small refinery has already demonstrated compliance with its relevant RFS obligations by retiring RINs. Generally, the RFS statutory and regulatory provisions require all obligated parties to comply with their RFS obligations. However, CAA section 211(o)(9)(B) provides an exception when a small refinery demonstrates that it would experience DEH. In other words, when EPA grants an exemption to a small refinery, that small refinery is not required to retire any RINs to demonstrate compliance if it is a full exemption, and only the number of RINs necessary to meet half of its RFS obligation if it is a partial exemption. However, simply granting a petition does not necessarily effectuate the exemption in all cases. If the exemption is granted prior to a compliance demonstration by the small refinery, then the exemption is self-implementing. But if the small refinery has already demonstrated compliance by retiring RINs, EPA needs to take an additional step to effectuate the exemption. For the reasons outlined in sections IV.B and V of the August 31, 2026 SRE Decisions Action, EPA has determined, consistent with its interpretation of the Agency's authority under CAA section 211(o) and its policy interest in treating all refineries that receive an exemption equally, that returning the retired RINs is the only permissible way of implementing the exemption where a small refinery has previously demonstrated compliance with its RFS obligations by retiring RINs. EPA's adjudications are based on this determination because extending the exemption to meritorious petitioners is necessarily a part of EPA's action on the SRE petitions and EPA's statutory interpretation and policy considerations inform its implementation of the exemption for all petitioners.

In the August 31, 2026 SRE Decisions Action, EPA concluded that 2 small refineries were ineligible to petition for an SRE for 2025. For one refinery, EPA concluded that the refinery is ineligible to petition for an SRE for compliance year 2025 because the refinery did not receive the initial blanket exemption. This decision is based on EPA's determination that, for a small refinery to be eligible to petition for an extension of the small refinery exemption, it must have received the initial blanket exemption. CAA section 211(o)(9)(B)(i) provides that a small refinery may ''petition the Administrator for an extension of the exemption under subparagraph (A) for the reason of disproportionate economic hardship.'' Notably, this provision does not provide for an exemption, but rather an extension of the blanket exemption under CAA section 211(o)(9)(A)(i). For EPA to be able to ''extend'' an exemption to a small refinery, there must have been an exemption for it to extend in the first instance. EPA interprets these provisions of the CAA to require that a small refinery have received the initial blanket exemption under subparagraph A(i) to be eligible to petition for an extension of that exemption under subparagraph B(i). This determination has nationwide scope because it is an interpretation of a federal statute and CAA section 211(o)(9)(B) by its terms applies nationwide.[29] Additionally, this determination has nationwide effect because it applies generically to all refineries nationwide, regardless of their geographic location.[30]

For the reasons discussed above, EPA finds that the final actions discussed within the August 31, 2026 SRE Decisions Action are based on determinations of nationwide scope or effect for purposes of CAA section 307(b)(1) and is publishing that finding in the **Federal Register**. Under section 307(b)(1) of the CAA, petitions for judicial review of these actions must be filed in the D.C. Circuit by November 2, 2026.

Aaron Szabo,

Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation.

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[29] *Calumet,* 145 S. Ct. at 1752.

[30] *Id.*

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[Document Identifiers: CMS–10249 and CMS–10553]

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

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing an opportunity for the public to comment on CMS' intention to collect information from the public. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension or reinstatement of an existing collection of information, and to allow a second opportunity for public comment on the notice. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including the necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions, the accuracy of the estimated burden, ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected, and the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

DATES: Comments on the collection(s) of information must be received by the OMB desk officer by October 2, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to *www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain.* Find this particular information collection by selecting ''Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments'' or by using the search function.

To obtain copies of a supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed collection(s) summarized in this notice, please access the CMS PRA website by copying and pasting the following web address into your web browser: *https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/PaperworkReductionActof1995/PRA-Listing.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William Parham at (410) 786–4669.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520), federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. The term ''collection of information'' is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c) and includes agency requests or requirements that members of the public submit reports, keep records, or provide information to a third party. Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)) requires federal agencies to publish a 30-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension or reinstatement of an existing collection of information, before submitting the collection to OMB for approval. To comply with this requirement, CMS is publishing this notice that summarizes the following proposed collection(s) of information for public comment.

