

Federal Departments or Agencies. Private citizens do not receive monetary compensation for their time. CISA created this program to sponsor clearances for these individuals who are not employed by or contracted with another Federal agency (the traditional means of obtaining a clearance) and must have clearances.

The form updates will include removing CISCA and CCIPP from the drop-down capabilities box.

CISA collects necessary information through 1670–0013 to facilitate security clearances needed for sharing classified information with the vetted SLTPS Stakeholders.

The U.S. Government is authorized to ask for this information under Sections 2202 and 2212 of the Homeland Security Act (Pub. L. 107–296, 6 U.S.C. 652, 662), and Executive Orders 12968, 13526, 13549, 13636, and 13691 which authorize the collection of this information.

In order to begin this process of adjudicating a nominee to participate in the clearance program, federal nominators will complete the DHS Form 9014, State, Local, Tribal and Private Sector Clearance Request Form. The federal nominator will sign the form and have it approved by a senior-level official from the corresponding Federal Department or Agency. The signatures indicate the nominator and senior-level official have deemed the applicant have a CISA mission and meet the requirements and criteria as outlined in Executive Order (E.O.) 13549, the Department of Homeland Security, Classified National Security Information Program for SLTPS Implementing Directive and E.O. 13691, Sec. 4(c), and 32 CFR, Part 117, Sec. 117.22 of the National Industrial Security Program Operating Manual (NISPOM). Once submitted to the CISA Office of the Chief Security Officer (OCSO) the SLTPS Administrator will request the Personally Identifiable Information (PII) and a record is created into the Integrated Security Management System (ISMS). The Security Specialist will initiate an eApplication (eAPP), the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency secure portal for investigation processing. Once the data is entered into e-App, the nominee is provided a password and can access the system and complete the online security questionnaire.

This is an extension request for an existing information collection. There are no substantive changes to the collection instrument.

This information is only available to Security Specialists within OCSO working on the program and is

maintained in ISMS, which is “owned” by the OCSO. The two-part PII request process helps minimize the collection of sensitive PII for only those nominees who meet the threshold and are sponsored by CISA.

The Office of Management and Budget is particularly interested in comments which:

1. 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;

2. 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;

3. Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

4. 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 submissions of responses.

#### Analysis

*Agency:* Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

*Title:* STATE, LOCAL, TRIBAL AND PRIVATE SECTOR CLEARANCE REQUEST.

*OMB Number:* 1670–0013.

*Frequency:* WHEN REQUIRED: 302 USED IN 2024/254 USED IN 2025.

*Affected Public:* STATE, LOCAL, TRIBAL AND PRIVATE SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE OWNERS AND OPERATORS.

*Number of Respondents:* 550.

*Estimated Time per Respondent:* 0.1667 HOURS (10 minutes).

*Total Burden Hours:* 91.67 ANNUAL BURDEN HOURS.

*Total Annual Burden Cost:* TOTAL BURDEN COST (RESPONDENT): \$11,816.

*Total Annual Government Burden Cost:* \$357,879.

#### Winfield P. Werntz,

*Acting Chief Information Officer, Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.*

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**BILLING CODE 9111–LF–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

[Docket Number DHS–2026–0892]

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Generic Clearance for Improving Customer Experience (OMB Circular A–11, Section 280 Implementation); OMB Control No. 1601–0029

**AGENCY:** Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

**ACTION:** 60-Day notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Homeland Security will submit the following Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Comments are encouraged and will be accepted until November 9, 2026. This process is conducted in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.1

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by docket number Docket #DHS–2026–0892, at:

○ *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Please follow the instructions for submitting comments.

*Instructions:* All submissions received must include the agency name and docket number DHS–2026–0892. All comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

*Docket:* For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On September 11, 1993, Executive Order 12862, “Setting Customer Service Standards” was issued. This Executive Order expressed the vision that Federal agencies will put the people first. Executive Order 12862 directs Federal agencies to provide service to the public that matches or exceeds the best service available in the private sector. Section 1(b) of Executive Order 12862 requires government agencies to “survey customers to determine the kind and quality of services they want and their level of satisfaction with existing services” and Section 1(e) requires agencies “survey front-line employees on barriers to, and ideas for, matching the best in business.”

