

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**Agency for Health Care Policy and Research****Agency Information Collection
Activities: Proposed Collection:
Comment Request**

AGENCY: Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research's (AHCPR) intention to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to grant a generic approval for "Voluntary Customer Surveys of 'Partners' of the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research." In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research invites the public to comment on this proposed information collection request to allow AHCPR to conduct surveys.

The Agency for Health Care Policy and Research will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects being developed for submission to OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by November 23, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted to: Ruth A. Celtnieks, Reports Clearance Officer, AHCPR, 2101

E. Jefferson Street, Suite 500, Rockville, Maryland 20852-4908. All comments will become a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth A. Celtnieks, AHCPR Reports Clearance Officer, (301) 594-1406, ext. 1497.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Proposed Project**

"Voluntary Customer Surveys of 'Partners' of the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research"

In response to Executive Order 12862, the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) plans to conduct voluntary customer surveys of "partners" to identify how well AHCPR is performing its functions with its partners and to use this information to determine the kind and quality of services they want and expect, their level of satisfaction with existing services, and to implement improvements where feasible and practical. AHCPR partners are typically payers, plans, practitioners and health care providers, researchers, AHCPR suppliers and in some cases State and local governments or persons or entities that provide service to the public for AHCPR, e.g., a middle man.

Partner surveys to be conducted by AHCPR may include, for example, surveys of grantees to measure satisfaction with technical assistance received from AHCPR. Results of these surveys will be used to assess and

redirect resources and efforts needed to improve services.

In addition, approval is requested for customer surveys that would be undertaken by one of AHCPR's "partners" (grantees) to assess their satisfaction with services received. For example, the AHCPR's Office of Research Review, Education, and Policy (ORREP) provides grant funds for training of health services researchers. AHCPR would like to survey scholars whose training it has supported regarding their training experience. The Office for Health Care Information (OHCI) is proposing to survey one component of their customers: researchers. This proposed survey will be undertaken by a contractor to determine how AHCPR could better serve the research community. Questions asked may include a need for extended hours to answer inquiries on grant submission-related matters or the development of a comprehensive manual on grant submission.

Method of Collection

The data will be collected using a combination of preferred methodologies appropriate to each survey. These methodologies are:

- Mail surveys;
- Evaluation forms; and
- Telephone surveys.

The estimated annual burden is as follows:

Type of survey	Number of respondents	Average burden/ response	Total hours of burden
Mail/Telephone Surveys	3,000	20 minutes	1,000
Focus Groups	200	1.5 hours	300
Totals	3,200	.41 hours	1,300

Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) The necessity of the proposed collection for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection.

Copies of these proposed collections plans can be obtained from the AHCPR Reports Clearance Officer (see above).

Dated: September 14, 1998.

John M. Eisenberg,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 98-25223 Filed 9-21-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-90-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention****Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
Coordinating Committee (CFSCC):
Notice of Charter Renewal**

This gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463) of October 6, 1972, that the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Coordinating Committee, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, has been renewed for a 2-year period beginning September 5, 1998, through September 5, 2000.

For further information, contact Lisa Blake-DiSpigna, Executive Secretary,

CFSCC, CDC, 1600 Clifton Road, NE, M/S C19, Atlanta, Georgia 30333, telephone 404/639-3227, fax 404/639-4138.

Dated: September 16, 1998.

John C. Burckhardt,

Acting Director, Management Analysis and Services Office Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

[FR Doc. 98-25247 Filed 9-21-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4861-18-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Coordinating Committee: Meeting.

In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the following committee meeting.

Name: Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Coordinating Committee (CFSCC).

Time and Date: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., October 13, 1998.

Place: Hyatt Regency Hotel, Dawes Room, 575 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139-4896, telephone 617/492-1234, fax 617/441-6489.

Status: Open to the public, limited only by the space available. The meeting room will accommodate approximately 145 people.

Purpose: The Committee is charged with providing advice to the Secretary, the Assistant Secretary for Health, and the Commissioner, Social Security Administration (SSA), to assure interagency coordination and communication regarding chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) research and other related issues; facilitating increased Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and agency awareness of CFS research and educational needs; developing complementary research programs that minimize overlap; identifying opportunities for collaborative and/or coordinated efforts in research and education; and developing

informed responses to constituency groups regarding HHS and SSA efforts and progress.

Matters to be Discussed: Agenda items will include updates from HHS agencies; recruiting new investigators into the field of CFS and initiating drug trials in CFS; priority areas arising from the American Association for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Conference; and CFSCC discussion on an annual report for CFS.

Agenda items are subject to change as priorities dictate.

Public comments will be received at the meeting for approximately 60 minutes. Public statements presented at this meeting should not be repetitive of previously submitted oral or written statements. Persons wishing to make oral comments should notify the contact person listed below no later than close of business on October 8, 1998. All requests to make oral comments should contain the name, address, telephone number, subject area, and organizational affiliation of the presenter. These comments will become a part of the official record of the meeting. Due to the time available, public comments will be limited to five minutes per person. Copies of any written comments should be provided at the meeting; please provide at least 145 copies.

Contact Person for More Information: Lisa Blake-DiSpigna, Executive Secretary, CFSCC, CDC, 1600 Clifton Road, NE, M/S C19, Atlanta, Georgia 30333, telephone 404/639-3227, fax 404/639-4138.

Dated: September 16, 1998.

John C. Burckhardt,

Acting Director, Management Analysis and Services Office Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

[FR Doc. 98-25248 Filed 9-21-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4163-18-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

Periodically, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

publishes abstracts of information collection requests under review by the Office of Management and Budget, in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). To request a copy of the clearance requests submitted to OMB for review, call the HRSA Reports Clearance Office on (301)-443-1129.

The following request has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for review under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995:

Proposed Project: The Health Education Assistance Loan (HEAL) Program: Refinancing Loan Application/Promissory Note; New—

The HEAL program provides federally-insured loans to students in schools of allopathic medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, podiatric medicine, pharmacy, public health, chiropractic, or allied health, and graduate students in health administration or clinical psychology. Eligible lenders, such as banks, State agencies, and HEAL schools, make HEAL loans which are insured by the Federal Government against loss due to the borrower's death, disability, bankruptcy, and default. The basic purpose of the program is to assure the availability of funds for loans to eligible students who need to borrow money to pay for their educational costs.

A new combined HEAL refinancing loan application/promissory note has been developed for lenders. Previously, the standard HEAL student application form (HRSA-700) and promissory note (HRSA 500-3) were used by lenders to process the loan refinancing. The application contained items that were not needed for refinancing loans, and the Department has since developed an official combined form.

Estimates of annualized reporting burden are as follows:

Type of respondent	Number of respondents	Responses per respondent	Total responses	Hours per response	Total burden hours
Applicants	2,800	1	2,800	12	560
Lenders	9	311	2,800	30	1,400
Total	2,809	5,600	1,960

Written comments and recommendations concerning the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of this notice to: Wendy A. Taylor, Human Resources and Housing Branch, Office of Management and Budget, New

Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, D.C. 20503.

Dated: September 16, 1998.

Jane Harrison,

Director, Division of Policy Review and Coordination.

[FR Doc. 98-25273 Filed 9-21-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-15-P