

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**National Institutes of Health**

**Submission for OMB Review; 30-Day Comment Request; Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Agency Service Delivery (NIDA)**

**SUMMARY:** Under the provisions of Section 3507(a)(1)(D) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request for review and approval of the information collection listed below. This proposed information collection was previously published in the **Federal Register** Volume 79, No. 250, on December 31, 2014, page 78875, and allowed 60-days for public comment. No public comments were received. The purpose of this notice is to allow an additional 30 days for public comment. The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), National Institutes of Health, may not conduct or sponsor, and the respondent is not required to respond to, an information collection that has been extended, revised or implemented on or after October 1, 1995, unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

*Direct Comments to OMB:* Written comments and/or suggestions regarding the item(s) contained in this notice, especially regarding the estimated public burden and associated response time, should be directed to the: Office of Management and Budget, Office of Regulatory Affairs, *OIRA\_submission@omb.eop.gov* or by fax to 202-395-6974, Attention: NIH Desk Officer.

*Comment Due Date:* Comments regarding this information collection are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of the date of this publication.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To obtain a copy of the data collection plans and instruments, submit comments in writing, or request more information on the proposed project, contact: Genevieve deAlmeida, Project Clearance Liaison, National Institute on Drug Abuse, NIH, 6001 Executive Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20892-9557, or call non-toll-free number (301) 594-6802, or Email your request, including your address to: *dealmeig@nida.nih.gov*. Formal requests for additional plans and instruments must be requested in writing.

*Proposed Collection:* Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Agency Service

Delivery (NIDA), 0925-0655, Expiration Date 3/31/2015, EXTENSION, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA).

*Need and Use of Information Collection:* The information collected under this clearance will be qualitative customer and stakeholder feedback information—their perceptions, experiences and expectations of services, issues with service, to focus attention on areas where communication, training or changes in operations might improve delivery of products or services. The information will be useful and will allow for collaborative and actionable communications between the Agency and its customers and stakeholders, and will contribute directly to improving the programs and management of them.

The information will not yield data that can be generalized to the overall population. The information may also be formative for the purpose of developing a concept for a new service program or dissemination program. The collections may still be eligible for submission for other generic mechanisms designed to yield quantitative results. The primary objectives are to obtain feedback on programs from customers and stakeholders, that would help make positive changes to the programs, or to assist in developing a new program or dissemination initiative, or to test medical tools and devices for usability, feasibility, and pilot testing of survey questionnaires for understandability. Data collection methods to be used in these studies include web-based and mailed surveys, focus groups, interviews with small groups, ad hoc collections at Conferences. The findings will provide valuable information to assist in improving programs that serve the public, and in developing good tools and devices to serve the public. OMB approval is requested for 3 years.

NIDA will only submit a collection for approval under this generic clearance if it meets the following conditions:

- The collections are voluntary;
- The collections are low-burden for respondents (based on considerations of total burden hours, total number of respondents, or burden-hours per respondent) and are low-cost for both the respondents and the Federal Government;
- The collections are non-controversial and do not raise issues of concern to other Federal agencies;
- Any collection is targeted to the solicitation of opinions from respondents who have experience with the program or may have experience with the program in the near future;

- Personally identifiable information (PII) is collected only to the extent necessary and is not retained;

- Information gathered will be used only internally for general service improvement and program management purposes and is not intended for release outside of the agency;

- Information gathered will not be used for the purpose of substantially informing influential policy decisions; and

- Information gathered will yield qualitative information; the collections will not be designed or expected to yield statistically reliable results or used as though the results are generalizable to the population of study.

Feedback collected under this generic clearance provides useful information, but it does not yield data that can be generalized to the overall population. This type of generic clearance for qualitative information will not be used for quantitative information collections that are designed to yield reliably actionable results, such as monitoring trends over time or documenting program performance. Such data uses require more rigorous designs that address: The target population to which generalizations will be made, the sampling frame, the sample design (including stratification and clustering), the precision requirements or power calculations that justify the proposed sample size, the expected response rate, methods for assessing potential non-response bias, the protocols for data collection, and any testing procedures that were or will be undertaken prior to fielding the study. Depending on the degree of influence the results are likely to have, such collections may still be eligible for submission for other generic mechanisms that are designed to yield quantitative results.

As a general matter, information collections will not result in any new system of records containing privacy information and will not ask questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget control number.

OMB approval is requested for 3 years. There are no costs to respondents other than their time. The total estimated annualized burden hours are 1,560.

ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED BURDEN HOURS

Type of collection	Number of respondents	Annual frequency per response	Hours per response	Total hours
Customer outcomes and usability testing .....	900	1	40/60	600
Customer Satisfaction and needs assessment survey .....	600	1	40/60	400
Focus Groups .....	130	1	1	130
Small Discussion Groups .....	130	1	1	130
Pilot Testing of instruments for applicability among diverse populations .....	450	1	40/60	300

Dated: March 11, 2015.

**Genevieve deAlmeida,**

*Project Clearance Liaison, NIDA, NIH.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Health Resources and Services Administration**

**“Low-Income Levels” Used for Various Health Professions and Nursing Programs Authorized in Titles III, VII, and VIII of the Public Health Service Act**

**AGENCY:** Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is updating income levels used to identify a “low-income family” for the purpose of determining eligibility for programs that provide health professions and nursing training to individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. These various programs are authorized in Titles III, VII, and VIII of the Public Health Service Act.

The Department periodically publishes in the **Federal Register** low-income levels to be used by institutions receiving grants and cooperative agreements in order to determine individual eligibility for programs providing training for (1) disadvantaged individuals, (2) individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, or (3) individuals from low-income families.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Many health professions and nursing grant and cooperative agreement awardees use the low-income levels to determine whether potential program participants are from an economically disadvantaged background and would be eligible to participate in the program, as well as to determine the amount of funding the individual receives. Federal agencies generally make awards to: Accredited schools of medicine, osteopathic medicine, public health, dentistry,

veterinary medicine, optometry, pharmacy, allied health, podiatric medicine, nursing, and chiropractic; public or private nonprofit schools which offer graduate programs in behavioral health and mental health practice; and other public or private nonprofit health or education entities to assist the disadvantaged to enter and graduate from health professions and nursing schools. Some programs provide for the repayment of health professions or nursing education loans for disadvantaged students.

The Secretary defines a “low-income family/household” for programs included in Titles III, VII, and VIII of the Public Health Service Act as having an annual income that does not exceed 200 percent of the Department’s poverty guidelines. A family is a group of two or more individuals related by birth, marriage, or adoption who live together. On June 26, 2013, in *U.S. v. Windsor*, 133 S. Ct. 2675 (2013), the Supreme Court held that section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act, which prohibited federal recognition of same-sex spouses and same-sex marriages, was unconstitutional. In light of this decision, please note that in determining eligibility for these programs, same-sex marriages and same-sex spouses will be recognized on equal terms with opposite-sex marriages and opposite-sex spouses, regardless of where the couple resides. This approach is consistent with a post-Windsor policy of treating same-sex marriages on the same terms as opposite sex marriages to the greatest extent reasonably possible. Thus, a “family or household” includes same-sex spouses that are legally married in a jurisdiction that recognizes same-sex marriage regardless of whether the same-sex spouses live in a jurisdiction that recognizes same-sex marriage or a jurisdiction that does not recognize same-sex marriage as well as the family members that result from such same sex-marriage.

Most HRSA programs use the income of a student’s parents to compute low-income status. However, a “household” may potentially be only one person. Other HRSA programs, depending upon

the legislative intent of the program, the programmatic purpose related to income level, as well as the age and circumstances of the participant, will apply these low-income standards to the individual student to determine eligibility, as long as he or she is not listed as a dependent on the tax form of his or her parent(s). Each program announces the rationale and choice of methodology for determining low-income levels in program guidance.

The Secretary annually adjusts the low-income levels based on the Department’s poverty guidelines and makes them available to persons responsible for administering the applicable programs. The Department’s poverty guidelines are based on poverty thresholds published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, adjusted annually for changes in the Consumer Price Index. The income figures that follow have been updated to reflect the Department’s 2015 poverty guidelines as published in 80 FR 3236 (January 22, 2015).

**LOW-INCOME LEVELS BASED ON THE 2015 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Persons in family/household *	Income level **
1 .....	23,540
2 .....	31,860
3 .....	40,180
4 .....	48,500
5 .....	56,820
6 .....	65,140
7 .....	73,460
8 .....	81,780

For families with more than 8 persons, add \$8,320 for each additional person.

**LOW-INCOME LEVELS BASED ON THE 2015 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR ALASKA**

Persons in family/household *	Income level **
1 .....	29,440
2 .....	39,840
3 .....	50,240
4 .....	60,640
5 .....	71,040
6 .....	81,440