SUPPORTING STATEMENT
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Institute of Standards and Technology
CHIPS Streamlined Supply Chain Information Collection Request (ICR)
OMB Control No. 0693-0097

SUPPORTING STATEMENT PART A

Justification

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Attach a copy of the appropriate section of each statute and regulation mandating or authorizing the collection of information.

The CHIPS Incentives Program is authorized by Title XCIX—Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors for America of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Pub. L. 116-283, referred to as the CHIPS Act or Act), as amended by the CHIPS Act of 2022 (Division A of Pub. L. 117-167). The CHIPS Incentives Program is administered by the CHIPS Program Office (CPO) within the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) of the United States Department of Commerce (Department) and requires the submission of an application to the Secretary of Commerce to receive funding under this program.

This is a revision with changes to the renewal request for the previously approved information collection request (OMB Control No. 0693-0097). In October 2025, the CHIPS Program Office (CPO) re-opened and amended its second funding opportunity to strengthen the resilience of the semiconductor supply chain, advance U.S. technology leadership, and support vibrant domestic semiconductor clusters. In October 2026, CPO amended the notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) to accept concept plans through October 29, 2027. This amended NOFO seeks applications for projects for construction, expansion, or modernization of commercial facilities for semiconductor materials and manufacturing equipment. The NOFO is linked here and can be found at the following URL: https://www.nist.gov/system/files/documents/2026/10/29/Amended NOFO 2 Extension Final.pdf.

CPO is submitting this notice to renew and revise the currently approved information collection so it may continue collecting materials from applicants under this NOFO. Information collected as part of the application process may include but is not limited to project descriptions, project timelines, narrative justifications for incentives, applicant financial information, and relevant project environmental and workforce information. The information collection request is designed to ensure the program has what it needs – via the Concept Plan and Full Application process – to make award and funding decisions that align with key programmatic objectives.

2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.

Information collected via this ICR has being submitted by applicants via the CHIPS Incentives Program application portal and used by CHIPS Program Office staff to evaluate requests for funding associated with the CHIPS Incentives Program Facilities for Semiconductor Materials and Manufacturing Equipment Amended NOFO.

Potential applicants submit Concept Plans to be officially considered for a CHIPS Incentive Award. These Concept Plans are reviewed by CPO and as applicable some applicants are invited to submit Full Applications. Full applications are reviewed and evaluated to make award and funding decisions that align with key programmatic objectives.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden.

All application materials – Concept Plans and Full Applications – must be submitted electronically via the CHIPS Incentives Program application portal.

The application consists of a series of questions specific to the CHIPS Incentives Program – Facilities for Semiconductor Materials and Manufacturing Equipment Amended NOFO presented via a web-based application with respondents uploading files as requested. Question types and data fields include basic contact information, picklists, cost estimates, and brief project narratives. The web-based method was chosen to reduce applicant burden by eliminating redundant entries to the greatest extent possible and consolidating entries into one online form.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Question 2.

To submit a Full Application, applicants must have submitted a Concept Plan. As some of the information in the Full Application can be found in the Concept Plan, the system, where possible, pre-populate applicable fields for the ease of the respondent. Other than our own efforts to connect all aspects of the process into a comprehensive program, we are unaware of any similar efforts to collect this information in the past or currently from other sources within Commerce, from other government sources, and from outside sources.

5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden.

The CHIPS Incentives portal system has multiple modes of reducing burden to the applicant. Where able, all CHIPS applications streamline customer experience through several methods of form automation:

a. Conditional questions – when applicable, customers only see questions necessary, based on their responses to previous questions.
b. Reusable information – all the applications are programmed on the same platform, allowing the use of information supplied in one application to be available to the others. Once an applicant provides their company or contact information in one portion of the larger system, the Incentives application pre-populates the details anywhere that

information is needed, including in federal forms, so that users do not have to type the same information multiple times.

c. Just in time automation - certain sections of the applications unlock for the users only after applicants have passed certain gates, so that they are not providing more information than necessary at any step in the application process.

6. Describe the consequence to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.

A potential applicant must submit a Concept Plan and, if selected, Full Application to be officially considered for a CHIPS Incentive Award under the CHIPS Incentives Program – Facilities for Semiconductor Materials and Manufacturing Equipment Amended NOFO. Without this interaction the government would not be able to assess applicants' ability to meet program objectives and design an incentives package to accomplish program goals.

