

Supporting Statement A

Rural Northern Border Outreach Program Performance

OMB Control No. 0915-XXXX - New

Terms of Clearance: None

A. Justification

1. Circumstances Making the Collection of Information Necessary

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) is requesting OMB approval to collect grantee level performance data for the Rural Northern Border Region Outreach Program (RNBR-OP). RNBR-OP is authorized under 42 U.S.C. 254c(e) (Section 330A(e) of the Public Health Service Act) to promote the delivery of health care services to rural underserved populations in Northern Border Regional Commission counties in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont. This authority permits HRSA to "award grants to eligible entities to promote rural health care services outreach by improving and expanding the delivery of health care services to include new and enhanced services in rural areas through community engagement and evidence-based or innovative, evidence-informed models" (42 U.S.C. 254c(e)).

2. Purpose and Use of Information Collection

The purpose of this new data collection is to assess RNBR-OP awardees' progress toward meeting RNBR-OP goals. Additionally, HRSA will be able to monitor and assess the impact of the RNBR-OP program, and identify improvements made by RNBR-OP awardees in specific topic areas. RNBR-OP grantees will submit annual reports to HRSA on performance measures through this collection. These performance measures may be used for the report to Congress required under 42 U.S.C. 254c(i).

The RNBR-OP performance measures will cover the following topic areas: 1) capacity/organizational information; 2) workforce training; 3) access/population demographics; 4) direct clinical services; and 4) sustainability.

If HRSA cannot collect this RNBR-OP performance data, HRSA will be unable to:

- comprehensively and adequately monitor grantees progression of grant goals and activities related to the delivery of health care services in rural communities;
- understand how grant funds are impacting population health activities or being utilized to serve the grantee's target population as described in their application;

- and
- measure the success and impact of the RNBR-OP's overall objectives.

3. Use of Improved Information Technology and Burden Reduction

This information collection is fully (100 percent) electronic. HRSA will be using a web-based secured platform to house the data collection instrument as well as allowing RNBR-OP awardees to electronically submit their data to HRSA.

4. Efforts to Identify Duplication and Use of Similar Information

There are no other information/data collections currently available for the RNBR-OP.

5. Impact on Small Businesses or Other Small Entities

HRSA has made an effort to ensure that the RNBR-OP data collection will not have a significant impact on small business entities. The information being requested by RNBR-OP awardees has been held to the minimum required for the intended use of the data.

6. Consequences of Collecting the Information Less Frequently

RNBR-OP respondents will respond to this data collection annually during their project period. HRSA needs this information in order to:

- comprehensively and adequately monitor grantees progression of grant goals and activities related to the delivery of health care services in rural communities;
- understand how grant funds are impacting population health activities or being utilized to serve the grantee's target population as described in their application; and
- measure the success and impact of the RNBR-OP's overall objectives.

There are no legal obstacles to reduce the burden.

7. Special Circumstances Relating to the Guidelines of 5 CFR 1320.5

The request fully complies with the regulation.

8. Comments in Response to the Federal Register Notice/Outside Consultation

Section 8A:

A 60-day notice published in the Federal Register on February 2, 2026, vol. 91, No. 21; pp. 4569-4570. There were no public comments.

A 30-day notice published in the Federal Register on April 28, 2026, vol. 91, No. 81; pp. 22843-44.

Section 8B:

HRSA consulted with 4 current RNBR-OP grantees in 2026 to assess the burden of this

data collection.

9. Explanation of any Payment/Gift to Respondents

Respondents will not receive any payments or gifts.

10. Assurance of Confidentiality Provided to Respondents

Only aggregate data will be collected. Data will be kept private to the extent allowed by law.

11. Justification for Sensitive Questions

HRSA will be collecting race/ethnicity data at an aggregate level. The purpose is to ensure that RNBR-OP grant projects funded with Federal dollars are meeting the needs of the population served.

12. Estimates of Annualized Hour and Cost Burden

12A. Estimated Annualized Burden Hours

Type of Respondent	Form Name	No. of Respondents	No. Responses per Respondent	Average Burden per Response (in hours)	Total Burden Hours
RNBR-OP Project Director	RNBR-OP Performance Measures Report	13	1	17	221
Total		13	1	17	221

The number of respondents is based on the number of current RNBR-OP grantees. The number of responses per respondent is because RNBR-OP grantees will submit the data once a year. The estimated average burden hours per response was determined by consulting four current RNBR-OP grantees. They were asked to estimate how much time it would take to review the instructions; processing and maintaining information; training personnel to be able to collect the information; search existing data sources, gather and maintain the data needed, and complete and review the collection of information. An average of the four estimates was calculated to determine the average burden response.

12B.

Estimated Annualized Burden Costs

Type of Respondent	Total Burden Hours	Hourly Wage Rate (x2)	Total Respondent Costs
Project Director	221	\$96.88	\$21,410.48
Total	221	\$96.88	\$21,410.48

To estimate the hourly wage for a Project Director, HRSA used the most recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The chosen occupation is Project Management Specialists (SOC Code 13-1082), as this category most accurately reflects the coordination of budgets, schedules, and staffing that is typical of grant project directors.

- Source: [Overview of BLS Wage Data by Area and Occupation: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)
- Median Hourly Wage: \$48.44
- Locality Adjustment: The Median hourly rate is used as opposed to adjusting for locality, since award recipients are spread across the country.
- Overhead/Benefits: Wage has been doubled to account for overhead costs.

13. Estimates of other Total Annual Cost Burden to Respondents or Recordkeepers/Capital Costs

Other than their time, there is no cost to respondents.

14. Annualized Cost to Federal Government

The data collection platform is maintained through an information technology (IT) contract at the HRSA level. The initial build-out cost attributable to the RNBR-OP is estimated at \$195,212. In subsequent years, costs are projected at \$37,260 annually to support ongoing maintenance and system enhancements.

The estimated annual cost for Federal staff to perform data analysis, reporting, program monitoring, and recipient support cost of \$6,302.16 per year. This cost is estimated as 72 hours of staff time per year at a GS-13, Step 1 salary level, estimated hourly wage of \$58.35 (locality pay is based in the Washington-Baltimore-Arlington area) plus 50% for benefits and fringe ($[\$58.35 \text{ per hour} + \$29.18 \text{ fringe per hour}] \times 72 \text{ hours} = \$6,302.16$).

The RNBR-OP program is a multi-year program. Data collection will happen annually for

up to two years. The total cost to the Federal Government for this project over a two-year period is \$245,076.32, with an average annual cost of \$122,538.16.

15. Explanation for Program Changes or Adjustments

This is a new information collection.

16. Plans for Tabulation, Publication, and Project Time Schedule

FORHP does not plan to release a publicly available dataset using this data. Releasing this data would have privacy implications and negatively impact the communities served. FORHP will not publish this data to provide sufficient protection and assurance of full confidentiality to respondents and participants. This information is collected to fulfill GPRA requirements, including for measures published in the annual HRSA Budget (see P.L. 352, Section 1116). Aggregate data is also used to assess the progress and success of this program. The information is accessible to the grantees as the data relates to them.

This is a recurring data collection that program recipients report once a year. We are requesting clearance of this information collection for the next two years. The next reporting period is scheduled for Fall 2026.

This information collection will not use statistical methods such as sampling, imputation, or other statistical estimation techniques.

17. Reason(s) Display of OMB Expiration Date is Inappropriate

The OMB number and Expiration date will be displayed on every page of every form/instrument.

18. Exceptions to Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

There are no exceptions to the certification.