Next Generation of Enhanced Employment Strategies Project

OMB Information Collection Request
0970 - 0545

Supporting Statement
Part A

APRIL 2026

Submitted By:
Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation
Administration for Children and Families
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Part A

Executive Summary

- **Type of Request:** This revision request is to extend approval of one follow-up survey without changes and to update the request to reflect that all other data collection previously approved are now complete.

- **Progress to Date:** Information collection for the Next Generation of Enhanced Employment Strategies (NextGen) Project was originally approved in April 2020. Currently, the NextGen Project is actively collecting data from four impact study programs using the second follow-up survey for NextGen study participants.

- **Timeline:** The current expiration date for this information collection is April 30, 2026. The second follow-up survey is currently live. The project seeks an additional one year of clearance to complete the second follow-up survey with all NextGen study participants.

- **Previous Terms of Clearance:** There were no terms of clearance for the previous approvals of this data collection.

- **Summary of changes requested:** The study team seeks approval for a one-year extension without change for the currently approved second follow-up survey. All other data collection activities that are part of this information collection are complete. Although there are no changes proposed to the second follow-up survey, we have updated the estimated number of respondents to only include the estimated respondents over the one-year extension period for which we request approval.

  We do not intend for this information to be used as the principal basis for public policy decisions.

- **Time Sensitivity:** We request approval as soon as possible to avoid confusion and costs related to updating the OMB expiration date on a monthly basis.

A1. Necessity for Collection

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) seeks approval to continue one data collection activity for the Next Generation of Enhanced Employment Strategies (NextGen) Project. ACF has spent decades studying strategies to help people find and keep jobs. Findings from these studies have been mixed, revealing variation in what works for whom and the duration and magnitude of impacts. Some studies have also demonstrated that certain programs are less accessible to individuals with complex challenges, such as low educational attainment or involvement with the criminal justice system, due to the program's eligibility requirements. The ongoing NextGen Project is intended to build on the findings from these past and ongoing studies by evaluating the effectiveness, implementation, and cost of innovative employment programs for people with complex barriers to employment. The current data collection extension request is necessary to finish collecting outcomes data from NextGen study participants 18-21 months after program enrollment, which is critical to evaluating the programs' effectiveness at the time outcomes are likely to emerge.

A2. Purpose

Purpose and Use

The information collected through this extension request will be used to evaluate innovative programs serving low-income individuals facing complex challenges to employment and economic independence, to expand the evidence base in this area. The NextGen Project worked closely with the Social Security Administration (SSA) to identify employment-related programs for individuals with current or foreseeable disabilities who have limited work history and are potential applicants for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to evaluate. SSA is providing financial and technical support for the evaluation of these interventions.

The following text provides context for the wider study and all data collection activities. However, this extension request only seeks approval to continue the second follow-up survey. All other data collection activities for the NextGen Project are complete.

The wider NextGen Project includes impact studies, descriptive studies, and cost studies.

- The **impact studies** provide baseline and outcome data about study participants, which the project team will use to estimate the effectiveness of each program. The second follow-up survey, which is the only instrument applicable to this extension, collects participant outcome data necessary to complete the impact studies.
- The project team has also collected data for **descriptive studies** to describe each program's design, staffing, service provision, partnerships, and other details necessary to understand the nature of and context for the programs, and for other organizations to replicate them. This data collection will also help inform the interpretation of impact findings.
- Finally, the project team has collected data for the **cost studies** to estimate the costs of implementing each evaluated program and to estimate the cost-effectiveness of the programs.

The results will provide policymakers and practitioners with high-quality information on the effects, design and implementation, and the cost of the programs. Having information from the impact, descriptive, and cost studies for each program will help strengthen policy and practice to better serve individuals facing complex challenges to employment and economic independence. Study findings may also inform future studies in this area. The information collected is meant to contribute to the body of knowledge on ACF programs. It is not intended to be used as the principal basis for a decision by a federal decision-maker and is not expected to meet the threshold of influential or highly influential scientific information.

Research Questions or Tests

The questions this evaluation will answer are in Table A.1. The data collected under this extension request will allow the project to fully answer the **impact study** questions listed in Table A.1.

