

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT A**  
**U.S. Department of Commerce**  
**U.S. Census Bureau**  
**Survey of State Government Research and Development**  
**OMB Control No. 0607-0933**

**Abstract**

The Survey of State Government Research and Development (SGRD) provides comprehensive, uniform statistics regarding the extent of research and development (R&D) activity performed and funded by departments and agencies in each of the nation's 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

The Census Bureau conducts this survey on behalf of the U.S. National Science Foundation's (NSF) National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES).

NCSES sponsors surveys of R&D activities of businesses, government, higher education, and other private nonprofit organizations. The results of these surveys provide a consistent information base for both federal and state government officials, industry professionals, and researchers to use in formulating public policy and planning in science and technology. These surveys allow for the analysis of current and historical trends of R&D in the U.S. and in international comparisons of R&D with other countries. The data collected from the SGRD fills a void that previously existed for collection of R&D activities. Although NCSES conducted periodic data collections of state government R&D in 1995, 1988 and 1987, more frequent collection was necessary to account for the changing dynamic of state governments' role in performing and funding R&D and their role as fiduciary intermediaries of federal funds for R&D. The survey is a census of state government departments, agencies, commissions, public authorities, and other dependent entities as defined by the Census Bureau's Census of Governments program, that performed or funded R&D activities in a given fiscal year.

**Justification**

- 1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Attach a copy of the appropriate section of each statute and regulation mandating or authorizing the collection of information.**

This survey is conducted under the authority of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended, the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010, and collected under Title 13, United States Code, Section 8(b) (Attachment A).

The National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) within the National Science Foundation (NSF) collects, maintains, and disseminates information on science

and engineering resources in the United States. Specifically, Section 505 within the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 directs NSF as follows:

“(a) Establishment- There is established within the Foundation a National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics that shall serve as a central Federal clearinghouse for the collection, interpretation, analysis, and dissemination of objective data on science, engineering, technology, and research and development.

(b) Duties- In carrying out subsection (a) of this section, the Director, acting through the Center shall--

(1) collect, acquire, analyze, report, and disseminate statistical data related to the science and engineering enterprise in the United States and other nations that is relevant and useful to practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and the public, including statistical data on--

(A) research and development trends;...”

The SGRD Survey provides essential data on the resources devoted to research and development by the nation’s fifty state governments as well as the governments of the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The public investments in R&D by the state governments totals over \$3 billion as of FY 2024. Conducted annually since FY 2009, the survey provides both summary data on R&D resources by source of funds, type of performer, government function, R&D personnel, and capital expenditures of plant and major equipment for R&D.

Results of this survey are combined with other NCSES data for the federal and business sectors to arrive at national levels of R&D spending, as required by the law cited above. Without information from the SGRD survey, NSF policymakers and planners, as well as other policymakers in the Executive Branch, Congress and the states, would have an incomplete and inaccurate understanding of the Nation’s R&D activities.

**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.**

Legislators, policy officials, and researchers rely on statistics to make informed decisions about R&D investment at the Federal, state, and local level.

State government officials and policy makers garner the most benefit from the results of this survey. Governors and legislatures need a reliable, comprehensive source of data to help in evaluating how best to attract the high-tech R&D industries to their state. Officials are able to evaluate their investment in R&D based on comparisons with other states. These comparisons include the sources of funding, the type of R&D being conducted, and the type of R&D performer.

State governments serve a unique role within the national portfolio of R&D. Not only are they both performers and funders of R&D like other sectors, but they also serve as fiduciary intermediaries between the Federal Government and other R&D performers while also providing state specific funds for R&D. The information collected from the SGRD provides data users with perspective on this complex flow of funds. Survey results are used at the Federal level to assess and direct investment in technology and economic issues. Congressional committees and the Congressional Research Service use results of the R&D surveys. The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) uses these data to estimate the contribution of state agency-funded R&D to the overall impact of treating R&D as an investment in BEA's statistics of gross domestic product by state-area.

