Environmental Policy and Compliance, (202) 208–3891. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., eastern standard time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On Monday, December 16, 2002, the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service and the Department of the Interior published two proposed categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act, 67 FR 77038, concerning fire management activities. The deadline for receipt of comments was January 15, 2003. The comment period is extended for sixteen days to allow additional time for comment on the proposed categorical exclusions. Comments must be received on or before January 31, 2003.

For the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Dated: January 13, 2003.

Sally D. Collins,

Associate Chief.

Dated: January 13, 2003.

Christopher B. Kearney,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs.

[FR Doc. 03–1060 Filed 1–14–03; 9:26 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11 and 4310–70–M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

Survey of Local Government Finances (School Systems)

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 and/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 March 17, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at *dhynek@doc.gov*).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Sharon J. Meade, U.S. Census Bureau, Governments Division, Washington, DC 20233–6800 (301–763–7316).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

I. Abstract

The Census Bureau collects education finance data as part of its Annual Survey of State and Local Governments. This survey is the only comprehensive source of public fiscal data collected on a nationwide scale using uniform definitions, concepts and procedures. The collection covers the revenues, expenditures, debt, and assets of all public school systems. This data collection has been coordinated with the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The NCES uses this collection to satisfy its need for school system level finance data.

Information on the finance of our public schools is vital to assessing their effectiveness. This data collection makes it possible to access a single data base to obtain information on such things as per pupil expenditures and the percent of state, local, and federal funding for each school system. Recently, as exemplified by the reauthorization of the Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA) by the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), there has been increased interest in improving the Nation's public schools. One result of this intensified interest has been a significant increase in the demand for school finance data.

The four forms used in the school finance portion of the survey are:

Form F–33. This form contains item descriptions and definitions of the elementary-secondary education finance items collected jointly by the Census Bureau and NCES. It is used primarily as a worksheet by the state education agencies that provide school finance data centrally for all of the school systems in their respective states. Most states supply their data by electronic means.

Form F–33–1. This form is used at the beginning of each survey period to solicit the assistance of the state education agencies. It establishes the conditions by which the state education agencies provide their school finance data to the Census Bureau.

Form F–33–L1. This is a supplemental letter sent to the school systems in states where the state education agencies cannot provide information on the assets of individual school systems.

Form F–33–L2. This is a supplemental letter sent to the school systems in states where the state education agency cannot provide information on the indebtedness of individual school systems.

Form F–33–L3. This is a supplemental letter sent to the school systems in states where the state education agency cannot provide information on either indebtedness or assets. This letter combines the items requested on the forms F–33–L1 and F–33–L2.

The data collection is identical to the previous collections except that the section on revenue from federal sources through the state government is updated to accommodate the collection of data related to the reauthorization of the Elementary-Secondary Education Act (ESEA) by the No Child Left Behind Act.

II. Method of Collection

Through central collection arrangements with the state education agencies, the Census Bureau collects almost all of the finance data for local school systems from state education agency data bases. The states transfer most of this information in electronic format via e-mail and over the Internet via file transfer protocol (FTP). The Census Bureau has facilitated central collection of school finance data by accepting data in whatever formats the states elect to transmit.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0607–0700.

Form Number: F–33, F–33–1, F–33–L1, F–33–L2, F–33–L3.

Type of Review: Regular.

Affected Public: State and local governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 4180.

Estimated Time Per Response: .97 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 4038.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: $73,492.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13 U.S.C., sections 161 and 181.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary 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 (including hours and cost) 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; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: January 10, 2003.

