

Computation

The monthly SGA amount for statutorily blind individuals under title II for 2027 is the larger of: (1) the amount for 1994 multiplied by the ratio of the national average wage index for 2025 to that for 1992; or (2) the amount for 2026. The monthly SGA amount for non-blind individuals with a determined disability for 2027 is the larger of: (1) the amount for 2000 multiplied by the ratio of the national average wage index for 2025 to that for 1998; or (2) the amount for 2026. In either case, if the resulting amount is not a multiple of \$10, we round it to the nearest multiple of \$10.

SGA Amount for Statutorily Blind Individuals

Multiplying the 1994 monthly SGA amount for statutorily blind individuals (\$930) by the ratio of the national average wage index for 2025 (\$72,800.33) to that for 1992 (\$22,935.42) produces \$2,951.95. We then round this amount to \$2,950. Because \$2,950 exceeds the current amount of \$2,830, the monthly SGA amount for statutorily blind individuals is \$2,950 for 2027.

SGA Amount for Non-Blind Individuals Who Have a Determined Disability

Multiplying the 2000 monthly SGA amount for non-blind individuals with a determined disability (\$700) by the ratio of the national average wage index for 2025 (\$72,800.33) to that for 1998 (\$28,861.44) produces \$1,765.69. We then round this amount to \$1,770. Because \$1,770 exceeds the current amount of \$1,690, the monthly SGA amount for non-blind individuals with a determined disability is \$1,770 for 2027.

Trial Work Period Earnings Threshold

General

During a trial work period of 9 months in a rolling 60-month period, a beneficiary receiving Social Security disability benefits may test their ability to work and still receive monthly benefit payments. To be considered a trial work period month, earnings must be over a certain level. In 2027, any month in which earnings exceed \$1,270 is considered a month of services for an individual's trial work period.

Computation

The method used to determine the new amount is set forth in our regulations at 20 CFR 404.1592(b). Monthly earnings in 2027, used to determine whether a month is part of a trial work period, is the larger of: (1) the

amount for 2001 (\$530) multiplied by the ratio of the national average wage index for 2025 to that for 1999; or (2) the amount for 2026. If the resulting amount is not a multiple of \$10, we round it to the nearest multiple of \$10.

Trial Work Period Earnings Threshold Amount

Multiplying the 2001 monthly earnings threshold (\$530) by the ratio of the national average wage index for 2025 (\$72,800.33) to that for 1999 (\$30,469.84) produces \$1,266.31. We then round this amount to \$1,270. Because \$1,270 exceeds the current amount of \$1,210, the monthly earnings threshold is \$1,270 for 2027.

Domestic Employee Coverage Threshold

General

The minimum amount a domestic worker must earn so that such earnings are covered under Social Security or Medicare is the domestic employee coverage threshold. For 2027, this threshold is \$3,100. Section 3121(x) of the Internal Revenue Code provides the formula for increasing the threshold.

Computation

Under the formula, the domestic employee coverage threshold for 2027 is equal to the 1995 amount of \$1,000 multiplied by the ratio of the national average wage index for 2025 to that for 1993. If the resulting amount is not a multiple of \$100, we round it to the next lower multiple of \$100.

Domestic Employee Coverage Threshold Amount

Multiplying the 1995 domestic employee coverage threshold (\$1,000) by the ratio of the national average wage index for 2025 (\$72,800.33) to that for 1993 (\$23,132.67) produces \$3,147.08. We then round this amount to \$3,100. Therefore, the domestic employee coverage threshold amount is \$3,100 for 2027.

Election Official and Election Worker Coverage Threshold

General

The minimum amount an election official and election worker must earn so the earnings are covered under Social Security or Medicare is the election official and election worker coverage threshold. For 2027, this threshold is \$2,700. Section 218(c)(8)(B) of the Act provides the formula for increasing the threshold.

Computation

Under the formula, the election official and election worker coverage threshold for 2027 is equal to the 1999 amount of \$1,000 multiplied by the ratio of the national average wage index for 2025 to that for 1997. If the amount we determine is not a multiple of \$100, we round it to the nearest multiple of \$100.

