

Total Estimated Annual Other Cost Burden: \$0.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A).

Marek Laco,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, Labor.

[FR Doc. 2026-17833 Filed 8-31-26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Job Corps Placement and Assistance Record

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor's (DOL or Department) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is soliciting comments concerning a revision to the information collection request (ICR) titled "Job Corps Placement and Assistance Record". This comment request is part of continuing Departmental efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA).

DATES: Consideration will be given to all written comments received by November 2, 2026.

ADDRESSES: A copy of this ICR with applicable supporting documentation, including a description of the likely respondents, proposed frequency of response, and estimated total burden, may be obtained for free by contacting Shao Zhang by email at zhang.shao@dol.gov.

Submit written comments about, or requests for a copy of, this ICR by mail or courier to the attention of Shao Zhang, U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training—Job Corps, 200 Constitution Ave. NW, N-4507, Washington, DC 20210; by email: zhang.shao@dol.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shao Zhang by email at zhang.shao@dol.gov or by mail to:

(Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A).)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DOL, as part of continuing efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the public and Federal agencies an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information before submitting them to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for final approval. This program helps to ensure

requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements can be properly assessed.

In accordance with 5 CFR part 1320, DOL is seeking approval to renew the Job Corps Placement Record (ETA Form 678) which gathers information about each student's post-separation placement outcomes with minor revisions. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act requires collection of information related to the placement of Job Corps participants after exit. 29 U.S.C. 3141, 3197, and 3199. The ETA Form 678 is the primary source of information about a student's training, subsequent placement, and continued employment in a job, further education, or military service post separation from the Job Corps program.

This information collection is subject to the PRA. A Federal agency generally cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information, and the public is generally not required to respond to an information collection, unless it is approved by OMB under the PRA and displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. In addition, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall generally be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information that does not display a valid Control Number. See 5 CFR 1320.5(a) and 1320.6.

Interested parties are encouraged to provide comments to the contact shown in the **ADDRESSES** section. Comments must be written to receive consideration, and they will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval of the final ICR. To help ensure appropriate consideration, comments should mention OMB Control Number 1205-0035.

Submitted comments will also be a matter of public record for this ICR and posted on the internet without redaction. DOL encourages commenters not to include personally identifiable information, confidential business data, or other sensitive statements/information in any comments.

DOL is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including using appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, (e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses).

Agency: DOL-ETA.

Type of Review: Revision.

Title of Collection: Job Corps Placement and Assistance Record.

Forms: ETA Form 678.

OMB Control Number: 1205-0035.

Affected Public: Individuals or Households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 16,000.

Frequency: Daily.

Total Estimated Annual Responses: 16,000.

Estimated Average Time per Response: 8.00 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden

Hours: 2,133 hours.

Total Estimated Annual Other Cost Burden: \$66,699.

Marek Laco,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, Labor.

[FR Doc. 2026-17834 Filed 8-31-26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Quick Turnaround Surveys and Site Visits

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor's (DOL) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is soliciting comments concerning an extension of a currently approved collection for the authority to conduct the information collection request (ICR) titled, "Quick Turnaround Surveys and Site Visits." This comment request is part of continuing Departmental efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA).

DATES: Consideration will be given to all written comments received by November 2, 2026.

ADDRESSES: A copy of this ICR with applicable supporting documentation, including a description of the likely

respondents, proposed frequency of response, and estimated total burden, may be obtained free by contacting Patrice Gibson by telephone at (202) 693-1000, extension 16176 (this is not a toll-free number), or by email at Gibson.Patrice.A@dol.gov.

Submit written comments about, or requests for a copy of, this ICR by mail or courier to the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Correspondence, Communication and Coordination, Attention: Patrice Gibson, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Room N-4507, Washington, DC 20210; by email: Gibson.Patrice.A@dol.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patrice Gibson by telephone at (202) 693-1000 extension 16176 (this is not a toll-free number) or by email at Gibson.Patrice.A@dol.gov.

(Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A).)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DOL, as part of continuing efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information before submitting them to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for final approval. This program helps to ensure requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements can be properly assessed.

ETA is soliciting comments regarding an extension of a currently approved generic information collection. The collection would allow for a quick review process by OMB of a series of 8 to 20 short surveys or site visit protocols relevant to the broad spectrum of programs administered by ETA, including those authorized by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 and other statutes. The surveys and interviews would cover a variety of issues, including but not limited to governance, administration, funding, service design and delivery, and participant experiences. Each survey and site visit protocol would be short (typically 10-30 questions for different groups of respondents). Depending on the purpose for collecting the information, these may be conducted with state workforce agencies, local workforce development boards, American Job Centers, partner programs, other entities involved in activities relevant to ETA, and customers of the workforce system and related programs. Each survey

instrument and site visit protocol will be designed on an ad hoc basis and will focus on topics of pressing policy or research interest. Examples of broad topic areas include but are not limited to:

- State and local management information systems,
- New processes and procedures,
- Services to, and their effectiveness with, different target groups,
- Integration and coordination with other programs, and
- Local workforce investment board membership and training.

ETA is seeking an extension of the current collection to be able to obtain quick approval to conduct surveys and site visits so that it can collect and analyze, on a timely basis, information on various programs, practices, or problems, and to meet its obligations to develop high-quality policy, research, administrative guidance, regulations, and technical assistance. ETA will request information in these surveys and site visits that is not otherwise available. Other research and evaluation efforts, including long-range evaluations, take many years for data to be gathered and analyzed.

Administrative information, including quarterly or annual data reported by states and local areas, do not provide sufficient information on key operational practices, staff, or participant perspectives, and new or rapidly emerging issues. ETA will make every effort to coordinate the "quick turnaround" surveys and site visits with other data collections in ETA or other parts of the DOL, in order to ease the burden on local, state, and other respondents, to avoid duplication, and to fully explore how data and information from each study can be used to inform other studies. Information from the quick turnaround surveys will thus complement but not duplicate other ETA reporting requirements or evaluation studies.

Section 169 of WIOA, Public Law 113-128, authorizes this information collection for both evaluations (section 169(a)) and research activities (section 169(b)).

This information collection is subject to the PRA. A federal agency generally cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information, and the public is generally not required to respond to an information collection, unless it is approved by OMB under the PRA and displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. In addition, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall generally be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information that does not display a

valid Control Number. See 5 CFR 1320.5(a) and 1320.6.

Interested parties are encouraged to provide comments to the contact shown in the **ADDRESSES** section. Comments must be written to receive consideration, and they will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval of the final ICR. In order to help ensure appropriate consideration, comments should mention OMB Control No. 1205-0436.

Submitted comments will also be a matter of public record for this ICR and posted on the internet, without redaction. DOL encourages commenters not to include personally identifiable information, confidential business data, or other sensitive statements/information in any comments.

DOL is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, (e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses).

Agency: DOL-ETA.

Action: Extension without change..

Title of Collection: Quick Turnaround Surveys.

OMB Control Number: 1205-0436.

Affected Public: State, Local, and Tribal Governments; Private Sector businesses or other for-profit and not-for-profit institutions; customers of the workforce system and other programs.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 7,000.

Frequency: Various.

Total Estimated Annual Responses: 7,000.

Average Time per Response: Varies.

Total Estimated Annual Time Burden: 7,000 hours.

Total Estimated Annual Other Costs Burden: \$0.

Marek Laco,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, Labor.

[FR Doc. 2026–17831 Filed 8–31–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Labor Surplus Area Classification

AGENCY: Employment and Training Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to announce the annual Labor Surplus Area (LSA) list for Fiscal Year (FY) 2027.