NCSES also provides the official U.S. statistics on R&D to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). OECD measures R&D through data on R&D personnel and R&D expenditures. Under the aegis of this legislative mandate, NCSES and its predecessors have sponsored surveys of R&D since 1953, including the SGRD since 2006.

NSF uses data from this survey in various publications produced about the state of R&D in the U.S. The *Science and Engineering Indicators*, for example, is a biennial report mandated by Congress and describes quantitatively the condition of the country's R&D efforts and includes data from the SGRD. Survey results are also included in the *National Patterns of Research and Development* (National Patterns) report's tabulations. The National Patterns report compiles statistical data from all R&D performing sectors of the economy, including those of state government agencies, to provide a comprehensive view of the nation's R&D enterprise. The National Patterns report is relied on by policy makers at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), the Congressional Research Service, and the Government Accountability Office, as well as by the OECD among other users interested in the economic contributions of R&D across the U.S.

Final survey results produced by NCSES contain state and national estimates and are useful to a variety of data users interested in R&D performance, including: The National Science Board, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), OSTP and other science policy makers, institutional researchers, private organizations, state governments, media, nonprofit organizations, and foreign government officials. All users are able to utilize this information in an attempt to better understand the Nation's R&D resources.

**3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g. permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also, describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden.**

SGRD primarily utilizes email, fillable PDFs and Excel spreadsheets to obtain data from respondents.

The survey announcement email is sent to Governors' (and mayor of D.C.) offices to announce the survey and solicit assignment of a State Coordinator. A simple email response is requested providing the name and contact information of a state official to serve as coordinator.

The State Coordinators are then emailed an Excel file (Attachment B) with a list of state agencies the Census Bureau, in coordination with NCSES, has determined have the capacity to perform or fund R&D. State coordinators are asked to review the list, make updates as necessary, and email the spreadsheet back to Census. Many state coordinators will also email individual agency respondents to alert them to the survey and to the importance of representing their state's R&D investments accurately. Later, state coordinators are asked to review final data submitted by state agencies.

The State Agency Form (Attachment C) is sent as an email requesting data on their R&D expenditures as of the end of the fiscal year. The survey instrument state agency form is attached to the e-mail sent directly to agency respondents. This fillable-PDF form reduces the time to report and improves respondent experience through: 1) carrying forward values previously entered and auto-summing data where appropriate; and 2) automated data checks. Respondents are instructed to complete the form and email the completed copy back to the Census Bureau. Alternatively, agency respondents can provide survey responses over the phone by calling a Census Bureau analyst. Data are then entered into the database by Census Bureau staff from the completed state agency form. There is no on-line submission at this time as the security requirements built around the Census Bureau on-line data collection are designed to ensure the protection of and confidentiality of data collected under Title 13. However, data on state and local governments are specifically excluded from the Title 13 confidentiality requirements. As such the additional levels of security built on the on-line data collection system were unnecessarily cumbersome for state government agencies and reduced response and cooperation.

**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 Question 2.**

The Census Bureau and NCSSES maintain close liaison and share information with other government agencies that have an interest in R&D statistics to ensure duplication of data collection does not occur. Some of these agencies include, but are not limited to, OMB, OSTP, and the BEA. Although some states produce reports or conduct small surveys targeted at specific activities or components of R&D.

The SGRD is the only comprehensive source of R&D data on state governments collected on a nationwide scale using uniform definitions, concepts, and procedures. There are no other sources of information available, publicly or privately, that capture detailed expenditures for U.S. state government R&D by source of funds, type of performer, measurements of basic research, applied research, or experimental development, as well as data on the number of employees and full time equivalents devoted to R&D.

**5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden.**

To minimize total burden for the survey, the project staff coordinates with central state contacts to pre-select departments and agencies that likely conduct R&D activities. This phase of the survey helps to eliminate burden from most state government entities that do not have R&D data to report.

Items on the form have been reviewed by state government experts through several iterations of cognitive and usability testing and are consistent with common recordkeeping practices of respondents.

