DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

DATE: February 26, 2026

TO: Hope Cummings, Ph.D.
Office of the Director
Center for Scientific Review (CSR)

FROM: NIH Senior Official for Privacy

SUBJECT: Applicability of the Privacy Act: Early Career Reviewer Program Application and Vetting System (EAVS)

I have reviewed the request for a revision of an Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act for clearance which proposes to collect personally identifiable information via the EAVS software to process applications for the Early Career Reviewer (ECR) program.

The ECR program was developed to identify and train qualified scientists who are early in their scientific careers and who have not had prior CSR review experience to become effective reviewers, help emerging researchers advance their careers by exposing them to peer review, and enrich the existing pool of NIH reviewers by including scientists from less research-intensive institutions as well as those from traditionally research-intensive institutions.

The EAVS is accessed by ECR program applicants who provide their names, contact information, ORCID and NIH Commons ID, login credentials, a description of their areas of expertise, and their professional CV. The information is transmitted to Scientific Review Officers who vet the applications to determine if reviewers are an appropriate fit for their review panels. The applicant's information is stored on information systems that are protected at all entry points by firewalls and intrusion detection devices. Applicants will maintain control of the location from which they complete the online application. This allows applicants to maintain control over the privacy of their data during the application process.

I have determined that the Privacy Act will apply to this information collection request and is covered by NIH Privacy Act System of Records 09-25-0036, "NIH Extramural Awards and Chartered Advisory Committee (IMPAC II), Contract Information (DCIS), and Cooperative Agreement Information, HHS/NIH." If you have any questions, please contact my office at (301) 402-6201.

Celeste Dade-Vinson

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NIH Senior Official for Privacy