

## **Supporting Statement B: Arts Basic Survey**

### **B. Collection of Information Employing Statistical Methods**

**1. Describe (including a numerical estimate) the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used. Data on the number of entities (e.g., establishments, State and local government units, households, or persons) in the universe covered by the collection and in the corresponding sample are to be provided in tabular form for the universe as a whole and for each of the strata in the proposed sample. Indicate expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection had been conducted previously, include the actual response rate achieved during the last collection.**

The U.S. Census Bureau will conduct the ABS as a February supplement in conjunction with the CPS. The universe is the more than 132 million housing units in all counties and independent cities that make up the United States. From this universe, the survey is conducted in approximately 59,000 eligible housing units throughout the United States. About 59,000 households will be interviewed each month. The Bureau will administer the 2027 ABS supplement to a random half of the eligible households, or the approximately 29,500 households, who are in four of the CPS months in sample rotations.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimated, based on the 2025 ABS and recent survey results, that approximately 30,000 adults will be eligible for the 2027 ABS supplements. Since the ABS allows proxy responses for spouses or partners, the expectation is that data will be collected on approximately 24,000 adults. The exact number will depend on the Supplemental response rate, which is expected to be about 80%. The response rate for the basic CPS questions is expected to be 70%.

**2. Describe the procedures for the collection of information including:**

- **Statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection,**
- **Estimation procedure,**
- **Degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification,**
- **Unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures, and**
- **Any use of periodic (less frequent than annual) data collection cycles to reduce burden.**

The main data for the Arts Basic Survey will be collected as a supplemental survey associated with the February 2027 CPS. This instrument will contain 2 forms: Form 1 contains questions about arts creation performance, and learning; Form 2 includes questions on arts attendance. Attachment H gives an overview of the CPS sample design and weighting.

**3. Describe methods to maximize response rates and to deal with issues of non-response. The accuracy and reliability of the information collected must be shown to be adequate for intended uses. For collections based on sampling, a special justification must be provided for any collection that will not yield "reliable" data that can be generalized to the universe studied.**

One of the main reasons that the NEA has chosen to have the ABS as a supplement to the CPS is historically, the CPS has achieved higher response rates than what would otherwise be possible. To avoid breakoffs, the NEA has kept the number of supplemental questions to a minimum. Questions have been taken from previous SPPA instruments; NEA also has tested each question to ensure that the questions

are easy to answer and will not lead to any significant item nonresponse. As with the SPPA, to avoid lower response rates, the NEA has given permission to the U.S. Census Bureau to collect information via proxy from a knowledgeable adult in the event that the target respondent is unavailable during the CPS field period. Finally, the U.S. Census Bureau's ABS supplement survey weights will include a nonresponse adjustment, which reduces potential nonresponse bias.

**4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken. Testing is encouraged as an effective means of refining collections of information to minimize burden and improve utility. Tests must be approved if they call for answers to identical questions from 10 or more respondents. A proposed test or set of tests may be submitted for approval separately or in combination with the main collection of information.**

An extensive program of testing was conducted on CPS methods, procedures, and content from 1978 through 1993 using the Methods Development Survey (MDS), and its predecessor, the Methods Test Panel (MTP).

The results of the testing have become the CPS Labor Force instrument, which uses an automated Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing/Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing environment. For information on the results, see the February 1994 Employment and Earnings article titled, "Revisions to the Current Population Survey Effective January 1994."

In addition, since 1994 the roster and demographic collection questions have been thoroughly vetted and reviewed on a regular basis. Any changes to the Roster Collection or Demographic Characteristic questions are reviewed at the corporate level within the U.S. Census Bureau. Following standard testing procedures, any changes are cognitively tested, then tested in the field by the survey designated to first use them and then reviewed and incorporated in any other survey using the same mode, with a need for the same collection. The current questions covered under this clearance request were included in the most recent Decennial Census Content test, American Community Survey (ACS) content test, and ACS production.

Procedurally, each month before production each data processing system is tested for any errors. On a test platform, we mimic interviewing to collect test data. As part of the initial load of data and instruments, we test case assignments in the field as well. As part of the sample redesign that began in April 2025, all systems are thoroughly tested in three rounds.

**5. Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on statistical aspects of the design and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other person(s) who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.**

The following individuals may be contacted on the statistical data collection and analysis operations:

For the ABS Survey Design:

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Attachments

- A. Title 13, Section 182, United States Code
- B. First Federal Register Notice
- C. Second Federal Register Notice
- D. 2027 ABS Arts Basic Survey Instrument
- E. CPS Advance Letter
- F. Confidentiality Brochure
- G. Fact Sheet for the Current Population Survey
- H. Overview of CPS Sample Design and Methodology