

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-5689-N-08]

Proposed Information Collection for Public Comment: Impact of Housing and Services Interventions on Homeless Families—36-Month Follow-Up Data Collection

AGENCY: Office of Policy Development and Research, HUD.

ACTION: Notice of proposed information collection.

SUMMARY: HUD is seeking approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the information collection described below. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, HUD is requesting comment from all interested parties on the proposed collection of information. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment.

DATES: *Comments Due Date:* November 15, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB Control Number and should be sent to: Colette Pollard, Reports Management Officer, QDAM, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW., Room 4176, Washington, DC 20410-5000; telephone 202-402-3400 (this is not a toll-free number) or email at Colette.Pollard@hud.gov for a copy of the proposed forms or other available information. Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access this number through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Colette Pollard, Reports Management Officer, QDAM, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW., Washington, DC 20410; email Colette Pollard at Colette.Pollard@hud.gov or telephone 202-402-3400. This is not a toll-free number. Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access this number through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

Copies of available documents submitted to OMB may be obtained from Ms. Pollard.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice informs the public that HUD is seeking approval from OMB for the information collection described in Section A.

A. Overview of Information Collection

Title of Information Collection: The Impact of Housing and Services Interventions on Homeless Families—36-month Follow-up Data Collection.

OMB Approval Number: N/A.

Type of Request: New.

Form Number: N/A.

Description of the need for the information and proposed use: The 36-Month Head of Household Follow-up Survey Instrument and the 36-Month Child Data Collection Instruments will support the collection of data from families enrolled in the *Family Options Study*. The *Family Options Study*, formerly referred to as The Impact of Housing and Services Interventions on Homeless Families, was launched by HUD in 2008 in response to Senate Report 109-109 for the FY 2006 Transportation, Treasury, the Judiciary, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, which directed HUD to “undertake

research to ascertain the impact of various service and housing interventions in ending homelessness for families.” The *Family Options Study* is comparing several combinations of housing assistance and services in a rigorous, multi-site experiment to determine which interventions work best to promote housing stability, family preservation, child well-being, adult well-being, and self-sufficiency. Between 2010 and 2012, over 2,300 families in twelve communities enrolled in the study. Prior rounds of data collection from the adult head of household have been conducted at the point of study enrollment/random assignment, and eighteen (18) months following the date of study enrollment/random assignment. Extensive data collection from a sample of children within study families has also been conducted by the research team with funding from the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)*. This next phase of data collection in the *Family Options Study* will support the continued collection of data from study families 36 months following the date of study enrollment/random assignment. Given the length of time which families are eligible to remain in the interventions being tested (one of the four interventions being studied can serve families for up to 18 months, and a second can serve families for up to 24 months), this final wave of data is critical to understanding how families fare after an intervention ends, and whether the same interventions that are effective in the short-term (18 months), are also effective in the longer-term (36 months).

Respondents (i.e. affected public): Study households.

Form	Respondent sample	Number of respondents	Average time to complete (minimum, maximum) in minutes	Frequency	Total burden (hours)
36-Month Head of Household Follow-up Survey Instrument	All enrolled study families (N = 2,307).	2,307	65 (55-75)	1	2,500
36-Month Child Data Collection	Up to two children per family	2,800	60 (50-70)	1	2,800
Total Burden Hours					5,300

B. Solicitation of Public Comment

This notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected parties concerning the collection of information described in Section A on the following:

(1) 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) The accuracy of the agency’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 those who are to respond; including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

HUD encourages interested parties to submit comment in response to these questions.

Authority: Section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35.

Dated: September 6, 2013.

Jean Lin Pao,

General Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Policy Development and Research.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-5730-N-01]

Notice of Certain Operating Cost Adjustment Factors for 2014

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice establishes operating cost adjustment factors (OCAFs) for project based assistance contracts for eligible multifamily housing projects having an anniversary date on or after February 11, 2014. OCAFs are annual factors used to adjust Section 8 rents renewed under section 524 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 (MAHRA).

DATES: *Effective Date:* February 11, 2014.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stan Houle, Housing Program Manager, Office of Housing Assistance and Grant Administration, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW., Washington, DC 20410; telephone number 202-402-2572 (this is not a toll-free number). Hearing- or speech-impaired individuals may access this number through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. OCAFs

Section 514(e)(2) of MAHRA (42 U.S.C. 1437f note) requires HUD to establish guidelines for rent adjustments based on an OCAF. The statute requiring HUD to establish OCAFs for Low-Income Housing Preservation and Resident Homeownership Act (LIHPRA) (12 U.S.C. 4101, *et seq.*) projects and projects with contract renewals or adjustments under section 524(b)(1)(A) of MAHRA is similar in wording and intent. HUD has therefore developed a single factor to be applied uniformly to all projects utilizing

OCAFs as the method by which renewal rents are established or adjusted.