7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner: requiring respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly; requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it; requiring respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document; requiring respondents to retain records, other than health, medical, government contract; grant-in-aid, or tax records, for more than three years; in connection with a statistical survey, that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study; requiring the use of a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB; that includes a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or which unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or requiring respondents to submit proprietary trade secrets, or other confidential information unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.

For the CHIPS Incentives Program – Facilities for Semiconductor Materials and Manufacturing Equipment Amended NOFO, applicants are only required to submit one Concept Plan and if selected, one application per instance. The results from these data collection activities are not intended for general publication, however the results will/may be disseminated to CHIPS or DOC staff, and key federal policy and management officials.

8. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments.

A 60-day Federal Register Notice (FRN) soliciting public comments was published on Monday, August 31, 2026 (Vol. 91, Number 167, page 55843). A discussion of the public comment received is below.

A 30-day Federal Register Notice (FRN) soliciting public comments was published on 11/20/2026 (Vol. 91, Number 223, page 75293).

Comment received in the 60-Day FRN and CPO response:

Comment –

To read the full public comment received during the Federal Register Notice comment period, please see attachment located within this ICR Package. Below is a summary of the public comment submitted by Andrew G. Huff, Ph.D., of Risk Factor Research L.L.C; this was the only comment received.

The commenter acknowledges that the information collection is necessary under 15 U.S.C. 4652 to evaluate semiconductor facility incentive applications, the commenter offered several specific observations and recommendations regarding the collection's design, burden modeling, and data administration.

The commenter recommended that the agency include a change log in the Supporting Statement identifying any data elements added, modified, or dropped since the initial 2023 approval, with an explicit justification showing which award-evaluation decision it informs.

Regarding the burden and cost estimates, the commenter recommended reporting separate time and cost estimates for each instrument (the Concept Plan and the Full Applications), using actual applicant completion data if the agency holds it. Additionally, the commenter asked the agency to clarify whether the $873,032 figure is a public or federal cost.

To enhance quality and clarity, the commenter recommended that the instruments state the acceptable form of each response and the validation applied to it, and that the agency publish a response-time target for each stage. In addition, the commenter recommended enabling automatic data carry-forward from Concept Plans and providing machine-readable schemas for direct system integration. The commenter also stated that interviews and email, which the notice lists as alternative methods, should supplement the electronic record.

Finally, the commenter recommended the agency protect sensitive supply chain data by adopting data-minimization policies, tracking submission metadata, and publishing explicit Confidential Business Information (CBI) handling guidelines aligned with FOIA, the Trade Secrets Act, and NIST standards. Administratively, the commenter recommended adding a clarifying sentence in the 30-day notice to fix contradictory instructions regarding where to submit public comments versus OMB feedback.

Response –

Thank you for your comments regarding the renewal of the CHIPS Program Office (CPO) Streamlined Supply Chain Information Collection Request. We considered each of your recommendations.

Currently, CPO leverages automated data mapping within the CHIPS Incentives portal to transfer validated information directly from an applicant's approved Concept Plan into their Full Application (if applicable). This capability significantly reduces administrative burden for applicants and accelerates the submission process. Publishing response times is outside the scope of this collection. They describe the agency's review, not what applicants submit. We publish the deadline for Concept Plan submissions and inform each applicant its Full Application submission date if and when it advances to that phase. As described in the notice of funding opportunity

(2023-NIST-CHIPS-SMME-01) applicants submit web forms, completed templates, and narrative documents through the application portal. Our website (CHIPS.gov) provides templates, attachment requirements, an example financial model with instructions, and frequently asked questions. The CHIPS Incentives portal checks required fields, formats, and file types and sizes at entry, and applicants see errors before they submit. We review each submission for eligibility, completeness, and responsiveness. The electronic application is the official record.

In response to the suggestion that a change log be included, CPO notes that changes to this submission are indicated and explained in item 15 of this supporting statement and changes to the burden estimate are reflected in item 12 of this supporting statement. To clarify, the $873,032 stated in the 60-day notice is the estimated annual cost to the Federal Government, not a cost to the public. The notice labeled it incorrectly, and the 30-day notice will correct the label.