On March 30, 2016, the Core Federal Services Council was established. The Council emphasized the need to deliver world-class customer service to the American people. The Council,

composed of the major high-volume, high-impact Federal programs that provide transactional services directly to the public, were encouraged “to improve the customer experience by using public and private sector management best practices, such as conducting self-assessments and journey mapping, collecting transactional feedback data, and sharing such data with frontline and other staff.”

ensuring ‘excellent service’ as a focus in future agency strategic planning efforts. The PMA included a CAP Goal on Improving Customer in March 2018; the President’s Management Agenda (PMA) and new Cross-Agency Priority (CAP) Goals were launched. Excellent service was established as a core component of the mission, service, stewardship model that frames the entire PMA, embedding a customer-focused approach in all of the PMA’s initiatives. This model was also included in the 2018 update of the Federal Performance Framework in Circular A–11, *Experience with Federal Services*, with a primary strategy to drive improvements within 25 of the nation’s highest impact programs. This effort is supported by an interagency team and guidance in Circular A–11 requiring the collection of customer feedback data and increasing the use of industry best practices to conduct customer research. From 2021–2023, Executive Order 14058, *Transforming Customer Experience and Service Delivery to Rebuild Trust in Government*, Memorandum M–22–10, *Improving Access to Public Benefits Program Through the Paperwork Reduction Act*, and an OIRA Memorandum titled *Strategies for Reducing Administrative Burden in Public Benefit and Service Programs* were issued. The Executive Order and memoranda, taken as a whole, direct agencies to take specific actions to improve customer experience and enhance public participation and community engagement. Furthermore, the President’s Management Agenda contains a Priority titled Delivering Excellent, Equitable, and Secure Federal Services and Customer Experience, which, among other things, seeks to improve the service design, digital products, and customer-experience management of Federal High Impact Service Providers by reducing customer burden, addressing inequities, and streamlining processes.

These Presidential actions and requirements establish an ongoing process of collecting customer insights and using them to improve services. This new request will enable the

Department of Homeland Security (hereafter “the Agency”) to act in accordance with OMB Circular A–11 Section 280, Executive Order 14058, and the OMB memoranda on burden reduction, to ultimately transform the experience of its customers to improve both efficiency and mission delivery and increase accountability by communicating about these efforts with the public.

The Agency will collect, analyze, and interpret information gathered through this generic clearance to identify services’ accessibility, navigation, and use by customers, and make improvements in service delivery based on customer insights gathered through developing an understanding of the user experience interacting with Government. For the purposes of this request, “customers” are individuals, businesses, and organizations that interact with a Federal Government agency or program, either directly or via a federal contractor.

“Service delivery” or “services” refers to the multitude of diverse interactions between a customer and Federal agency such as applying for a benefit or loan, receiving a service such as healthcare or small business counseling, requesting a document such as a passport or social security card, complying with a rule or regulation such as filing taxes or declaring goods, utilizing resources such as a park or historical site, or seeking information such as public health or consumer protection notices.

Under this request, three types of activities will be conducted to generate customer insights:

Customer Research (e.g., User Persona and Journey Map Development): A critical first component of understanding customer experience is to develop customer personas and journey maps. This process enables the Agency to more deeply understand the customer segments they serve and to organize the processes customers interact with throughout their engagement with the Federal entity to accomplish a task or meet a need. In order to adequately capture the perspective of the customer and the barriers or supports that exist as they navigate these journeys, it is necessary to directly interact with customers rather than relying solely upon the Agency’s stated policy of how a process should work or employees’ interpretation of how services are delivered. This can occur through a variety of information collection mechanisms that include focus groups, individual intercept interviews at a service site, shadowing a user as they navigate a Federal service and documenting their reactions and

frustrations, customer free-response comment cards, or informal small discussion groups.

Regardless of the format, the Agency will apply Human Centered Design (HCD) Discovery methods to generate personas and journey maps, ultimately identifying customer insights. An approach to recruiting participants, resources for preparing and structuring interviews, and a consent form for interviewees can be found at <https://www.gsa.gov/cdnstatic/HCD-Discovery-Guide-Interagency-v12-1.pdf>. This document is also included in the package.

Insights documented, summarized and presented in customer personas and journey maps can then be shared across the program, the Agency, other Federal, State, and Local government stakeholders and even with the public to validate and discuss common themes identified. These products can be used as “indicator lights” for where more rigorous qualitative and quantitative research can be conducted to improve Federal service delivery.

Publicly shared personas and journey maps will include language that qualifies their use (see question #16), and high-level, non-identifying descriptive statistics of the population(s) interviewed to develop it (ex. “25 Service members that transitioned to civilian employment within the last decade, 14 female, 11 male, 21 enlisted and 4 officers) to ensure that the perspective represented is understood. Quotes or insights will never be associated with an actual individual unless they have signed a release form (see link above for template) and this was included in the specific collection request.

Customer Feedback (Satisfaction Survey): Surveys to be considered under this generic clearance will only include those surveys modeled on the OMB Circular A–11 CX Feedback survey to improve customer service by collecting feedback at a specific point during a customer journey. This could include submitting a form online on a Federal website, speaking with a call center representative, paying off a loan, or visiting a Federal service center.

