

rural safety peer exchanges, supported development of rural safety countermeasures¹⁰ to promote information sharing and capacity building, and established the internal USDOT Safety Council—Rural Subcommittee to coordinate activities and information among modal administrations that advance rural transportation safety. See <https://www.transportation.gov/rural> for more information on ROUTES activities.

To continue providing the best technical assistance possible, ROUTES is again requesting information from rural stakeholders on rural issues and needs.

Request for Information

In this notice, DOT requests information directly from knowledgeable entities and the public to inform rural transportation policy and the development of future ROUTES activities. DOT seeks comments that illustrate rural communities' needs and experiences with transportation infrastructure, including the condition of that infrastructure, its effect on safety and road user behavior, and how its use affects the community. For the purpose of this notice, "transportation" includes road, rail, transit, aviation, maritime, pipelines, and other forms of transportation; "infrastructure" includes all capital investment in transportation such as structures, equipment, and rolling stock. This includes comments and data pertaining to current unmet needs in rural transportation, barriers rural communities face in addressing these transportation needs, stakeholders' experiences with applying to and using DOT competitive grant and credit programs, and opportunities for DOT to improve its services and technical assistance to rural communities within the limits of statutory requirements. This request for comments includes solicitation from Tribal Nations and communities in rural areas.

In addition, DOT specifically requests comments and data in response to the questions below. To the extent possible, DOT seeks relevant technical information, regulatory citations, data, or other evidence to support the comments received.

¹⁰ In support of the USDOT Safety Council—Rural Subcommittee, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Federal Highway Administration developed a compilation of safety countermeasures for stakeholders looking to address challenges in rural road safety. These resources are available at <https://www.transportation.gov/rural/safety>.

A. Identifying Unmet Needs in Rural Transportation

1. What challenges and opportunities do rural areas face related to the following:

(a) infrastructure condition (e.g., age of infrastructure or equipment, bridge closures or postings, weather resiliency);

(b) usage (e.g., frequency or availability of public transportation, freight transportation, pedestrian walkways and shoulders);

(c) safety (e.g., transportation-related injuries and fatalities, roadway departure, at-grade rail crossings, railroad trespassing, wildlife, transportation of hazardous materials, motorcycle and all-terrain vehicle safety, experiences of nonmotorized road users, post-crash care);

(d) technology (e.g., broadband, cellular coverage, backup for GPS time and navigation, automated vehicles, drones, digital infrastructure);

2. What types of infrastructure projects, services, or technology are most needed in rural communities to meet national transportation priorities such as safety and economic competitiveness? What types of projects or services do rural communities find most challenging to fund? What are barriers to funding these projects?

3. How could improved multimodal passenger and freight transportation—including road, rail, transit, aviation, maritime, pipelines, and other forms of transportation—better contribute to the economic competitiveness of rural communities? What industries (including tourism) are most in need of these improvements?

4. What data has been used to inform rural transportation decision making and grant development, and what additional data would have been helpful but was nonexistent or difficult to access?

5. How can rural communities better engage with Federal, Tribal, State, and regional entities—such as other Federal agencies, State DOTs, regional planning organizations, and metropolitan planning organizations—to maintain and upgrade local transportation?

B. Addressing Unmet Needs Through DOT Grants and Resources

1. ROUTES supports rural and Tribal stakeholders through development of technical assistance resources and opportunities, such as toolkits, dashboards, peer exchanges, webinars, and newsletters. (See <https://www.transportation.gov/rural> for more information on ROUTES activities.) What additional resources or direct

technical assistance could ROUTES provide to support rural communities? Of the existing resources ROUTES provides, what is most useful?

2. What challenges do rural communities face when applying for DOT grants and financial assistance (e.g., project prioritization, eligibility requirements, data needs, funding match)? What challenges do rural communities encounter after being awarded a DOT grant or financial assistance (e.g., project grant agreements, environmental analyses, permitting, reporting requirements, workforce availability, weather, inflation)?

3. What types of technical assistance would be effective for navigating the Federal grant process, including pre-award activities, project delivery, and project evaluation?

4. How do the definitions of "rural" across DOT grant programs¹¹ reflect the reality of rural communities? How do these definitions influence the allocation of rural funding?

