



7555-01-P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request; Generic Survey Clearance for the Directorate of Education and Human Resources (EHR)

AGENCY: National Science Foundation

ACTION: Notice

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is announcing plans to request renewed clearance of this collection. In accordance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we are providing opportunity for public comment on this action. After obtaining and considering public comment, NSF will prepare the submission requesting Office of Management and Budget (OMB) clearance of this collection for no longer than 3 years.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the

proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Dates: Written comments should be received by January 3, 2011 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding the information collection and requests for copies of the proposed information collection request should be addressed to Suzanne Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Rm. 295, Arlington, VA 22030, or by e-mail to splimpto@nsf.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Suzanne Plimpton at (703) 292-7556 or send e-mail to splimpto@nsf.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-

877-8339, which is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year (including federal holidays).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Collection: Generic Clearance of Education and Human Resources Monitoring of Grantee Projects.

OMB Approval Number: 3145-0136.

Expiration Date of Approval: July 31, 2012.

Abstract: The National Science Foundation (NSF) requests renewal of program accountability data collections that describe and track the impact of NSF funding that focuses on the Nation's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and STEM workforce. NSF funds grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements to colleges, universities, and other eligible institutions, and provides graduate research fellowships to individuals in all parts of the United States and internationally.

The Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR), a unit within NSF, promotes rigor and vitality within the Nation's STEM education enterprise to further the development of the 21st century's STEM workforce and public scientific literacy. EHR does this through diverse

projects and programs that support research, extension, outreach, and hands-on activities that service STEM learning and research at all institutional (e.g., pre-school through postdoctoral) levels in formal and informal settings; and individuals of all ages (birth and beyond). EHR also focuses on broadening participation in STEM learning and careers among United States citizens, permanent residents, and nationals, particularly those individuals traditionally underemployed in the STEM research workforce, including but not limited to women, persons with disabilities, and racial and ethnic minorities.

The scope of the EHR Generic Clearance primarily covers descriptive information gathered from education and training projects that are funded by NSF. NSF primarily uses the data from the EHR Generic Clearance for program planning, management, and audit purposes to respond to queries from the Congress, the public, NSF's external merit reviewers who serve as advisors, including Committees of Visitors (COVs), the NSF's Office of the Inspector General and as a basis for either internal or third-party evaluations of individual programs.

The collections generally include three categories of descriptive data: (1) Staff and project participants (data that are also necessary to determine individual-level treatment and control groups for future third-party study or for internal evaluation); (2) project implementation characteristics (also necessary for future use to identify well-matched comparison groups); and (3) project outputs (necessary to measure baseline for pre- and post- NSF-funding-level impacts).

Use of the Information: This information is required for effective administration, communication, program and project monitoring and evaluation, and for measuring attainment of NSF's program, project, and strategic goals, and as identified by the President's Accountability in Government Initiative; GPRA, and the NSF's Strategic Plan. The Foundation's FY 2011- 2016 Strategic Plan may be found at:

http://www.nsf.gov/news/strategicplan/nsfstrategicplan_2011_2016.pdf.

Since the EHR Generic Clearance research is primarily used for accountability and evaluation purposes, including responding from queries from COVs and other scientific

experts, a census rather than sampling design typically is necessary. At the individual project level funding can be adjusted based on individual project's responses to some of the surveys. Some data collected under the EHR Clearance serve as baseline data for separate research and evaluation studies.

NSF-funded contract or grantee researchers and internal or external evaluators in part may identify control, comparison, or treatment groups for NSF's ET portfolio using some of the descriptive data gathered through OMB 3145-0136 to conduct well-designed, rigorous research and portfolio evaluation studies.

Respondents: Individuals or households, not-for-profit institutions, business or other for profit, and Federal, State, local or tribal government.

Number of Respondents: 9,341.

Burden on the Public: NSF estimates that a total reporting and recordkeeping burden of 63,947 hours will result from activities to monitor EHR STEM education programs. The calculation is shown in table 1.

Table 1: Anticipated programs that will collect data on project progress and outcomes along with the number of respondents and burden hours per collection per year.

Collection Title	No. of Respondents	No. of Responses	Annual Hour Burden
Centers of Research Excellence in Science and Technology (CREST) and Historically Black Colleges and Universities Research Infrastructure for Science and Engineering (HBCU-RISE) Monitoring System	37	37	1,374
Graduate STEM Fellows in K-12 Education (GK-12) Monitoring System	1,626	1,626	3,941
Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program (IGERT) Monitoring System	4,658	4,658	12,156
Informal Science Education (ISE) Monitoring System	157	157	2,047
Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) Monitoring System	518	518	17,094
Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation Bridge to the Doctorate (LSAMP-BD) Monitoring System	50	50	3,600

Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program (Noyce) Monitoring System	294	294	3,822
Research in Disabilities Education (RDE) Monitoring System	49	49	2,781
Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Program (S-STEM) Monitoring System	500	1,000 (500 respondents X 2 responses/yr.)	6,000
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program (STEP) Monitoring System	242	242	6,292
Transforming Undergraduate Education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (TUES) Monitoring System	1,210	1,210	4,840
Additional Collections not Specified	900	900	1,200
Total	10,241	10,741	65,147

The total estimate for this collection is 63,947 annual burden hours. This figure is based on the previous 3 years of collecting information under this clearance and anticipated collections. The average annual reporting burden is between 1.5 and 72 hours per "respondent," depending on whether a respondent is a direct participant

who is self-reporting or representing a project and reporting on behalf of many project participants. This is a reduction from the prior clearance of approximately 2,000 hours per year

Dated: May 24, 2012.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,

Reports Clearance Officer,

National Science Foundation.

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