**6. Describe the consequence 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.**

NCSSES currently sponsors R&D surveys of businesses, government, higher education, and other private nonprofit organizations. Data from these organizations are collected on an annual basis and the results are vital to policy makers at all levels of government, to the business community, and to those in the science and technology research community. Less frequent collection of state government R&D data would result in inconsistent comparisons and compilations with these other surveys. Less frequent collection of these data will also result in gaps in the data being used by BEA for state-area gross domestic product.

**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 that 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 which unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or
- requiring respondents to submit proprietary trade secret, 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 for this data collection.

8. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publications in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8 (d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden.

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.

The published *Federal Register* of November 21, 2025, Volume 90, Number 223, Page 52616-52617, contained a pre-submission notice inviting comments about the plans to

submit this request.

We received a letter of support from the BEA (Attachment E).

One additional comment relevant to the collection was received (Attachment F) expressing concerns over data quality and appearances of certain survey materials. These concerns are taken under advisement and will be considered to potentially make improvements to future cycles of SGRD.

The Census Bureau and the NCSES conduct annual debriefings with respondents to the survey.

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

No payments or gifts are given to respondents of the survey.

**10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy. If the collection requires a systems of records notice (SORN) or privacy impact assessment (PIA), those should be cited and described here.**

The data collected in this survey are from public records, the information is not deemed confidential.

**11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior or attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. This 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.**

There are no questions in the survey that are considered sensitive in nature.

**12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information.**

- **Indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated. 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 the hour burden on respondents is expected to vary widely because of differences in activity, size, or complexity, show the range of estimated hour burden, and explain the reasons for the variance. Generally, estimates should not include burden hours for customary and usual business practices.**

- **If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burdens.**
- **Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories. The cost of contracting out or paying outside parties for information collection activities should not be included here. Instead, this cost should be included under ‘Annual Cost to Federal Government’ (Item #14).**

The total annual burden estimate we are requesting for this collection is 1,456 hours.

Each year, 52 respondents will receive the Governor’s Email. This email asks respondents to nominate a state coordinator. We estimate this process to take five minutes. Based on interviews with state officials, the estimated burden on each state coordinator is 1 hour. The state coordinators are asked to complete a Survey Frame-Review Module that includes the identification of department and agency contacts. The department and agency respondents are asked to complete a fillable-PDF form which requires approximately two hours to complete.

Respondent Type	Number	Burden Estimate per Response	Total Burden Hours
Governor	52	5 Minutes	4
State Coordinator	52	1 Hour	52
Department / Agency	700	2 Hours	1,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>-----</b>	<b>1,456</b>

According to the May 2024 Occupational Employment Statistics from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) website, the mean hourly wage for accountants (13-2011 Accountants & Auditors) was \$44.96. The total annual cost to respondents for their time to respond for fiscal year 2026 is estimated to be \$65,462.

**13. Provide an estimate for 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 already reflected on the burden worksheet).**

We do not expect respondents to incur any cost other than their time to respond. The information requested is of the type and scope normally contained in agency records and no special hardware or software is necessary to provide answers to this information collection. Therefore, respondents are not expected to incur any capital and startup costs or systems maintenance costs in responding. Further, purchasing of outside information collection services, if performed by the respondent, is part of usual and customary business practices and not specifically required for this information collection.

**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.**

We expect the total annual cost to the Federal government to be approximately \$380,000 with the cost to be borne by NCSES within the U.S. NSF. This cost is expected to be relatively constant for 2026-2028.

**15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in ROCIS.**

There are no programmatic changes or adjustments reported in ROCIS.

**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.**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>FY 2026 SGRD Planned Completion Date</b>
Survey Announcement (Governors Email) Sent	August 2026
Frame Maintenance Complete	August 2026
State Coordinator Email Sent	September 2026

Agency Email Sent	November 2026
Closeout Collection Operations	June 2027
Micro Data Review Complete	June 2027
Macro Data Review Complete	July 2027
Deliver Final Tabulations	July 2027
Deliver Methodology Report	September 2027

**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.**

The expiration date of OMB approval will be displayed on the questionnaire.

**18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in "Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions."**

The collection of information for the survey complies with 5 CFR 1320.9 without exception.