Public Comment

DOT invites comments from knowledgeable entities and the public interested in rural transportation policy and ROUTES activities. Comments may be submitted and viewed at Docket Number DOT–OST–2026–0298 at <http://www.regulations.gov>, or at the address given above under **ADDRESSES**. Comments must be received on or before 60 days from posting of this notice to receive full consideration by DOT. After 60 days from posting of this notice, comments will continue to be available for viewing by the public.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 19, 2026, under authority delegated at 49 CFR 1.25(a).

Loren A. Smith, Jr.,

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Policy.

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BILLING CODE 4910–9X–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Privacy Act of 1974

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of a New Matching Program.

¹¹ The definition of "rural" varies across the Department. ROUTES developed the Rural Eligibility Map to help prospective applicants determine eligibility. The map is available at <https://www.transportation.gov/rural/eligibility>.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 552a(e)(12) of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular No. A-108, Federal Agency Responsibilities for Review, Reporting, and Publication under the Privacy Act, notice is hereby given of the conduct of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Data Loss Prevention Computer Matching Program.

DATES: Comments on this matching notice must be received no later than 30 days after date of publication in the **Federal Register**. If no public comments are received during the period allowed for comment, the re-established agreement will be effective March 24, 2026, provided it is a minimum of 30 days after the publication date.

Beginning and completion dates: The matches are conducted on an ongoing basis in accordance with the terms of the computer matching agreement in effect with the IRS as approved by the applicable Data Integrity Board. The term of this agreement is expected to cover the 18-month period March 24, 2026, through September 23, 2027. Ninety days prior to expiration of the agreement, the parties to the agreement may request a 12-month extension in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552a(o).

ADDRESSES: Comments may be sent by mail to the Office of Privacy, Governmental Liaison and Disclosure, Internal Revenue Service, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Natalie Jackels, Government Information Specialist, IRS Privacy, Governmental Liaison and Disclosure, 763-347-7394 (not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of the matching program was last published at 85 FR 79562-79563 (December 10, 2020). Members of the public desiring specific information concerning an ongoing matching activity may request a copy of the applicable computer matching agreement at the address provided above.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES:

IRS.

AUTHORITY FOR CONDUCTING THE MATCHING PROGRAM:

The Internal Revenue Service must safeguard information to ensure that it is kept confidential as required by the Internal Revenue Code, the Privacy Act of 1974, the Bank Secrecy Act, Title 18 of the United States Code, the Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA), and other applicable laws that

require safeguarding of information. Sending confidential information without sufficient protection is a violation of IRS security policy. This matching program will assist the IRS in ensuring that sensitive information is properly protected from unauthorized use or disclosure.

PURPOSE(S):

The purpose of this program is to detect and deter breaches of security policy by IRS employees, contractors, or other individuals who have been granted access to IRS information or to IRS equipment and resources, who send electronic communications in an insecure, unencrypted manner.

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS:

IRS employees, contractors, or other individuals who have been granted access to IRS information, equipment, and resources.

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS:

IRS will use any or all of the data elements in the listed systems of records to the extent necessary to accomplish a computer match. Data elements include, but are not limited to, employee name, Social Security Number (SSN), employee number, address, email addresses; employee spouse's name, SSN, address; taxpayer name, Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN), address, tax return/account information, taxpayer entity information, including prior and current name; electronic transmission specifics, internet Protocol (IP) Address, computer machine name, terminal identification; general personnel and payroll records, etc. The information generated and/or obtained during these computer matches will be used by IRS employees in the performance of their official responsibilities. Access to this information is limited to those individuals who have a need to know the information in the performance of their official duties. These individuals are subject to criminal and civil penalties for the unauthorized inspection and/or disclosure of this information. During the execution of this program of computer matches and the resultant analyses or investigations, the records used may be duplicated by IRS employees only for use in performing their official duties. The information collected or generated as part of this program of computer matches may only be disclosed in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552a, 26 U.S.C. § 6103, and any other applicable Federal privacy provisions.

