

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Joint Institute for Food Safety Research; Public Meeting

AGENCIES: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

ACTION: Notice; public meeting; establishment of public docket.

SUMMARY: On July 8, 1998, President Clinton directed the Secretaries of Agriculture and Health and Human Services to develop a plan to create the Joint Institute for Food Safety Research (JIFSR). On July 3, 1999, following extensive public consultations, DHHS and USDA submitted the requested plan to the President. The report can be obtained at <http://www.Foodsafety.gov/>.

USDA and DHHS are now soliciting public comments on food research needs via a public meeting. The purposes of the meeting are to listen to the overall food safety research priorities and agenda from the JIFSR Policy and Budget Committee members and have an opportunity to ask questions and/or make comments on their views on priorities and important priorities for food safety research.

The meeting is open to the public. Written comments and suggestions on issues that may be considered in the meeting may be submitted to the CSREES Docket Clerk at the address below.

DATES: The meeting will be held on December 1, 2000, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in Room 107A, Jamie L. Whitten Building, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0110.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Maureen Wood, (202) 720-5887 or by e-mail to maureen.wood@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Persons wishing to present comments orally at this meeting are requested to pre-register by contacting Ms. Maureen Wood at (202) 720-5887, by fax at (202) 690-2842, or by e-mail to maureen.wood@usda.gov. Participants may reserve a 5-minute comment period when they register. More time may be available, depending on the number of people wishing to make a presentation and the time needed for questions following the presentations. Reservations will be confirmed on a first-come, first-serve basis. All other attendees may register at the meeting. Written comments may also be submitted for the record at the meeting or may be mailed to Ms. Maureen Wood, USDA/REE, Room 217W, Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-0110. Please provide five copies of the comments. Written comments must be postmarked by December 18, 2000 to be considered. All comments and the official transcript of the meeting when it becomes available, will be available for review for six months at the address listed above from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Participants who require a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should contact Ms. Wood by Friday, November 24, 2000 as directed above.

Done in Washington, DC, on this 13th day of November, 2000.

Eileen Kennedy,

Deputy Under Secretary, Research, Education, and Economics Department of Agriculture.

William Raub,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Science Policy, Department of Health and Human Services.

[FR Doc. 00-29750 Filed 11-20-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Maximum Portion of Guarantee Authority Available for Fiscal Year 2001

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As set forth in 7 CFR part 4279, subpart B, each fiscal year the Agency shall establish a limit on the maximum portion of guarantee authority available for that fiscal year that may be used to guarantee loans with a guarantee fee of 1 percent or guaranteed loans with a guarantee percentage exceeding 80 percent.

Allowing the guarantee fee to be reduced to 1 percent or exceeding the 80 percent guarantee on certain guaranteed loans that meet the conditions set forth in 7 CFR 4279.107 and 4279.119 will increase the Agency's ability to focus guarantee assistance on projects which the Agency has found particularly meritorious, such as projects in rural communities that remain persistently poor, experience long-term population decline and job deterioration, are experiencing trauma as a result of natural disaster or are experiencing fundamental structural changes in the economic base.

Not more than 12 percent of the Agency quarterly apportioned guarantee authority will be reserved for loan requests with a guarantee fee of 1 percent, and not more than 15 percent of the Agency quarterly apportioned guarantee authority will be reserved for guaranteed loan requests with a guaranteed percentage exceeding 80 percent. Once the above quarterly limits have been reached, all additional loans guaranteed during the remainder of that quarter will require a 2 percent guarantee fee and not exceed an 80 percent guarantee limit. As an exception to this paragraph and for the purposes of this notice, loans developed by the North American Development Bank (NADBANK) Community Adjustment and Investment Program (CAIP) will not count against the 15 percent limit. CAIP loans are subject to a 50 percent limit of the overall CAIP loan program.

Written requests by the Rural Development State Office for approval of a guaranteed loan with a 1 percent

guarantee fee or a guaranteed loan exceeding 80 percent must be forwarded to the National Office, Attn: Director, Business Programs Processing Division, for review and consideration prior to obligation of the guaranteed loan. The Administrator will provide a written response to the State Office confirming approval or disapproval of the request.