Information Collections

1. *Type of Information Collection Request:* Revision of a currently approved collection; *Title of Information Collection:* Administrative Requirements for Section 6071 of the Deficit Reduction Act; *Use:* State Operational Protocols should provide enough information such that: the CMS Project Officer and other federal officials may use it to understand the operation of the demonstration, prepare for potential site visits without needing additional information, or both; the State Project Director can use it as the manual for program implementation; and external stakeholders may use it to understand the operation of the demonstration. The financial information collection is used in our financial statements and shared with the auditors who validate CMS' financial position. The Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration (MFP) Finders File, MFP Program Participation Data file, and MFP Services File are used by the national evaluation contractor to assess program outcomes while we use the information to monitor program implementation. The MFP Quality of Life data is used by the national evaluation contractor to assess program outcomes. The evaluation is used to determine how participants' quality of life changes after transitioning to the community. The semi-annual progress report is used by the national evaluation contractor and CMS to monitor program implementation at the grantee level. *Form Number:* CMS–10249 (OMB control number: 0938–1053); *Frequency:* Yearly, quarterly, and semi-annually; *Affected Public:* State, Local, or Tribal Governments; *Number of Respondents:* 41; *Total Annual Responses:* 329; *Total Annual Hours:* 2,706. (For policy questions regarding this collection contact Alicia Ryce at 410–786–1075.)

2. *Type of Information Collection Request:* Revision of a currently approved collection; *Title of Information Collection:* Medicaid Managed Care Quality Including Supporting Regulations; *Use:* States are required to develop quality strategies and quality strategy effectiveness evaluations. States use the information from these documents to help monitor and assess the performance of their Medicaid managed care programs. When developing these documents, States must engage stakeholders and make the documents available for public comment. Medicaid beneficiaries and stakeholders use the reported information to understand the state's quality improvement goals and objectives, and to understand how the state is measuring progress of its goals. States must submit these documents to CMS for review at least once every three years, or when substantial changes are made to their quality strategies, or State Medicaid programs. CMS uses this information as a part of its oversight responsibilities. The Medicaid and CHIP (MAC) QRS requirements currently include public posting of quality ratings on the State's website, which is intended to provide beneficiaries and their caregivers with a web-based interface to compare Medicaid and CHIP managed care plans based on assigned ratings. *Form Number:* CMS–10553 (OMB control number: 0938–1281); *Frequency:* Annually, triennial, and one-time.; *Affected Public:* Private Sector (business or other for-profits) and State, Local or Tribal Governments; *Number of Respondents:* 673; *Number of Responses:* 6,114; *Total Annual Hours:* 1,444,538. (For policy questions regarding this collection contact Amanda Paige Burns at 410–786–8030.)

William N. Parham, III,

Director, Division of Information Collections and Regulatory Impacts, Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

[Assistance Listing Number: 93.652]

Announcement of the Intent To Award a Single-Source Cooperative Agreement to Spaulding for Children for the National Training and Development Curriculum for Foster/Adoptive Parents (NTDC) in Southfield, Michigan

AGENCY: Children's Bureau (CB), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice of Issuance of a Single-Source Cooperative Agreement.

SUMMARY: The ACF, CB announces the intent to award a single-source cooperative agreement in the amount of up to $1 million to Spaulding for Children in Southfield, MI. The purpose of this award is to continue the implementation and dissemination efforts of the National Training and Development Curriculum for Foster/Adoptive Parents (NTDC), a state-of-the-art training program to prepare foster, adoptive, and kinship caregivers to effectively parent children and to provide these families with ongoing skill development needed to understand and promote healthy child development.

DATES: The proposed period of performance is September 30, 2026, to September 29, 2027.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Catherine Heath, Child Welfare Program Specialist, Children's Bureau, 330 C. Street SW, Washington, DC 20201. Telephone: (202) 690–7888; Email: *catherine.heath@acf.hhs.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The award will fund the continued implementation and support to scale up NTDC, allowing more states, tribes, territories, and agencies to implement it. NTDC was developed by Spaulding for Children under a CB cooperative agreement starting in 2017 and is a free high-quality training that child welfare and adoption agencies can integrate into their preparation and training for foster, adoptive, and kinship families. At the close of the project, Spaulding for Children made the resources and materials available. However, agencies that train foster, adoptive, and kinship families continue to need assistance in the effective implementation of NTDC. Effective and relevant training is critical for prospective and current foster, adoptive, and kinship caregivers. Caregiver training aids in the development of resource homes and placement stability of children. This cooperative agreement will allow Spaulding for Children to continue NTDC.

Spaulding for Children is the only entity that can carry out this work, as it owns and manages NTDC. Spaulding for Children currently hosts the materials and is a nationally known leader in the field of foster and adoptive parent training. Spaulding for Children already maintains relationships with state, tribal, and territorial child welfare and adoption agencies to disseminate information on new opportunities available due to the award. No other organization has ever implemented NTDC.

Statutory Authority: Adoption Opportunities Program, section 203(b) (42 U.S.C. 5113(b)(4)) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (CAPTA), as amended by the CAPTA