Table A.1. Research questions for the NextGen Project

Impact studies
Did the program affect the amounts and types of services participants receive?
Did the program improve participants' employment outcomes (employment, earnings, job retention and advancement, and quality of job) and economic independence (income, public assistance receipt)?
Did the program improve outcomes relevant to the challenges faced by the target population, for example reduce substance abuse; reduce criminal justice involvement; or increase education, credentialing, and training?
Did the program improve participants' physical health, mental health, and well-being?
Was the program more effective for some groups of participants than others? If so, which groups?
Did the impacts of the program change over time? If so, how?
How did the program's costs compare to the benefit of the impacts it generated? What were the net benefits for participants and society as a whole?
Descriptive studies
How was the program designed and implemented?
What contextual, organizational, and other factors impeded or facilitated implementation?
What were the challenges faced, solutions, and lessons learned?
What were the characteristics of study participants?
What services were participants offered, and what were the participation and outcome patterns?
What role did employers play in the program? How do local labor market conditions affect the program design, implementation, and employers' and participants' involvement?
Which program services or implementation features appear to be related to program impacts? Which components or services do participants and staff perceive to be helpful?
What were the backgrounds and experiences of program staff and program leaders?
How did staff spend their time, and how many participants did they work with?
How did program leaders spend their time?
How did participants perceive the program? What were the most helpful elements? How did the program affect their lives?
Cost studies
How was the program funded? What were its costs? Was the program sustainable?

Study Design

The NextGen Project includes experimental impact, descriptive, and cost studies. It is studying programs that include a wide range of supports designed to serve individuals with multiple challenges to employment and that might be delivered by public–private partnerships, interagency collaborations, government initiatives, or nonprofit agencies.

The impact studies are intended to produce internally valid estimates of the program's causal impact, not to promote statistical generalization to other sites or service populations. The descriptive and cost studies are intended to present internally valid descriptions of the service population, implementation, and cost of the programs in the chosen sites, not to promote statistical generalization to other sites or service populations. See Section B.1 of this information collection request (ICR) for further information about the appropriateness of the design and its limitations.

Four programs were identified for inclusion in impact studies for the NextGen Project. The programs were assessed to determine if they meet three general criteria: (1) the program addresses the research priorities of this project; (2) the program is well implemented, or could be after some technical assistance; and (3) a rigorous evaluation of the program is feasible, using an experimental design, or could be after the program receives some technical assistance. Additionally, included programs have some evidence that they might be effective, and so an evaluation of the program builds on existing evidence and is valuable to the field. Programs were also selected to address SSA's research interests. In addition to the programs participating in impact studies, three additional programs are participating in descriptive and/or cost studies. The programs studied are not national programs, and the study is not designed to be nationally representative, nor will the project team attempt to generalize the evaluation results beyond the programs and target populations under study.

Impact studies. The experimental impact studies will provide rigorous evidence on whether each program is effective, for whom, and under what circumstances. Participants eligible for the programs were asked to consent to participate in the study (Appendix A) and, if they provided consent, were randomly assigned to one of two groups: a treatment group offered the program or a control group not offered the program. Members of all study groups continue to have access to other services offered in the community. Individuals who did not consent to participate in the study were not randomly assigned, do not participate in the data collection efforts, and are not eligible to receive the intervention (until after the second follow-up survey has been fielded).

The project team collects information from study participants for the impact studies at three points: (1) at program entry before random assignment occurs (baseline); (2) at about 6 to 9 months after random assignment via the first follow-up survey; and (3) at about 18 to 21 months after random assignment via a second follow-up survey. The timing of the follow-up surveys varies depending on when each program's theory of change suggests impacts might be expected. Baseline data collection and first follow-up survey administration are complete. The second follow-up surveys began in April 2023.

Descriptive studies. The descriptive study for each program, which is now complete, describes the following: (1) the community, economic, and program context in which the program operates; (2) the characteristics of the program model, including the target population, services offered, role of partners and employers, theory of change, and plans for sustainability and replication; and (3) the implementation and cost drivers of the program, such as leadership, organizational culture and structure, staffing and staff development, and service delivery. The data collection period for the descriptive study varies by participating program but typically began around 6 to 12 months after the study begins enrolling participants. If respondents consented to being recorded, the interviewer audio recorded discussions with program administrators, supervisors, staff; key partner staff, including employers; and participants.

Cost studies. The cost study for each program, which is now complete, (1) provides descriptive information about the amount, sources, and types of its funding, and (2) produced an estimate of the average cost of the program per participant. The average cost of the program per participant will be used in the benefit-cost analysis presented with the impact study results. In that analysis, the benefits that accrue to program participants such as increased earnings and reduced receipt of public benefits will be compared with the cost of providing program services. The study team began conducting data collection for the cost studies around the same time as the data collection for the descriptive studies.