Election Official and Election Worker Coverage Threshold Amount

Multiplying the 1999 coverage threshold amount (\$1,000) by the ratio of the national average wage index for 2025 (\$72,800.33) to that for 1997 (\$27,426.00) produces \$2,654.43. We then round this amount to \$2,700. Therefore, the election official and election worker coverage threshold amount is \$2,700 for 2027.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: Program Nos. 96.001 Social Security-Disability Insurance; 96.002 Social Security-Retirement Insurance; 96.004 Social Security-Survivors Insurance; 96.006 Supplemental Security Income)

Mark Steffensen,

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 General Counsel, Social Security
 Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 13155]

30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Foreign Assistance Requirements

ACTION: Notice of request for public comment and submission to OMB of proposed collection of information.

SUMMARY: The Department of State has submitted the information collection described below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 we are requesting comments on this collection from all interested individuals and organizations. The purpose of this Notice is to allow 30 days for public comment.

DATES: Submit comments up to November 25, 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct requests for additional information regarding the collection listed in this notice, including requests for copies of the proposed collection instrument and supporting documents, to PHFFA_Comments@state.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- *Title of Information Collection:* Foreign Assistance Recordkeeping Requirements.
 - *OMB Control Number:* None.
 - *Type of Request:* New Collection.
 - *Originating Office:* Department of State, Office of Foreign Assistance Oversight.
 - *Form Number:* No form.
 - *Respondents:* Foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs), U.S. NGOs, and international organizations.
 - *Estimated Number of Respondents:* 2,500.
 - *Estimated Number of Responses:* 2,500.
 - *Average Time per Response:* 240 hours.
 - *Total Estimated Burden Time:* 600,000 hours.
 - *Frequency:* On occasion.
 - *Obligation to Respond:* Mandatory.
- We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department to:
- Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department.
 - Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.
 - Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.
 - Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Please note that comments submitted in response to this Notice are public record. Before including any detailed personal information, you should be aware that your comments as submitted, including your personal information, will be available for public review.

Abstract of Proposed Collection

This information collection relates to three final rules published on January 27, 2026. 91 FR 3319, 91 FR 3332, and 91 FR 3345. These rules implement the President’s Protecting Human Flourishing in Foreign Assistance (PHFFA) policy, by requiring recipients of U.S. foreign assistance funds to agree

to certain terms and conditions. In summary, foreign NGOs, U.S. NGOs, and international organizations are required to comply with the policy (foreign governments and parastatals may also be required to comply with the policies, but those entities are not “persons” under the Paperwork Reduction Act, thus not covered by this notice) and agree that during the period of the award they will segregate records so that the Department can verify that they are not violating the terms of the foreign assistance grants that were provided to them. Full details are included in the three final rules.

Methodology

There is no form involved in this information collection. The final rules require recipients of U.S. foreign assistance funds to maintain records and make business records available upon request, which is a requirement governed by the Paperwork Reduction Act. In accordance with 2 CFR 200.334, all recipients need to preserve records. The final rules require U.S. NGOs to ensure that any program, project, or activity for which funds are made available under a Department award must be organized so that the program, project, or activity is physically and financially separate from any “prohibited activities” undertaken using other funding sources. Foreign assistance grantees must ensure that all award terms flow down to any subrecipients of such assistance, as applicable.

Public Comments

The Department published a 60-day notice for this information collection on April 6, 2026. 91 FR 17322. Four comments were received from three organizations. The Department is publishing a **Federal Register** notice, soliciting comment for 30 days. The Department published a 60-day notice for this information collection on April 6, 2026. 91 FR 17322. Four comments were received from three organizations.

