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 PUBLIC SUBMISSION

Comment Submitted by Kimberly Armstrong

Posted by the **Department of Housing and Urban Development** on Jul 24, 2026

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Comment

Docket ID / OMB Control Number: 2577-0295

Title of Information Collection: Restriction on Assistance to Noncitizens and Authorization to Release Information/Privacy Act

Form Number: HUD-9886-A [1, 2]

RE: Comments in Response to Section B—Solicitation of Public Comment Regarding the Quality, Utility, Clarity, and Process of Form HUD-9886-A

To Whom It May Concern,

I am submitting these comments regarding the extension of the information collection for Form HUD-9886-A (Authorization for the Release of Information/Privacy Act Notice). As stated in the summary, the data collected on this form is designed to assist Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) in eligibility determinations for applicable HUD-assisted housing programs, including the Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing Programs. [1, 2]

To ensure the "quality, utility, and clarity" of the information collected under this extension (Section B, Item 3), HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) must address and correct a pervasive, systemic eligibility error made by frontline PHA staff, state compliance officers, and private housing managers nationwide.

The Core Problem: Conflating Income Status with Demographic Count

A destructive, widespread misunderstanding persists across HUD-assisted programs during the intake, admission, and annual recertification phases: housing managers frequently assume that because a child's

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foster care or adoption stipend is excluded from annual income calculations, the child themselves is excluded from the total household size count.

When families complete the asset, income, and background authorization checks governed by Form HUD-9886-A, compliance officers routinely strip foster youth, pre-adoptive children, and children in the foster-to-adopt pipeline from the total household size headcount. This is an administrative failure with catastrophic consequences. Total household size is the exact baseline metric used to determine a family's maximum allowable income tier on the Area Median Income (AMI) charts. By unlawfully removing these children from the headcount based entirely on their foster or pre-adoptive legal status, managers force families into lower, incorrect AMI brackets. This administrative error artificially drops their permissible income cap, causing immediate and wrongful housing program disqualifications for thousands of stable resource and adoptive homes.

Actionable Recommendations for Form HUD-9886-A and Administration:

Because Form HUD-9886-A serves as the primary gateway for verifying an applicant or tenant family's eligibility and background metrics, HUD must incorporate the following changes upon renewal of this collection:

Incorporate Clear Explanatory Language on Form HUD-9886-A:

The text of Form HUD-9886-A or its accompanying administrative instructions to PHAs must include a prominent, explicit directive clarifying that income exclusions do not cancel out a person's existence in the household. It should state:

"The exclusion of a household member's income or state stipend does not exclude that individual from the total household size count. All foster youth, pre-adoptive children, and children in the foster-to-adopt pipeline who reside in the home must be fully counted as individuals in the household size used to determine Area Median Income (AMI) eligibility charts."

Decouple Financial Exclusion from Human Counting in Administrative Guidance:

HUD must ensure that the privacy and verification guidance surrounding Form HUD-9886-A explicitly dictates that a person's financial classification (such as receiving an excluded stipend) does not remove them from the physical headcount used for AMI compliance. Income status does not dictate human status.

Protect Transitioning Youth and Turning 18-Year-Olds:

The notice states that household members must sign Form HUD-9886-A when they turn 18. HUD must clarify that for foster youth or youth in the process of adoption who turn 18 while in a placement, their execution of this form or their non-fiduciary status must not be used by a PHA to retroactively recalculate or shrink the family's historical household size or wrongfully disrupt their AMI chart bracket.

Conclusion

The administrative utility of Form HUD-9886-A is completely lost if the verification process allows local compliance managers to drop foster-to-adopt children from the household headcount. HUD must use this extension to explicitly clarify that every foster and pre-adoptive child counts as a person on the household size metric to protect AMI chart compliance and support families caring for vulnerable youth.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these critical updates.

Sincerely,

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