The impact, descriptive, and cost study data collections are included in Table A.2. This extension request covers **follow-up data collection (impact study)** in Table A.2 using **Instrument 4**. All other data collection is complete at this time.

Table A.2. Data collection activities for the NextGen Project

Data Collection Activity	*Instruments*	*Respondent, Content, Purpose of Collection*	*Mode and Duration*
Baseline data collection (impact study; Complete)	Instrument 1: Baseline survey – revised Instrument 2: Identifying and contact information – revised	**Respondents**: All consenting study participants. **Content**: Information on demographics, receipt of Social Security Administration benefits, employment history, social trust, COVID-19-related challenges, and challenges to maintaining employment. Identifying information included name, Social Security number, and date of birth. Contact information includes physical and electronic addresses and social media information for participants and up to three friends or relatives. Instrument 2 also included the Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale Revised (CESD-R). **Purpose**: Baseline survey data is used to describe the study sample and check that the characteristics of the study participants are similar on average across groups. The data is also being used to define subgroups, as covariates in regression models, and for weighting for nonresponse. A question-by-question justification for the items included in the baseline survey was presented in an appendix to the original OMB request. Identifying information was used before random assignment to make sure participants were not already enrolled in the study. The project team is using this information later to match study	**Mode**: Baseline survey allows for multiple administration options: by program staff, self-administered by study participants via the web, or by NextGen Project staff via telephone. RAPTER® identifying and contact information and responses to CESD-R questions are provided verbally by study participants and entered into RAPTER® by program staff. **Duration**: 25 minutes (total to complete the baseline survey and provide identifying and contact information)

		participants to their administrative data records to assess outcomes. In addition, the team collected detailed contact information to locate participants to complete follow-up surveys. Baseline survey data collection is complete.	
Follow-up data collection (impact study)	Instrument 3: First follow-up survey – revised August 2024 (Complete) **Instrument 4: Second follow-up survey – revised August 2024 (Ongoing)**	**Respondents**: The project team is attempting to survey all study participants. **Content**: Information on outcomes of interest, including service receipt, employment, earnings, economic independence, well-being, health status, substance use, involvement in the criminal justice system; perceptions of the usefulness of the program being evaluated (for treatment group only); and updated contact information (on first follow-up survey only). They collect Social Security numbers if the study team did not collect one during study enrollment. The exact questions asked vary by site depending on the site's target population. **Purpose**: Survey data is used to estimate program impacts on outcomes of interest; estimate the program impacts on the services the study participants receive; describe treatment group members' perceptions of the usefulness of the program being evaluated; and describe the study sample. The updated contact information from the first follow-up survey is being used to assist in locating study participants for the second follow-up survey. A question-by-question justification for the items included in the follow-up surveys is in Appendix B. First follow-up survey data collection is complete.	**Mode**: Participants self-administer via the web. Alternatively, administered by NextGen Project staff via telephone. **Duration**: 50 minutes per follow-up survey
Treatment group service receipt (descriptive study; Complete)	Instrument 5: Service receipt tracking – revised	**Respondents**: Program staff **Content**: Information about the treatment group members' participation in the program. In programs that also provide services to control group members, program staff might have also recorded information on receipt of services of control group members. **Purpose**: Service receipt data has been	**Mode**: Program staff entered information about services received by study participants through the program in RAPTER®. If a program already collects data on service receipt through its own database, the study used the information the program already collects.