Madeleine Clayton,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 03–926 Filed 1–15–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–07–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

2004 National Long-Term Care Survey (NLTCS) and Informal Caregivers Survey (ICS)

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, Pub. L. 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 17, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6086, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Ronald Dopkowski, Census Bureau, FB 3, Room 3356, Mail Stop 8400, Washington, DC 20233–8400, (301) 763–3801.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

I. Abstract

The primary purpose of the NLTCS and the ICS is to obtain information on the health and functional status of the elderly population in the United States and the people who take care of them in a home environment. A secondary purpose of the 2004 NLTCS is to identify impaired people and their relatives so the survey sponsor, Duke University, can obtain supplemental information from them via follow-up contacts not made by the Census Bureau. The Census Bureau conducted NLTC surveys in 1982, 1984, 1989, 1994, and 1999 and the IC surveys in 1989 and 1999. Beginning with the 1989 NLTCS and ICS, Duke University sponsored the surveys using grant funding received from the National Institute on Aging (NIA). Duke University and the NIA propose the continuation of these two surveys in the spring of 2004. The information obtained from the 2004 surveys will be added to the information from all previous surveys and then used to inform policy decisions relating to the elderly, their care, and the medicare program.

Sample Overview

The 2004 NLTCS sample has a longitudinal component and an aged-in component. The longitudinal portion consists of 13,267 people who responded to one or more of the previous five surveys. The aged-in component consists of 6,600 people: 5,600 who turned 65 years old since the 1999 survey and an additional 1,000 people who are 95 years of age or older. The total sample size is 19,867 and all are selected from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) medicare beneficiary file. Approximately 1,800 people are in a part of the sample designated as the healthy segment.

The sample for the ICS is selected during the NLTCS interview and consists of approximately 3,275 people who are either not paid or members of the NLTCS sample person's family and help or assist the NLTCS sample person. We select one caregiver per NLTCS respondent.

Survey Process

The NLTCS survey consists of a screener interview to determine if a person is impaired or currently living in a nursing care facility. If the person is impaired and living at home, he/she is administered a community interview. If the person is in a nursing care facility, he/she is administered an institutional interview. If the person is part of the healthy segment, he/she is administered a portion of the community interview.

During the community interview, we collect information on people who provide help or assistance to the NLTCS respondents. For the ICS sample, we select the caregiver, if any, who has provided the most help to the NLTCS respondent during the week prior to the interview.

The Census Bureau stores the survey data on a microdata file and delivers a copy of the file to Duke University. The Duke University links the NLTCS and the ICS data with previous NLTCS and ICS data and appends to this data set the administrative medicare information and the data collected from the follow-up contacts with the NLTCS sample people. The Duke University analyzes the data and makes its findings known to the NIA. The Duke University makes two data sets available for research, none of which contain individual identifiers. One data set contains the linked NLTCS/ICS/medicare/follow-up survey data. This data set is sent to the CMS who controls its subsequent use. The second data set contains the linked NLTCS/ICS/follow-up survey data. This data set is kept by Duke University who controls its subsequent use.

Summary of Revisions

The 2004 NLTCS and ICS repeat the 1999 surveys with the following exceptions.

Proxy Respondent Requirements: The selection of eligible proxies will follow a hierarchical structure. This structure was not established in previous NLTC surveys.

Respondent Identification: For each section of the questionnaires, we will identify whether the sample person or a proxy respondent answered the questions. This is important in data assessment. For example, the level of help needed that is reported by an individual is usually less than the amount of help reported by a caregiver. This identification was not done in previous surveys.

Screener Questionnaire: The activities of daily living (ADL) and the instrumental activities of daily living (IADL) will be administered to all noninstitutional sample people. Previous NLTC surveys did not ask people in the longitudinal sample about disabilities during the screener. This created some problems with establishing disability at the time of the screener for weighting purposes.

The screener was expanded to include the new race and ancestry questions developed by the Census Bureau for its demographic surveys and several other demographic questions like educational attainment and marital status. This change consolidates many of the demographic variables in the screener and provides demographic statistics more consistently across the entire sample.

Control Card: The format of the control card will change to accommodate interviewing in an institutional setting. In addition, the control card will collect information on the number of hours worked by the sample persons' children and their spouses. These questions were asked in