DOCUMENTATION FOR THE GENERIC CLEARANCE FOR THE COLLECTION OF QUALITATIVE RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT

TITLE OF INFORMATION COLLECTION: Needs and Opportunities Assessment for Children's Interagency Coordinating Council (CICC): Stakeholder Perspectives on Child Poverty and Well-Being

[ ] INTERVIEWS
[ ] SMALL DISCUSSION GROUPS
[X] FOCUS GROUPS
[ ] QUESTIONNAIRES
[ ] OTHER (EXPLAIN:)

DESCRIPTION OF THIS SPECIFIC COLLECTION

1. **Intended purpose:** This is an exploratory project that utilizes qualitative methods (up to 30 focus groups with up to 240 participants) to gather diverse perspectives from various groups of stakeholders with experience addressing or experiencing child poverty and well-being issues. This project is focused on identifying important issues related to child poverty and well-being to help inform the priorities and work of the Children's Interagency Coordinating Council (CICC).

2. **Need for the collection:** A family's ability to meet their children's basic needs is critical to the health and well-being of children. Unfortunately, child poverty is a persistent problem that undermines the well-being of children, their families, and our nation. Child poverty is associated with a host of negative outcomes across the lifespan that can reverberate for generations. There are myriad federal programs designed to prevent or lift children out of poverty. Congress established the Children's Interagency Coordinating Council (CICC) as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, with the aim of fostering greater coordination and transparency on child policy across federal agencies. Congress charged the CICC to examine and periodically report on a broad array of cross-cutting issues affecting child well-being. To better understand the needs and opportunities related to child poverty and well-being, this project seeks to directly engage individuals who oversee social safety net programs, directly serve children and families, and parents/caregivers and youth with lived experience of poverty.

3. **Planned use of the data:** Results of this exploratory work will yield qualitative information from a diverse group of stakeholders, as well as identify themes around important issues affecting child poverty and well-being and opportunities for federal interagency action in order to help inform federal priorities and actions for the CICC.

4. **Date(s) and location(s):** Data will be collected between January 2025 and May 2025. Focus groups will be conducted virtually with participants across the country.

5. **Collection procedures**: Data will be collected through a series of focus groups using a discussion guide protocol. Key informant interviews or small group interviews may be

considered in lieu of focus groups for territories and/or Tribes where scheduling may be challenging. The protocols and questions would remain unchanged.

6. **Number of collections (e.g., focus groups, surveys, sessions):** Data will be collected through up to 30 focus groups with up to 8 participants each (for a total of 240 participants).

7. **Description of respondents/participants:** The participants include 240 stakeholders: an estimated 80 state/local/territory/Tribal agency representatives; 80 practitioners/service providers; and 40 parents/caregivers and 40 young people (18-24 years) participating in a series of audience-specific focus groups. Parents/caregivers and youth participants will self-identify as currently experiencing or having recently experienced poverty (within the past 3 years). Agency representatives and service providers will be recruited through CICC, federal agency, and ASPE networks. Parents and youth will be recruited through the lived expert networks of ASPE and the contractor and through organizations serving youth who have experienced poverty. Reflecting the exploratory nature of this project, this is a small convenience sample and is not representative of a population.

8. **Description of how results will be used:** Results of this exploratory work will be used to explore and translate important issues affecting child poverty and well-being into federal actions for the CICC.

9. **Description of how results will or will not be disseminated and why or why not:** Results will be disseminated in internal memos and a report to HHS/ASPE and federal CICC partners. A public-facing, high-level summary of the findings is also planned. Results of this work will help inform the 5-year priorities (2026-2030) for the CICC.

AMOUNT OF ANY PROPOSED STIPEND OR INCENTIVE — We plan to provide incentives of $50 to parents/caregivers and young people participating in focus groups, plus an additional $25 to compensate them for the costs of child care or other care responsibilities and/or lost wages during their participation, for a total payment of $75 for these participants. Inclusion criteria for parent/caregiver and youth participants are those who self-identify as having current or recent experiences (within the last three years) of poverty, many of whom will have hourly jobs and will be considered to have a low-income. Low-income status also places additional barriers to participation.

BURDEN HOUR COMPUTATION

Category of Respondent	No. of Respondents	Participation Time	Burden
State/local/territory/ Tribal department and agency representatives	Up to 80 participants in up to 10 focus groups	1.5	120 hours
Practitioners/service providers	Up to 80 participants in up to 10 focus	1.5	120 hours

	groups		
Parents/caregivers	Up to 40 participants in up to 5 focus groups	1.5	60 hours
Youth (ages 18-24)	Up to 40 participants in up to 5 focus groups	1.5	60 hours
Total	**240**	**-**	**360 hours**

BURDEN COST COMPUTATION

Category of Respondent	No. of Respondents	Hourly Rate	Response Time (hours)	Total
State/local/territory/Tribal department and agency representatives	80	23.28	1.5	$2,793.60
Practitioners/service providers	80	23.28	1.5	$2,793.60
Parents/caregivers	40	7.25	1.5	$435.00
Youth (18-24)	40	7.25	1.5	$435.00
Total	**240**	**-**	**6**	**$6,457.20**

OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION

REQUESTED APPROVAL DATE: January 12, 2025

NAME OF CONTACT PERSON: Lisa Trivits, Social Science Analyst

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 202-774-0155

DEPARTMENT/OFFICE/BUREAU: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Division of Children and Youth Policy