		used to describe the service receipt of treatment group members, including type of service, duration, location, and mode. This data collection is complete.	**Duration**: 5 minutes per entry
Characteristics of program staff and leaders (descriptive study; Complete)	Instrument 6. Staff characteristics survey – revised Instrument 7. Program leadership survey – revised	**Respondents**: Program staff and leaders **Content**: Staff members' and leaders' professional backgrounds, skills, experience, credentials, and perceptions of the program. Leaders' resource investments and decision-making processes. Changes due to COVID-19. **Purpose**: Data on program staff and leaders was used to provide insight into how program structure, staffing, and leadership might affect implementation of the program. Compared with the semi-structured interviews, described below, the surveys enabled the collection of information (1) in a more structured format, (2) on topics that staff and leaders might be uncomfortable talking about in a group setting, and (3) from a broader set of staff and leaders than would have the time to participate in a semi-structured interview. This data collection is complete.	**Mode**: Program staff and leaders self-administer the surveys via the web. **Duration**: 25 minutes for staff survey; 15 minutes for leadership survey
Discussions with program staff, partners, and employers (descriptive study; Complete)	Instrument 8. Semi-structured program discussion guide – revised Instrument 9. Semi-structured employer discussion guide	**Respondents**: Program administrators, supervisors, staff; key partner staff, including employers **Content**: Semi-structured discussions with program administrators, supervisors, direct service staff, community partners, and specialized treatment providers provided information about the program's design and implementation and any COVID-19 related challenges. Semi-structured discussions with employers collected information about their involvement in developing and executing the programs of interest. **Purpose**: Data from these semi-structured discussions has been used to describe each program's design, staffing, service provision, partnerships, and other necessary details to understand the nature of and context for the programs, and for other programs to replicate them. The data will also be used to help inform the interpretation of impact findings. This data	**Mode**: The interviews were conducted in person during site visits, either individually or in small groups. Interviews may also have been conducted via telephone or video dependent upon any COVID-related restrictions. **Duration**: 90 minutes per administrator; 60 minutes per program supervisor, key partner staff, employer, or direct service staff.

		collection is complete.	
In-depth participant interviews (descriptive study; Complete)	Instrument 10. In-depth participant interview guide – revised	**Respondents**: Select study participants **Content**: Participants' background and goals, experiences and challenges finding and retaining employment, experiences with the program, including reasons for disengaging from the program, if applicable. Challenges related to COVID-19. **Purpose**: Participant interviews have provided firsthand accounts that will make the findings from the implementation and impact studies more meaningful. They have also informed the study team's understanding of whether the program was implemented as planned and suggested possible refinements. This data collection is complete.	**Mode**: The interviews were conducted in person during site visits. Interviews may also have been conducted via telephone or video dependent upon any COVID-related restrictions. **Duration**: 120 minutes
Cost data collection (cost study; Complete)	Instrument 11. Cost workbook	**Respondents**: Program leader (or a designee) **Content**: Excel-based cost workbook to record information on the expenditures associated with the program for a 12-month period. **Purpose**: Cost data has been used to estimate the costs of implementing each evaluated program and will be used to estimate the cost-effectiveness of the programs once outcome data is available. This data collection is complete.	**Mode**: The project team asked program leaders for their accounting records or financial reports and obtain as much information as possible from these records. If additional information was needed after review of financial records, the project team asked the programs to complete the workbook in part or in full, depending on the information required. **Duration**: 32 hours

Other Data Sources and Uses of Information

The NextGen Project examines administrative records data for outcomes of interest; this information is already collected by programs and represents no additional burden for participants or program staff. The project team is gathering administrative data on quarterly earnings, receipt of unemployment insurance, and new hires on all study participants from the National Directory of New Hires (NDNH), which is maintained by the Office of Child Support Enforcement at ACF. For applicable programs, the project team will also examine available records for study participants on the receipt of TANF from program data and contact information from state or local TANF agencies. For all programs participating in impact studies, the research team will examine administrative data from SSA on annual taxable earnings and receipt of SSI and Social Security Disability Insurance. In addition, as applicable and informative to the programs' theories of change, available data might also be examined on receipt of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and contact information; receipt of benefits and contact information from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children; state records on child support owed or paid; health care outcomes (Medicare enrollment and claims) from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services; involvement with the criminal justice system from court records; educational attainment and completion from school districts; and receipt of housing benefits (such as participation in a housing choice voucher program) from housing authorities. The project also used information collected under the generic clearance for Formative Data Collections for ACF Research (OMB #0970-0356), including information collected to gather feedback from stakeholders, identify sites, and assess activities and characteristics.

A3. Use of Information Technology to Reduce Burden

The second follow-up survey is hosted on the Internet via a live secure web-link. To reduce burden, the surveys employ (1) secure log-ins and passwords so respondents can save and complete the survey in multiple sessions, (2) drop-down response categories so respondents can quickly select from a list, (3) dynamic questions and automated skip patterns so respondents only see those questions that apply to them (including those based on answers provided previously in the survey), and (4) logical rules for responses so respondents' answers are restricted to those intended by the question.

Respondents also have the option to complete the second follow-up survey using computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). CATI reduces respondent burden, relative to interviewing via telephone without a computer, by automating skip logic and question adaptations and by eliminating delays caused when interviewers must determine the next question to ask.