With respect to the recommendations to protect sensitive supply chain data, CPO recognizes the importance of protecting confidential business information and implementing robust protections to safeguard confidential information provided by applicants. CPO limits collection to the information needed to evaluate eligibility and merit. The two-stage process, with a Concept Plan first and a Full Application only for projects invited to advance, means applicants do not submit more detailed information until and unless it becomes necessary for CPO to evaluate their application. We also maintain data in a secure environment, upholding NIST's Federal Information Processing Standards - 199 requirements for cybersecurity and data protection, and limit access to materials to authorized employees, contractors, and consultants with a need to know. Confidential information submitted to the CPO is also protected by multiple federal laws further described on the CHIPS.gov website.

As you noted, the title of the 60-day notice refers to submission to OMB for review and approval, and the notice text states that it provides 60 days of public comment before submission. The 30-day notice will state that the collection has been submitted to OMB and that the 60-day comment period has been closed.

9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

There are no plans to provide payments or gifts to respondents.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy. If the collection requires a systems of records notice (SORN) or privacy impact assessment (PIA), those should be cited and described here.

Information in this system is not maintained in a Privacy Act system of records (i.e., information about an individual is not retrieved by the individual's name or unique identifier) and a SORN and Privacy Act Statement are not required.

In accordance with the privacy provisions of the E-Government Act of 2002, a privacy impact assessment is required for this information system. Information is maintained in the system's Department's Senior Agency Official for Privacy approved PIA ,201-01 CHIPS Program Office System, which reflects the collection and maintenance of CHIPS-related information. It is publicly available on the Department's privacy program page available at: https://www.commerce.gov/opog/privacy/PIA

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. This justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.

No sensitive or private information of this sort is being collected.

12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information.

Estimated Annualized Respondent Burden Hours

Collection Activity	Number of Respondents	Number of responses annually / respondent	Total annual responses	Estimated hours per response	Total Annual Burden Hours
Concept Plan	295	1	295	40 hours	11,800 hours
Full Application	80	1	80	40 hours	3,200 hours
Total	375	--	375	--	15,000 hours

Estimated Annualized Respondent Costs

Type of Respondent	Number of Respondents	Number of Responses per Respondent	Average Burden per Response	Hourly Wage Rate*	Total Burden Costs
13-1082 Project Management Specialist	375	1	40 hours	$53.24	$798,600
Total	--	--	--	--	$798,600

13. Provide an estimate for the total annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers resulting from the collection of information. (Do not include the cost of any hour burden already reflected on the burden worksheet).

There are no capital/start-up or ongoing operation/maintenance costs associated with this information collection.

14. Provide estimates of annualized costs to the Federal government. Also, provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and support staff),

and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information. Agencies may also aggregate cost estimates from Items 12, 13, and 14 in a single table.

Annualized Costs to the Federal Government

Staff	Grade/Step	Salary	Fringe (if applicable	% of Effort	Total Annualized Cost to Gov't
Federal Oversight					
NIST Project Oversight Officer -	ZP-IV	170,000	65.6% (leave and benefits	40%	$112,608
System Maintenance (labor)					
NIST OISM systems maintenance staff x 1		140,000	65.6% (leave and benefits)	5%	$11,592
NIST OISM IT Security		140,000		5%	$11,592
System Operation (labor)					
CPO Staff x 3		170,000	65.6% (leave and benefits)	40%	$337,824
Other Objects (Non-labor)					
End-User Licenses					$18,759
Total Cost to the Government					$492,375

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported on the burden worksheet.

This is a renewal with changes to the previously approved collection (OMB Control No. 0693-0097). Two changes are reflected in this renewal. First, some questions have been removed from the collection to streamline the application or because they are no longer applicable. Second, the burden estimates in Items 12 have been updated based on the number of Concept Plan and Full Application submissions received during the prior collection period.

16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.

The agency plans to perform certain analyses and develop statistics, reports, or other items summarizing the results of the collection activity. For example, the agency may develop reports showing the number of Concept Plans and applications submitted, correlated by geographic area, cross referenced with the proposed type of project submitted.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.

The expiration date will be clearly displayed with the OMB Control Number.

18. Explain each exception to the topics of the certification statement identified in "Certification or Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions."

There will be no exceptions to the certification statement and NIST certifies compliance with 5 CFR 1320.9 and the related provisions of 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3).