LIHPRA projects are low-income housing projects insured by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). LIHPRA projects are primarily low-income housing projects insured under section 221(d)(3) below-market interest rate (BMIR) and section 236 of the National Housing Act, respectively. Both categories of projects have low-income use restrictions that have been extended beyond the 20-year period specified in the original documents, and both categories of projects also receive assistance under section 8 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 to support the continued low-income use.

MAHRA gives HUD broad discretion in setting OCAFs, referring, for example, in sections 524(a)(4)(C)(i), 524(b)(1)(A), 524(b)(3)(A) and 524(c)(1) simply to “an operating cost adjustment factor established by the Secretary.” The sole limitation to this grant of authority is a specific requirement in each of the foregoing provisions that application of an OCAF “shall not result in a negative adjustment.” Contract rents are adjusted by applying the OCAF to that portion of the rent attributable to operating expenses exclusive of debt service.

The OCAFs provided in this notice and applicable to eligible projects having a project based assistance contracts anniversary date of on or after February 11, 2014, are calculated using the same method as those published in HUD’s 2013 OCAF notice published on October 16, 2012 (77 FR 63324). Specifically, OCAFs are calculated as the sum of weighted average cost changes for wages, employee benefits, property taxes, insurance, supplies and equipment, fuel oil, electricity, natural gas, and water/sewer/trash using publicly available indices. The weights used in the OCAF calculations for each of the nine cost component groupings are set using current percentages attributable to each of the nine expense categories. These weights are calculated in the same manner as in HUD’s October 16, 2012, notice. Average expense proportions were calculated using three years of audited Annual Financial Statements from projects covered by OCAFs. The expenditure percentages for these nine categories have been found to be very stable over time, but using three years of data increases their stability. The nine cost component weights were calculated at the state level, which is the lowest level of geographical aggregation with enough projects to permit statistical analysis. These data were not available for the Western Pacific Islands, so data for Hawaii were used as the best

available indicator of OCAFs for these areas.

The best current price data sources for the nine cost categories were used in calculating annual change factors. State-level data for fuel oil, electricity, and natural gas from Department of Energy surveys are relatively current and continue to be used. Data on changes in employee benefits, insurance, property taxes, and water/sewer/trash costs are only available at the national level. The data sources for the nine cost indicators selected used were as follows:

- *Labor Costs:* First quarter, 2013 Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) ECI, Private Industry Wages and Salaries, All Workers (Series ID CIU20200000000001) at the national level and Private Industry Benefits, All Workers (Series ID CIU20300000000001) at the national level.

- *Property Taxes:* Census Quarterly Summary of State and Local Government Tax Revenue—Table 1 <http://www2.census.gov/govs/qtax/2013/q1t1.xls>. 12-month property taxes are computed as the total of four quarters of tax receipts for the period from April through March. Total 12-month taxes are then divided by the number of occupied housing units to arrive at average 12-month tax per housing unit. The number of occupied housing units is taken from the estimates program at the Bureau of the Census. <http://www.census.gov/housing/hvs/data/histtab8.xls>.

- *Goods, Supplies, Equipment:* May 2012 to May 2013 Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Consumer Price Index, All Items Less Food, Energy and Shelter (Series ID CUUR0000SA0L12E) at the national level.

- *Insurance:* May 2012 to May 2013 Bureau of Labor Statistic (BLS) Consumer Price Index, Tenants and Household Insurance Index (Series ID CUUR0000SEHD) at the national level.

- *Fuel Oil:* October 2012—March 2013 U.S. Weekly Heating Oil and Propane Prices report. Average weekly residential heating oil prices in cents per gallon excluding taxes for the period from October 1, 2012 through March 18, 2013 are compared to the average from October 3, 2011 through March 19, 2012. For the States with insufficient fuel oil consumption to have separate estimates, the relevant regional Petroleum Administration for Defense Districts (PADD) change between these two periods is used; if there is no regional PADD estimate, the U.S. change between these two periods is used. http://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet_pri_wfr_a_EPD2F_prs_dpgal_w.htm.

- *Electricity:* Energy Information Agency, February 2013 “Electric Power