A4. Use of Existing Data: Efforts to reduce duplication, minimize burden, and increase utility and government efficiency

As of April 2026, we have up to 8 months left to collect follow-up survey data for this project. We need approximately 160 additional survey completes across the four sites, with specific thresholds required to minimize the differential attrition of participants for each site. We are collecting data from only the participants needed to complete the study to ensure that we are minimizing burden overall.

Information that is already available from alternative data sources will not be collected again for this project. For example, if a program in the study has an existing management information system that collects information needed for this project that is exportable and of sufficient quality, the project team accepts data from its existing system. In these cases, the project team requested that the program only enter into RAPTER® data that the program was not already collecting.

Although information on employment is obtained from administrative records and via the survey, this information is not duplicative because the two sources differ in accuracy and coverage of jobs. NDNH administrative records provide information on quarterly earnings from jobs covered by unemployment insurance as well as new hires. The follow-up survey asks for information about all jobs held, including those not covered by unemployment insurance. The follow-up survey collects information about the characteristics of the jobs (such as the wage rate, hours worked, and benefits offered) that are not included in the NDNH data.

The follow-up survey collects information on whether participants received assistance from public assistance programs such as TANF, SNAP, unemployment insurance, and other assistance programs. However, these surveys do not ask for details about the receipt of these benefits, which we obtain via administrative records. It is important to ask about receipt of benefits on the survey because administrative records are not available for those respondents who do not provide their Social Security number.

A5. Impact on Small Businesses

Small organizations, such as businesses or nonprofit organizations, are involved in implementing some of the programs in this study. The project team minimizes the burden for respondents by collecting data at times convenient for the respondents and requiring minimal record keeping or written responses on the part of respondents.

A6. Consequences of Less Frequent Collection

The project team administers two similar follow-up surveys; the first survey is complete. Collecting data at two points of time allows an examination of whether the impacts of the program changed over time and whether changes in intermediary outcomes (such as health or skills) were associated with changes in longer-term outcomes (namely employment and economic independence outcomes). This also reduces the chance of recall error from respondents when collecting information on their receipt of services and jobs held over a period of time, relative to collecting it only once at the end of the follow-up period.

A7. Now subsumed under 2(b) above and 10 (below)

A8. Consultation

Federal Register Notice and Comments

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR Part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), ACF published a notice in the Federal Register announcing the agency's intention to request an OMB review of this information collection activity. This notice was published on February 25, 2026 (91 FR 9282) and provided a sixty-day period for public comment. During the notice and comment period, no comments were received.

Consultation with Experts Outside of the Study

Experts in their respective fields from ACF and Mathematica were consulted in developing the design, data collection plan, and instruments for which clearance is requested. Select agency staff within SSA and HHS were also consulted.

A9. Tokens of Appreciation

The second follow-up survey currently uses a $50 gift card token sent to participants upon completion. We do not propose any changes to this amount during the extension period. The token amount reflects the outcome of an experiment conducted during the first follow-up survey (see the nonsubstantive change request memorandum date June 13, 2025). The experiment tested the effectiveness of a $5 prepaid cash token of appreciation in addition to a $50 postpaid gift card. Findings indicated that the $5 prepaid token did not improve overall response rates and had a statistically significant negative impact for one program. As a result, the study team discontinued the use of prepaid tokens and only offers a $50 postpaid gift card for the second follow-up survey. OMB approved this change on June 17, 2025.

A10. Privacy: Procedures to protect privacy of information, while maximizing data sharing

Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

Information is not maintained in a paper or electronic system from which data are actually or directly retrieved by an individual's personal identifier. The information provided by or about participants during the baseline data collection, follow-up surveys, and service receipt tracking contains participant-level PII. This includes names, addresses, email addresses, social media accounts, phone numbers, birth dates, and Social Security numbers. This information is needed to ensure that: the prospective study participant has not already enrolled in the study; the project team can locate study participants to complete the follow-up surveys; and the project team can link participants to their corresponding administrative data. See Section A11 for further details.

Mathematica will share study participants' information with SSA, which will do additional research on how programs affect earnings and receipt of disability benefits. They will conclude any such research by 2040. Mathematica will share information such as name, sex, date of birth, and Social Security number so researchers at SSA can locate participants' records. They will only use this information to do research. The information will not be used to make decisions about benefits participants receive from the SSA, now or in the future. The sharing of information with SSA for these purposes and for the specified timeframe are described to participants in the informed consent form (Appendix A).