In an effort to develop comparable, government-wide scores that will enable cross-agency or industry benchmarking (when relevant) and a general indication of an agency’s overall customer satisfaction, High Impact Service providers must refer to OMB Circular A–11 Section 280 for required survey question wording and organization.

As part of the Customer Experience CAP goal’s strategy to increase transparency to drive accountability, the

feedback data collected through the A–11 Standard Feedback survey is meant to be shared with the public. This collection is part of the government-wide effort to embed standardized customer metrics within high-impact programs to create government-wide performance dashboards. Data collected from the questions listed above will be submitted by the Agency to OMB at a minimum quarterly for updating of customer experience dashboards on *performance.gov*. This dashboard will also include the total volume of customers that passed through the transaction point at which the survey was offered, the number of customers the survey was presented to, the number of responses, and the mode of presentation and response (online survey, in-person, post-call touchtone, mobile, email). This will help to qualify the data's representation by showing both the response rate and total number of actual responses.

User Testing of Services and Digital Products: Agencies should continually review, update and refine their service delivery, including communication materials, processes, supporting reference materials, and digital products associated with a federal program. This often requires “field testing” program informational materials, process updates, forms, or digital products (such as websites or mobile applications) by interacting with past, existing, or future customers and soliciting feedback. These activities can include cognitive laboratory studies, such as those used to refine questions on a program form to ensure clarity, demo kiosks at a service center where customers can provide informal feedback while waiting for a service, or more formally scheduled in-person observation testing (e.g., website or software usability tests). These information collection activities are more specific than broad customer research and related to a particular artifact/product of a federal program. As such, there will be a more structured interview/set of questions than more open-ended customer research. Findings from these activities are meant to support the design and implementation of Federal program services and digital products and may only be shared in an anonymized/in aggregate if a particular insight is useful to include as part of a customer persona, journey map, or common lesson learned for improving service delivery.

The Agency will only submit 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 or burden hours per respondent) and are low-cost for both the respondents and the Federal Government;

- The collections are non-controversial;
- 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 is intended to be used for general service improvement and program management purposes
- The agency will follow the procedures specified in OMB Circular A–11 Section 280 for the required quarterly reporting to OMB of trust data and experience driver data from surveys.
- Outside of the quarterly reporting mentioned in the bullet immediately above, if the agency intends to release journey maps, user personas, reports, or other data-related summaries stemming from this collection, the agency must include appropriate caveats around those summaries, noting that conclusions should not be generalized beyond the sample, considering the sample size and response rates. The agency must submit the data summary itself (e.g., the report) and the caveat language mentioned above to OMB before it releases them outside the agency. OMB will engage in a passback process with the agency.

This clearance will help the Agency to establish a process where customer experience is regularly monitored and measured. The results will assist the Agency in the planning and decision-making processes to improve the quality of the Agency's products and services. Results from feedback activities and surveys will be used to measure against established baseline standards and for measuring the Agency's progress toward defined goals. There are neither legal nor technical obstacles to the use of technology in these information collection activities. The determination to use technology, and which technology to use, will be based on the type of information collected and the utility and the availability of specific technology to each respondent in a proposed customer research activity or feedback survey.

The information collected in these surveys will represent the minimum burden necessary to evaluate customer experience with the Agency's programs and processes. The Agency will minimize the burden on respondents by sampling as appropriate, asking for

readily available information, and using short, easy-to-complete information collection instruments.

Without regular mechanisms for collecting and generating customer insights, the Agency is not able to provide the public with the highest level of service. These activities will be coordinated to ensure that most individual respondents will not be asked to respond to more than one survey instrument per transaction or to participate in more than one qualitative feedback or testing activity.

Activity and survey instructions will provide all necessary assurances of confidentiality to the respondents. Although there is no requirement for such an assurance in statute, the quality of this type of information requires respondent candor and anonymity.

There is no change in information being collected or the burden.

The Office of Management and Budget is particularly interested in comments which:

1. 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;
2. 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;
3. Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
4. 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 submissions of responses.

#### Analysis

*Agency:* Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

*Title:* Generic Clearance for Improving Customer Experience (OMB Circular A–11, 280 Implementation).

*OMB Number:* 1601–0029.

*Frequency:* Annually.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or Household.

*Number of Respondents:* 2,001,550.

*Estimated Time per Respondent:* N/A.

*Total Burden Hours:* 101,125.

**Suzanne Komara,**

*Deputy Executive Director, Enterprise Business Management Directorate.*

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