DATES: The annual LSA list is effective October 1, 2026, for all States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Fernan Ramirez, Office of Policy Development and Research, or Donald Haughton, Office of Workforce Investment, Employment and Training Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Room N–5641, Washington, DC 20210. Email: Fernan Ramirez, ramirez.fernand@dol.gov, or Donald Haughton, haughton.donald.w@dol.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of Labor (DOL)'s regulations implementing Executive Orders 12073 and 10582 are set forth at 20 CFR part 654, subpart A. These regulations require the DOL's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) to classify jurisdictions as LSAs pursuant to the criteria specified in the regulations, and to publish annually a list of LSAs. Pursuant to those regulations, ETA is hereby publishing the annual LSA list.

In addition, the regulations provide exceptional circumstance criteria for classifying LSAs when catastrophic events, such as natural disasters, plant closings, and contract cancellations are expected to have a long-term impact on labor market area conditions, discounting temporary or seasonal factors.

Eligible Labor Surplus Areas

A LSA is a civil jurisdiction that has a civilian average annual unemployment rate during the previous two calendar years of 20 percent or more above the average annual civilian unemployment rate for all states during

the same 24-month reference period. ETA uses only official unemployment estimates provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in making these classifications. The average unemployment rate for all states includes data for the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The LSA classification criteria stipulate a civil jurisdiction must have a “floor unemployment rate” of 6 percent or higher to be classified an LSA. Any civil jurisdiction that has a “ceiling unemployment rate” of 10 percent or higher is classified an LSA.

Civil jurisdictions are defined as follows:

1. A city of at least 25,000 population on the basis of the most recently available estimates from the Bureau of the Census; or
2. A town or township in the States of Michigan, New Jersey, New York, or Pennsylvania of 25,000 or more population and which possess powers and functions similar to those of cities; or
3. All counties, except for those counties which contain any type of civil jurisdictions defined in “1” or “2” above; or
4. A “balance of county” consisting of a county less any component cities and townships identified in “1” or “2” above; or
5. A county equivalent which is a town in the States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont or a municipio in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Procedures for Classifying Labor Surplus Areas

DOL issues the LSA list on a fiscal year basis. The list becomes effective each October 1, and remains in effect through the following September 30. The reference period used in preparing the current list was January 2024 through December 2025. The national average unemployment rate (including Puerto Rico) during this period is rounded to 4.16 percent. Twenty percent higher than the national unemployment rate during this period is rounded to 5 percent. Since this percent is below the floor rate, the qualifying rate is 6 percent.

To ensure that all areas classified as labor surplus meet the requirements, when a city is part of a county and meets the unemployment qualifier as a LSA, that city is identified in the LSA list. The balance of county, not the entire county, will be identified as a LSA if the balance of county also meets the LSA unemployment criteria. The data on the current and previous years'

LSAs are available at www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/lsa.

Petition for Exceptional Circumstance Consideration

The classification procedures also provide criteria for the designation of LSAs under exceptional circumstances criteria. These procedures permit the regular classification criteria to be waived when an area experiences a significant increase in unemployment which is not temporary or seasonal and which was not reflected in the data for the 2-year reference period. Under the program's exceptional circumstance procedures, LSA classifications can be made for civil jurisdictions, Metropolitan Statistical Areas, or Combined Statistical Areas, as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB). In order for an area to be classified as a LSA under the exceptional circumstance criteria, the State Workforce Agency must submit a petition requesting such classification to the ETA. The current criteria for an exceptional circumstance classification are:

1. An area's unemployment rate is at least 6 percent for each of the three most recent months; and
2. A projected unemployment rate of at least 6 percent for each of the next 12 months because of an event.

When submitting such a petition, the State Workforce Agency must provide documentation that the exceptional circumstance event has occurred. The State Workforce Agency may file petitions on behalf of civil jurisdictions, Metropolitan Statistical Areas, or Micropolitan Statistical Areas.

State Workforce Agencies may submit petitions in electronic format to ramirez.fernand@dol.gov, haughton.donald.w@dol.gov, or in hard copy to the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Policy Development and Research, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Room N–5641, Washington, DC 20210.

Marek Laco,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, Labor.

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