Assurances of Privacy

Information collected is kept private to the extent permitted by law. Respondents are informed of all planned uses of data, that their participation is voluntary, and that their information is kept private to the extent permitted by law. As specified in the contract, Mathematica complies with all Federal and Departmental regulations for private information.

Due to the sensitive nature of this research (see A.11 for more information), the evaluation obtained a Certificate of Confidentiality. The Certificate of Confidentiality helps to assure participants that their information is kept private to the fullest extent permitted by law. The project team also secured Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval from the Health Media Lab IRB for all impact, descriptive, and cost studies.

Data Security and Monitoring

As specified in its contract with ACF, Mathematica protects respondent privacy to the extent permitted by law and complies with all Federal and Departmental regulations for private information. Mathematica developed a Data Safety and Monitoring Plan that assesses all protections of respondents' PII. Mathematica ensures that all of its employees, subcontractors (at all tiers), and employees of each subcontractor, who perform work under this contract/subcontract, are trained on data privacy issues and comply with the above requirements. All study staff with access to PII receive study-specific training on (1) limitations on disclosure; (2) safeguarding the physical work environment; and (3) storing, transmitting, and destroying data securely. These procedures are documented in training manuals for study staff, and refresher trainings will occur annually.

Mathematica uses Federal Information Processing Standard compliant encryption (Security Requirements for Cryptographic Module, as amended) to protect all instances of sensitive information during storage and transmission. Mathematica securely generates and manages encryption keys to prevent unauthorized decryption of information, in accordance with the Federal Processing Standard. Mathematica ensures that this standard is incorporated into their property management/control system and has procedures to account for all laptop computers, desktop computers, and other mobile devices and portable media that store or process sensitive information. Any data stored electronically is secured in accordance with the most current National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) requirements and other applicable Federal and Departmental regulations. In addition, Mathematica's Data Safety and Monitoring plan minimizes to the extent possible the inclusion of sensitive information on paper records and for the protection of any paper records, field notes, or other documents that contain sensitive or PII that ensures secure storage and limits on access.

Information shared with researchers at SSA (see discussion above) and exchanged between programs and Mathematica is sent via a secure file transfer protocol.

At the end of the study, de-identified project data will be archived to make them available to other researchers. Mathematica has developed a comprehensive data archive plan; Mathematica is now working with ACF to produce archive data files. Any restricted- or public-use files will be reviewed for appropriateness of public or restricted release, including appropriate masking techniques for each level of release. A non-disclosure review will also be conducted to ensure that the data cannot be used to re-identify study participants.

A11. Sensitive Information

To evaluate the effectiveness of employment programs for vulnerable populations, it is necessary to ask some sensitive questions. Before starting the follow-up surveys, all respondents are informed that their identities are kept private to the extent permitted by law, that results will only be reported in the aggregate, that their responses will not affect any services or benefits they or their family members receive, and that they do not have to answer any questions that make them uncomfortable.

The sensitive questions in the second follow-up survey for this ICR follow. These topics were all described in previously submitted and approved justification packages.

- **Respondents' Social Security numbers.** Respondents' Social Security numbers are necessary to collect administrative data used to estimate impacts on earnings, employment, and public benefit receipt. The consent form informs study participants that the project team might collect administrative data about them. Social Security numbers will also be used to collect information through online databases containing information on the location of study participants for the follow-up surveys. Along with names, birthdates, and other data from baseline surveys, Social Security numbers will be used to verify respondents' identities for follow-up surveys. The project team does not want to rely on name and address matching (or similar techniques) for collecting administrative data because it leads to the inability to match administrative data for a high proportion of participants, an unacceptably high uncertainty in match success, or both. This would affect the study's ability to estimate impacts and draw conclusions for findings that rely on administrative data. A prior nonsubstantive change request sought to collect Social Security numbers via the two follow-up surveys if the numbers were not provided during enrollment.