Summary of InterAction Comment

InterAction’s central argument is that the Department’s burden estimates fail to capture the real operational costs of PHFFA compliance, particularly because the regulations require organizations to assess activities and funding streams beyond a single U.S. Government award. Training costs are understated: one member organization consolidated training across three related regulations but still had to run both introductory and specialized HR-focused sessions, with more anticipated as interpretation evolves—meaning

these are recurring, not one-time, costs. A second major cost driver is ambiguity around allowable activities; without clear definitions or standardized documentation expectations, organizations cannot direct compliance resources efficiently and must repeatedly engage legal review. Subaward relationships compound the burden further—prime recipients must determine which PHFFA requirements apply to which partners, monitor activities funded by non-U.S. donors to assess overall organizational compliance, and in some cases provide technical assistance to partners struggling to interpret the rules against their own funding structures. InterAction warns this could push smaller local and national organizations out of U.S.-funded programs altogether, given their limited administrative capacity. Finally, the comment flags unresolved retention-period questions (duration, post-award cost allocation, audit-triggered extensions, and translation of non-English records) as a gap likely to cause organizations to over-retain records defensively, inflating costs further. InterAction’s asks are narrow and specific: clarify the scope of monitoring for non-federally-funded activities, and ensure any new compliance IT tools integrate with existing nonprofit systems rather than adding parallel administrative layers.

FAO Response

The Department of State acknowledges InterAction for its comment submitted in response to the 60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Foreign Assistance Requirements (Public Notice 12977, 91 FR 17322, April 6, 2026).

The Department acknowledges the compliance requirements on prime and sub-recipients, and will consider further additional information regarding the scope of prime recipient monitoring obligations with respect to non-U.S. Government-funded activities. The Department also notes InterAction’s concern regarding potential compliance costs and will take these issues into consideration.

Regarding InterAction’s points on record retention, the guidance outlined in 2 CFR 200.334 (Uniform Guidance) shall apply. Records must generally be retained for three years from the date of the final expenditure report, subject to applicable exceptions.

Taking note of InterAction’s observation on technology and automation, the Department does not require recipients to maintain technological or automated compliance systems for the purposes of PHFFA

compliance. To the extent a recipient implements a PHFFA-specific technological or automated monitoring system, the Department suggests that any technological solutions should be designed to integrate with existing compliance systems wherever possible. Regarding InterAction's observations on award budget structures appropriately accounting for PHFFA compliance costs, particularly for organizations managing complex partner networks, the Department takes seriously its obligations under the PRA to ensure burden estimates are accurate, information collections are clear and useful, and reporting burden is minimized. *See* 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)–(C). The Department remains committed to maintaining an open dialogue for ongoing feedback in relation to the demonstrated burden estimates.

Conclusion

The Department thanks InterAction for its comment. The Department is committed to working with the implementing partner community to ensure that PHFFA compliance requirements are clear and accurately reflected in the burden estimates submitted to OMB.

Summary of National Catholic Bioethics Center Comment and FAO Response

The NCBC provided an argument focused on Title X of the Public Health Service Act. The Department does not implement Title X programs.

Summary of The Council for Global Equality Comment

CGE's comment is a procedural challenge under the Paperwork Reduction Act, not a policy critique of PHFFA's substance. The core claim is that the Notice fails all four PRA evaluation criteria because it discloses almost nothing about what records must be kept, why the collection is necessary, or how it will be used—stating only that recipients must maintain records “separate” from non-federally-funded activities and make them available on request. CGE identifies a specific legal defect here: the underlying Rules only require U.S. NGOs to keep separate records, yet the Notice/Supporting Statement extend this obligation to foreign recipients as well, a requirement they argue appears nowhere in the Rules themselves. On burden estimation, CGE documents two concrete numerical inconsistencies: a 52,500-hour gap between the Rules' estimate (652,500 hours) and the Notice's estimate (600,000 hours), and an approximately \$85 million discrepancy in per-hour cost assumptions (\$175/hour in the

Rules versus \$50/hour in the Supporting Statement, yielding \$114M vs. \$30M total cost estimates)—with no explanation offered for either gap. CGE also argues the Notice's respondent count (2,500) is unrealistic because it excludes subgrantees and subrecipients who are independently subject to monitoring obligations under the Rules; they cite an example of a single foreign NGO with roughly 1,500 subgrantees to illustrate how far off the estimate could be. Separately, CGE notes the Notice does not address burden-minimization for small entities as required by the PRA, and the Supporting Statement's response—that requirements apply “equally to large and small grantees”—does not satisfy that obligation. CGE's requested remedy is not to block the rule but to require the Department to withdraw and reissue the Notice with sufficient detail to allow a genuine 60-day comment period, arguing the current process is procedurally inadequate as a matter of law.