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 21, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth E. Hennings, Senior Loan Specialist, Business Programs Processing Division, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA, Stop 3221, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3221, telephone (202) 690-3809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action has been reviewed and determined not to be a rule or regulation as defined in Executive Order 12866.

Dated: November 13, 2000.

Judith A. Canales,

Acting Associate Administrator.

[FR Doc. 00-29704 Filed 11-20-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-U

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) Wave 2 of the 2001 Panel

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before January 22, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Madeleine Clayton, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6086, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at MClayton@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Judith H. Eagle, Census Bureau, FOB 3, Room 3379,

Washington, DC 20233-0001, (301) 457-3819.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Census Bureau conducts the SIPP which is a household-based survey designed as a continuous series of national panels. New panels are introduced every few years with each panel usually having durations of one to four years. Respondents are interviewed at 4-month intervals or "waves" over the life of the panel. The survey is molded around a central "core" of labor force and income questions that remain fixed throughout the life of the panel. The core is supplemented with questions designed to address specific needs, such as obtaining information on taxes, the ownership and contributions made to an Individual Retirement Account, Keogh, and 401K plans, examining patterns in respondent work schedules, and child care arrangements. These supplemental questions are included with the core and are referred to as "topical modules."

The SIPP represents a source of information for a wide variety of topics and allows information for separate topics to be integrated to form a single, unified database so that the interaction between tax, transfer, and other government and private policies can be examined. Government domestic-policy formulators depend heavily upon the SIPP information concerning the distribution of income received directly as money or indirectly as in-kind benefits and the effect of tax and transfer programs on this distribution. They also need improved and expanded data on the income and general economic and financial situation of the U.S. population. The SIPP has provided these kinds of data on a continuing basis since 1983 permitting levels of economic well-being and changes in these levels to be measured over time.

The 2001 Panel is currently scheduled for three years and will include nine waves of interviewing beginning February 2001. Approximately 50,000 households will be selected for the 2001 Panel, of which 37,500 are expected to be interviewed. We estimate that each household will contain 2.1 persons, yielding 78,750 interviews in Wave 1 and subsequent waves. Interviews take 30 minutes on average. Two waves of interviewing will occur in the 2001 SIPP Panel during FY 2001. The total annual burden for 2001 Panel SIPP interviews would be 78,750 hours in FY 2001.

The topical modules for the 2001 Panel Wave 2 collect the following information about:

- Work Disability History

- Education and Training History
- Marital History
- Fertility History
- Migration History
- Household Relationships

Wave 2 interviews will be conducted from June 2001 through September 2001.

A 10-minute reinterview of 2,500 persons is conducted at each wave to ensure accuracy of responses. Reinterviews would require an additional 835 burden hours in FY 2001.

An additional 1,050 burden hours is requested in order to continue the SIPP Methods Panel testing which will be conducted during the period of Wave 2 interviewing. The test targets SIPP Wave 1 items and sections that require thorough and rigorous testing in order to improve the quality of core data.

II. Method of Collection

The SIPP is designed as a continuing series of national panels of interviewed households that are introduced every few years with each panel having durations of one to four years. All household members 15 years old or over are interviewed using regular proxy-respondent rules. During the 2001 Panel, respondents are interviewed a total of nine times (nine waves) at 4-month intervals making the SIPP a longitudinal survey. Sample people (all household members present at the time of the first interview) who move within the country and reasonably close to a SIPP primary sampling unit will be followed and interviewed at their new address. Individuals 15 years old or over who enter the household after Wave 1 will be interviewed; however, if these individuals move, they are not followed unless they happen to move along with a Wave 1 sample individual.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0607-0875

Form Number: SIPP/CAPI Automated Instrument

Type of Review: Regular

Affected Public: Individuals or Households

Estimated Number of Respondents:

78,750 persons per wave

Estimated Time Per Response: 30

minutes per person on average

Estimated Total Annual Burden

Hours: 80,635

Estimated Total Annual Cost: The

only cost to respondents is their time.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary

Legal Authority: Title 13, United

States Code, Section 182

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information