- **Wage rates and earnings.** It is necessary to ask about earnings because increasing participants' earnings is a key goal of these programs. The follow-up surveys ask about each job worked since random assignment, the wage rate, and the number of hours worked per week. This information is collected on the first and second follow-up surveys.
- **Challenges to employment.** We ask about some challenges to employment caused by COVID-19. This provides some information about the labor market context of the participants at the time they enrolled in the study.
- **Economic hardships.** The follow-up surveys ask about economic hardships, such as food insecurity. These outcomes are used to assess respondents' degree of economic independence and might be affected by the program.
- **Disabilities, mental and physical health, and substance misuse**. The follow-up surveys collect information about disabilities, mental or other health problems, and substance misuse; the severity of those issues; and how much they impact the ability to work. All of these are important potential challenges to finding or maintaining employment and could play a role in the effectiveness of the program.
- **Involvement in the criminal justice system.** The follow-up surveys also ask about arrests, convictions, and incarcerations that occurred after random assignment because these outcomes might be affected by the program.

A12. Burden

This section is specific to the second follow-up survey. All other previously approved information collection activities under this OMB number have been completed, and related costs and burden have been removed from the estimates for this extension request.

Explanation of Burden Estimates

This extension request does not change the average burden per response for the remaining data collection, the second follow-up survey. The total/annual burden estimates under this request, Table A.3, are for an additional one year of data collection through April 2027. Details of the estimates for the **second follow-up survey** are as follows:

- In total for the NextGen Project, we expect to survey 3,542 study participants. We do not expect to exceed the response rate of 73 percent that was obtained on the first follow-up survey. For the second follow-up survey, we anticipate a 73 percent response rate or 2,586 respondents to the survey, and we expect each survey to last an average of 50 minutes (0.83 hours). During the extension period, we anticipate 160 respondents for a total of 133 burden hours.

Estimated Annualized Cost to Respondents

The total annual cost to respondents over the one-year extension period is estimated to be $964.25. The estimated cost figures are computed from the total annual burden hours and an average hourly wage for staff and participants. The average hourly wage of study participants is estimated to be $7.25, the federal minimum wage.

Table A.3 reflects the estimated cost for information collection over the one-year extension period.

Table A.3. Burden and cost for information collection extension

Instrument	No. of Respondents (total over request period)	No. of Responses per Respondent (total over request period)	Avg. Burden per Response (in hours)	Total/ Annual Burden (in hours)	Average Hourly Wage Rate	Total Annual Respondent Cost
Second follow-up survey —participants	160	1	0.83	133	$7.25	$964.25

A13. Costs

There are no additional costs to respondents.

A14. Estimated Annualized Costs to the Federal Government

The total cost to the Federal government for all data collection activities under this OMB extension request will be about $780,000. Annualized costs to the Federal government will also be about $780,000 for the data collection if the one-year extension is granted. These estimates of costs are derived from Mathematica's budgeted estimates and include labor rates, direct costs, and tokens of appreciation for respondents. These costs are specific to the final data collection activities for the second follow-up study; all other previously approved information collection activities under this OMB number have been completed.

Activity	Detail	Estimated Cost
Survey administration	• FTE time • Operational expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and staff support) • Other expenses which would not have been incurred without this collection of information	$780,000
	Total/Annual costs over the request period	$780,000

A15. Reasons for changes in burden

This is an extension to an approved information collection. The estimated time per response for the second follow-up survey remains the same. The number of respondents has been updated to reflect the estimated number of respondents over the one-year extension period. Burden associated with completed data collection has been removed.

A16. Timeline

The beginning of participant intake and baseline data collection was staggered by program. The first programs began baseline data collection in 2021 and later programs in 2022. All programs completed intake and baseline data collection by June 2024. All programs completed first follow-up data collection by July 2025 and descriptive study data collection activities by August 2023. The second follow-up survey with an 18- to 21-month follow-up period began in 2023. This extension request seeks approval for one additional year of data collection through April 2027 which will provide sufficient time to complete data collection for the second follow-up survey for all NextGen study participants within the follow-up window.

Findings from the project will be published throughout the study in technical reports and briefs. Reporting on the intermediate impact findings is expected to begin in 2026 and continue through 2027. Reporting on final impact findings is expected to begin in 2027 and continue through 2028.

We anticipate that data archives (restricted or public use) would become available starting in 2029 and hosted on a data archive platform such as the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR).

A17. Exceptions

No exceptions are necessary for this information collection.

Attachments

Previously approved materials that are no longer in use can be found with the prior approvals on RegInfo.gov: https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAOMBHistory?ombControlNumber=0970-0545.

Instruments

Instrument 4. Second follow-up survey – revised August 2024

Appendices

Appendix A. Informed consent form – revised

Appendix A.1. Bridges consent forms

Appendix B. Question-by-question justification for follow-up surveys – revised August 2024

Appendix C. Follow-up survey reminders and notifications – revised