SYSTEM(S) OF RECORDS:

The following systems of records maintained by the IRS and the Department of the Treasury Offices may be utilized:

1. Correspondence Files and Correspondence Control Files [Treasury/IRS 00.001]
2. Correspondence Files: Inquiries About Enforcement Activities [Treasury/IRS 00.002]
3. Employee Complaint and Allegation Referral Records [Treasury/IRS 00.007]
4. Taxpayer Advocate Service and Customer Feedback and Survey Records [Treasury/IRS 00.003]
5. Third Party Contact Records [Treasury/IRS 00.333]
6. Stakeholder Relationship Management and Subject Files [Treasury/IRS 10.004]
7. Volunteer Records [Treasury/IRS 10.555]
8. Annual Listing of Undelivered Refund Checks [Treasury/IRS 22.003]
9. File of Erroneous Refunds [Treasury/IRS 22.011]
10. Foreign Information System (FIS) [Treasury/IRS 22.027]
11. Individual Microfilm Retention Register [Treasury/IRS 22.032]
12. Subsidiary Accounting Files [Treasury/IRS 22.054]
13. Automated Non-Master File (ANMF) [Treasury/IRS 22.060]
14. Information Return Master File (IRMF) [Treasury/IRS 22.061]
15. Electronic Filing Records [Treasury/IRS 22.062]
16. CADE Individual Master File (IMF) [Treasury/IRS 24.030]
17. CADE Business Master File (BMF) [Treasury/IRS 24.046]
18. Audit Underreporter Case File [Treasury/IRS 24.047]
19. Acquired Property Records [Treasury/IRS 26.001]
20. Lien Files [Treasury/IRS 26.009]
21. Offer in Compromise Files [Treasury/IRS 26.012]
22. Trust Fund Recovery Cases/One Hundred Percent Penalty Cases [Treasury/IRS 26.013]
23. Record of Seizure and Sale of Real Property [Treasury/IRS 26.014]
24. Taxpayer Delinquent Account (TDA) Files [Treasury/IRS 26.019]
25. Taxpayer Delinquency Investigation (TDI) Files [Treasury/IRS 26.020]
26. Identification Media Files System for Employees and Others Issued IRS Identification [Treasury/IRS 34.013]
27. Security Clearance Files [Treasury/IRS 34.016]
28. Automated Background Investigations System [Treasury/IRS 34.022]

29. Audit Trail and Security Records [Treasury/IRS 34.037]

30. Treasury Payroll and Personnel System [Treasury/DO.001]

31. Treasury Child Care Tuition Assistance Records [Treasury/DO.003]

32. Public Transportation Incentive Program Records [Treasury/DO.005]

33. Treasury Financial Management Systems [Treasury/DO.009]

Ryan Law,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Privacy, Transparency, and Records.

[FR Doc. 2026-03457 Filed 2-20-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0047]

Agency Information Collection Activity: Financial Statement

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before April 24, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Comments must be submitted through www.regulations.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Program-Specific information: Kendra McCleave, 202-461-9760, Kendra.McCleave@va.gov.

VA PRA information: Dorothy Glasgow, 202-461-1084, VAPRA@va.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995, Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) whether the proposed

collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Title: Financial Statement (VA Form 26-6807).

OMB Control Number: 2900-0047. <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAsearch>. (Once at this link, you can enter the OMB Control Number to find the historical versions of this Information Collection).

Type of Review: Revision of Currently Approved Collection.

Abstract: VA Form 26-6807, The Financial Statement information collection is used to determine a borrower's financial condition in connection with efforts to reinstate a seriously defaulted, guaranteed, insured, or portfolio loan. In addition, the form is used in determining the financial feasibility of a veteran or service member to obtain a home with the assistance of a Specially Adapted Housing Grant under 38 U.S.C., Chapter 21. The changes in burden and respondent estimates increased from the previous submission due to more accurate accounting of information conducted by VA Loan Technicians via telephone, which were previously underreported. The number of participating Veterans increased from 29 to 1,200.

Affected Public: Individuals and households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 900 hours.

Estimated Average Burden per Respondent: 45 minutes.

Frequency of Response: One time.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,200 per annually.

(Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*)

Dorothy Glasgow,

Acting, VA PRA Clearance Officer, Office of Information Technology/Data Governance Analytics, Department of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2026-03471 Filed 2-20-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0919]

Agency Information Collection Activity: Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance—Traumatic Injury Protection Program (TSGLI) Application for TSGLI Benefits and TSGLI Appeal Request Form

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 24, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Comments must be submitted through www.regulations.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Program-Specific information: Kendra McCleave, 202-461-9568, kendra.mccleave@va.gov.

VA PRA information: Dorothy Glasgow, 202-461-1084, VAPRA@va.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995, Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.