

Request for Approval under the “Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Research and Assessment” HHS Online Customer Surveys (OMB Control Number: 0990-0421)

TITLE OF INFORMATION COLLECTION: Climate change information needs

☒ INTERVIEWS

☒ SMALL DISCUSSION GROUPS

☒ FOCUS GROUPS

☐ QUESTIONNAIRES

☐ OTHER (EXPLAIN:)

DESCRIPTION OF THIS SPECIFIC COLLECTION

Intended purpose

The purpose of this data collection to obtain information from journalists, state and local government officials, people working in the health sector, planners and emergency preparedness professionals about their information needs related to engaging in climate change communication or interventions.

Need for the collection

Journalists-Journalists play an essential role in communication about climate change and mitigation strategies to the general public. It our hope to create online tools that will appeal to and be useful to journalists who will then educate the general public on issues related to climate and support implementation of climate mitigation strategies.

State and local government officials-State and local governments are at the front-lines of emergency response and also run institutions that would benefit from climate hardening and implementation of mitigation strategies. We have developed numerous tools to support climate hardening and implementation, however, we do not know if these tools meet the need of this essential population. In addition, we would like to discover what additional tools are needed to support the essential function of our state and local governments.

Health sector employees-Health centers, hospitals and other work environments in the health sector serve an essential role in climate change mitigation, as they are critical infrastructure that must continue to function during extreme weather, and other climate-change related events. The purpose of this data collection is to understand the perceived barriers and benefits to developing and sustaining these collaborations from the perspective of health centers and their supporting national organizations.

Planners-Planner participate in climate mitigation strategy development and emergency preparedness. We want to provide them with information that supports these tasks.

Emergency preparedness professionals-Much of the work the Office of Climate Change and Health Equity does focuses on supporting emergency preparedness professionals in responding to extreme weather events and climate change in a health care context. We need to know what emergency preparedness professionals needs and how we can better support them.

Planned use of the data

This data will be used to improve the existing online tools our office offers and to create tools that meet the needs of our populations of interest.

Date(s) and location(s)

Data will be collected on an ongoing basis for two years after this protocol is approved. The majority of data will be collected online, though it is possible that this protocol may also be for in-person interviews at conferences, conventions or other events for people who work in our focus industries convene.

Collection procedures

Data will be collected via 1-on-1 Zoom interview at the time of the interviewees choosing, group interviews or focus groups may also be completed depending on the availability of participants and their preferences. Participants may also be interviewed in person if it convenient for the interviewer and interviewee. The data collection will be based on a qualitative data collection instrument submitted as part of this protocol which provides alternatives for different modalities of data collection in terms of time and format. Zoom sessions will be recorded and transcribed. In person sessions will be recorded via a tape recorder and transcribed. The transcripts will be retained indefinitely and the videos will be destroyed once data collection is complete.

Number of collections (e.g., focus groups, surveys, sessions)

It is our hope that we are able to interview 30-40 individuals (either in one-on-one sessions, in groups or focus groups) in each of our populations of interest. We believe this will provide us with enough diversity of opinion that we will be able to create web tools that meet the needs of these populations more effectively.

Description of respondents/participants

There are five primary participant populations; journalists, state and local government officials, sector representatives and federal organizations that support health centers. Journalists are an important distribution channel for climate mitigation strategies. They are trusted members of society who are responsible for distributing essential information to the public. State and local government officials are at the front-line of helping their constituents manage climate change. They need access to usable information that predicts extreme weather events and tools and strategies for responding to those extreme weather events. Health sector employees are individuals working or supporting health centers, hospitals or other points of care. Planners create physical infrastructure and social structure to support their communities. This includes addressing issues related to climate change, extreme weather, and climate mitigation. Emergency preparedness professionals are individuals whose professional responsibility is planning for and responding to emergencies including extreme weather and climate related events. All of these respondents will be engaging with this data collection in their professional capacity and will not be provided health or other risky information.

Description of how results will be used

Results will be used to create and improve web-based tools that our office provides to these populations of interest.

Description of how results will or will not be disseminated and why or why not

Results may be disseminated to our participants, to let them know how their results are being used. They may also be disseminated to federal partners who are developing web-based tools to allow them to know what is needed in this space.

COMPUTATION (Number of responses () estimated response or participation time in minutes (/60) = annual burden hours):

Category of Respondents	Number of Respondents	Participant Time	Burden
Journalists	40	30 minutes-1 hour	20-40 hours
State and local government officials	40	30 minutes-1 hour	20-40 hours
Health sector employees	40	30 minutes-1 hour	20-40 hours
Planners	40	30 minutes-1 hour	20-40 hours
Emergency preparedness professionals	40	30 minutes-1 hour	20-40 hours
Total	200		100-200 hours

* If participants decide they prefer a group meeting or focus group, the meetings will generally be longer. So, I am providing a possible range of times.

We estimate the total burden for federal staffing time with be \$15,000. This considers staff time for data collection instrument development, interview time, data analysis and report writing.

OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION

REQUESTED APPROVAL DATE: August 1, 2024

NAME OF CONTACT PERSON: Ashley Sanders-Jackson

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 267-515-2523

DEPARTMENT/OFFICE/BUREAU: OCCHE/OASH