FAO Response

The Department of State has reviewed the comment submitted by the Council for Global Equality (CGE), Professor Pamela Herd, and Professor Donald Moynihan in response to the 60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Foreign Assistance Requirements (Public Notice 12977, 91 FR 17322, April 6, 2026).

The commenters objected to the Notice's application of the segregation requirement to foreign recipients as contradicting the rules. The rules require U.S. NGOs to ensure that any program, project, or activity for which funds are made available under a Department award must be organized so that the program, project, or activity is physically and financially separate from any “prohibited activities” undertaken using other funding sources. However, in accordance with 2 CFR 200.334, all recipients need to preserve records. The Department recognizes that the terminology utilized in the Notice generated confusion due to the separation requirement for U.S. NGOs under the rules and will clarify the terminology in the 30 day notice. Regarding the concern on information collection, Appendix A to Part 602 I outlines relevant terms and conditions in alignment with Part 200 of Title 2 of the CFR.

Additionally, the Department's operating expectation is that grantees will be required to maintain records that track expenses attributable to U.S. funded activities separate from expenses attributable to other activities. A single record or records system may include

both U.S. funded and other expenses but the U.S. funded expenses would need to be demonstrated separately. For U.S. NGOs impacted by the physical separation requirement, the requirement that U.S. NGOs maintain records for U.S. funded activities and that those records are physically separate from the records of other activities, the Department confirms that that requirement applies only to U.S. NGOs and only when there is an activity funded from any other source that would otherwise be prohibited under the rules. Reiterating this point, a U.S. NGO needs to maintain physical and financial separation only if it engages in any of the otherwise “prohibited activities” outlined in the rules—with another source of funds. Certain activities remain prohibited for U.S. NGOs regardless of funding sources.

Regarding concerns that there are calculation discrepancies between the burden figures in the final rules, the Notice, and the Supporting Statement. The final rules address compliance estimates beyond the more narrow scope of the PRA notice which is focused on the information collection. The final rules also include associated training. The Department is aware that burden estimates at the notice stage are preliminary and welcome continued dialogue with implementers as these compliance costs become more apparent.

Regarding the comment's point that the estimate of 2,500 respondents fails to account for subrecipients, the Department's position is that prime recipients have the duty to monitor their subrecipients and the estimate reflects the respondents as the prime recipient. The final rules require prime recipients to ensure that award terms flow down to subrecipients, as applicable, and to monitor subrecipient compliance.

Regarding the issue of the Small Entity Burden, the Department acknowledges that the PRA requires agencies to consider how to minimize burden on small entities, including through exemptions or simplified requirements that account for resource limitations.

Effect on the Proposed Collection

The Department has considered the commenters' submission in full. These actions reflect the Department's standard process for finalizing a PRA submission and are responsive to the requirements of 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)–(C).

The Department does not agree that the collection must be withdrawn and reissued. The concerns raised are appropriately addressed through the

Supporting Statement and supplemental guidance, which are the standard mechanisms for providing the level of detail the commenters seek.

Conclusion

The Department thanks the Council for Global Equality, Professor Herd, and Professor Moynihan.

Ryan H. Leppert,

Chief of Staff, Office of the Under Secretary for Foreign Assistance, Humanitarian Affairs, and Religious Freedom, U.S. Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2026–21756 Filed 10–23–26; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Request for Comments on Further Suspension of Section 301 Action: China's Targeting of the Maritime, Logistics, and Shipbuilding Sectors for Dominance

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR).

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: To allow for further negotiation with China regarding the acts, policies, and practices at issue in this investigation, the U.S. Trade Representative (Trade Representative) is proposing to modify the action taken in this investigation to further suspend that action for two months, through January 9, 2027. This notice invites public comment from interested parties on the proposed modification.

DATES:

October 23, 2026, 9:00 a.m. Eastern Time: Comment period opens.

