMA reporting is identified as a distinct component of the collection, consistency in the burden estimate requires that it be evaluated as a separate reporting activity in subsequent revisions.

III. Request

OMB should not approve this collection as submitted. HUD should be required to: (1) identify the specific activities constituting a response under this collection; (2) provide separate burden estimates for policy maintenance, HOTMA reporting, and request-driven disclosure; and (3) supply a methodology for any burden component attributable to externally triggered requests, including the volume and frequency assumptions underlying that estimate.

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