October 30, 2026, 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time: To be assured of consideration, submit written comments regarding the proposed modification of the action by this date.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Philip Butler, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Monitoring and Enforcement; Thomas Au, Senior Counsel for Industrial Policy; or David Salkeld, Associate General Counsel at (202) 395–5725.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

For background on the proceedings in this investigation, please see the prior notices issued in this investigation, including 89 FR 29424 (April 22, 2024), 90 FR 8089 (January 23, 2025), 90 FR 10843 (February 27, 2025), 90 FR 17114 (April 23, 2025) (April 23, 2025 notice), 90 FR 24856 (June 12, 2025), 90 FR

48320 (October 16, 2025) (October 16, 2025 notice); 90 FR 50762 (November 10, 2025) (November 10, 2025 notice), and 90 FR 50947 (November 13, 2025) (November 13, 2025 notice).

On April 17, 2025, pursuant to sections 301(b), 301(c), and 304(a) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2411(b), 2411(c), and 2414(a)), and following consideration of public comments, as well as consultations with advisory committees and the Section 301 Committee, the Trade Representative determined to take action in this investigation. *See* April 23, 2025 notice.

On November 1, 2025, the White House announced a historic trade and economic deal reached between President Trump and President Xi Jinping of China.¹ Pursuant to this deal, the United States would suspend for one year, beginning on November 10, 2025, the responsive actions taken in this investigation. This period would allow the United States to negotiate with China pursuant to Section 301 regarding the issues raised in this investigation as well as to continue U.S. domestic efforts and discussions with key allies and partners on revitalizing American shipbuilding.

On November 6, 2025, pursuant to this deal, the Trade Representative, at the direction of the President, proposed to suspend for one year, beginning on November 10, 2025, the responsive actions taken in this investigation. *See* November 10, 2025 notice.

Following consideration of public comments and advice from the Section 301 Committee, the Trade Representative suspended the actions in this investigation from 12:01 a.m. Eastern Time on November 10, 2025, through 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on November 9, 2026. *See* November 13, 2025 notice.

II. Request for Comments

The United States is continuing to engage with China with the goal of obtaining the elimination of the acts, policies, and practices at issue in the investigation. The Trade Representative is therefore proposing to further suspend for two months, through January 9, 2027, the responsive actions taken in this investigation. The Trade Representative is requesting comments from any interested person regarding the proposal to suspend the responsive actions from 12:00 a.m. Eastern Time on

November 10, 2026, through 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on January 9, 2027.

During the suspension period, no party would accrue liability for or be required to pay the fees on maritime transport services under Annexes I, II, or III of the April 23, 2025 notice, as modified by the October 16, 2025 notice. Further, during the suspension period, no party would accrue liability for or be required to pay the duties provided in Annex V.A of the October 16, 2025 notice.

III. Request for Public Comments

In accordance with Section 307(a)(2) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2417(a)(2)), USTR invites comments from interested persons with respect to the proposed modification to further suspend the action as described in Section II above. To be assured of consideration, you must submit written comments on the proposed modification by October 30, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

IV. Procedures for Written Comments

You must submit written comments using docket number USTR–2026–0694 on the electronic portal at <https://comments.ustr.gov/s/>. To submit written comments, use the docket on the portal entitled “Request for Comments on Further Suspension of Section 301 Action: China's Targeting of the Maritime, Logistics, and Shipbuilding Sectors for Dominance.”

You do not need to establish an account to submit comments. The first screen of each docket allows you to enter identification and contact information. Third party organizations such as law firms, trade associations, or customs brokers, should identify the full legal name of the organization they represent, and identify the primary point of contact for the submission. Information fields are optional; however, your comment or request may not be considered if insufficient information is provided. Fields with a gray Business Confidential Information (BCI) notation are for BCI information which will not be made publicly available. Fields with a green (Public) notation will be viewable by the public.

After entering the identification and contact information, you can complete the remainder of the comment, or any portion of it by clicking ‘Next.’ You may upload documents at the end of the form and indicate whether USTR should treat the documents as business confidential or public information.

Any page containing BCI must be clearly marked ‘BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL’ on the top of that page and the submission should clearly indicate, via brackets, highlighting, or

¹ Fact Sheet, The White House, President Donald J. Trump Strikes Deal on Economic and Trade Relations with China (Nov. 1, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/11/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-strikes-deal-on-economic-and-trade-relations-with-china/>.