

condition requiring a local contracting preference. Each of the five Gulf Coast States already has a state law or laws pertaining to local contracting preferences. Most of these laws do not provide for any sort of preference for firms local to any other State or, in some cases, prohibit preferences for firms local to other States. Were the Council to require the States to provide a preference for firms local to the other States, those States with prohibitions against such preferences would be unable to participate in the grant program. Having one or more of the Gulf Coast States ineligible to receive grants under the Comprehensive Plan component would be antithetical to the purpose of the RESTORE Act. As such, the Council policy for State contracting action using RESTORE Act funds is to have each State act in conformance with its State law on contracting preferences with no further requirements. This practice is consistent with 2 CFR part 200.319(b) which permits grant recipients to apply state or local geographic preferences in the evaluation of bids or proposals in cases only where a Federal statute, such as the RESTORE Act, expressly mandates or encourages geographical preference.

At the Federal level a local contracting preference is permitted only when a statute expressly authorizes or requires it. See 41 U.S.C. 3304(a)(5). It is the position of the Council that 33 U.S.C. 1321(t)(2)(C)(vii)(V) provides such an express authorization. However, given that the Council intends that Federal agencies contracting to implement a program or project under the FPL have discretion to make an award to the offeror whose proposal provides the best value to the Government, the Council has decided that a minimally restrictive form of a local contracting preference is appropriate. Accordingly, contracting Federal agencies may provide a preference to Gulf Coast firms if proposals are determined equivalent under all other evaluation factors or, alternatively, may include a weighted evaluation factor providing a preference to Gulf Coast firm offers.

In order to prevent a Gulf Coast firm from serving as merely a pass-through for a firm outside the Gulf Coast region, to be considered a "local firm" an offeror must certify that it resides, is headquartered or is principally engaged in business in a Gulf Coast State. Further, the offeror must certify that it will perform at least a minimum percentage of the work under the contract. The methodology for determining whether an offeror meets this test is based on the Small Business

Administration's regulation found at 13 CFR 125.6.

The text below would be included in solicitations for Comprehensive Plan contracts that apply a local preference, and would be incorporated into the award. This term requires an offeror to disclose its status as a Gulf Coast firm and represent that it will perform a minimum percentage of the cost of the contract.

(a) The offeror represents as part of its offer that it () is, () is not a firm residing, headquartered or principally engaged in business in a Gulf Coast state.

(b) If the offeror represents that it is a firm residing, headquartered or principally engaged in business in a Gulf Coast state, the offeror shall furnish documentation to support the representation if requested by the Contracting Officer. The solicitation may require the offeror to submit with its offer documentation to support the representation.

(c) The offeror represents that in the case of a contract for services (except construction), the firm will perform services representing at least 50 percent of the total labor costs under the contract with its own employees.

(d) The offeror represents that in the case of a contract for supplies or products (other than procurement from a non-manufacturer of such supplies or products), the firm will itself manufacture such supplies or products representing at least 50 percent of the total manufacturing costs under the contract (excluding costs of materials).

(e) The offeror represents that in the case of a contract for general construction services, the firm will perform services representing at least 15 percent of the total labor costs under the contract with its own employees.

The text below would be included in solicitations for Comprehensive Plan contracts. This term notifies prospective vendors that the contracting agency will prefer Gulf Coast firms in making the award.

Proposal Preparation Instructions—Each offeror shall identify whether it is a firm residing, headquartered or principally engaged in business in a Gulf Coast state.

Evaluation Factor 1—It is the policy of [Contracting Agency] to encourage the participation of Gulf Coast firms in the procurement process. As a result, this solicitation includes a preference for Gulf Coast firms. If [Contracting Agency] determines all other factors to be equivalent, [Contracting Agency] will give preference to a Gulf Coast firm. [Contracting Agency] will review your Gulf Coast firm status at the time the solicitation closes.

Evaluation Factor 2 [to be assigned relative weight by the Contracting Agency]—It is the policy of [Contracting Agency] to encourage the participation of Gulf Coast firms in the procurement process. As a result, this solicitation includes a preference for Gulf Coast firms. The Government will evaluate your proposal to determine if you are a Gulf Coast firm.

The Council invites comments on the proposed evaluation factors.

Will D. Spoon,

Program Analyst, Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[30Day-15-0953]

Agency Forms Undergoing Paperwork Reduction Act Review

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has submitted the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The notice for the proposed information collection is published to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies.

Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information are encouraged. Your comments should address any of the following: (a) 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; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of the agencies estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) 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 submission of responses; and (e) Assess information collection costs.

To request additional information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the information collection plan and instruments, call (404) 639-7570 or send an email to omb@cdc.gov. Written comments and/or suggestions regarding the items contained in this notice should be directed to the Attention: CDC Desk Officer, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503 or by fax to (202) 395-5806. Written

comments should be received within 30 days of this notice.

Proposed Project

Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Agency Service Delivery—Extension—Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

As part of a Federal Government-wide effort to streamline the process to seek feedback from the public on service delivery, the CDC has submitted a Generic Information Collection Request (Generic ICR): “Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Agency Service Delivery ” to OMB for approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

To request additional information, please contact Kimberly S. Lane, Reports Clearance Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road, MS–D74, Atlanta, GA 30333 or send an email to omb@cdc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Agency Service Delivery

Abstract: The information collection activity will garner qualitative customer and stakeholder feedback in an efficient, timely manner, in accordance with the

Administration’s commitment to improving service delivery. By qualitative feedback we mean information that provides useful insights on perceptions and opinions, but are not statistical surveys that yield quantitative results that can be generalized to the population of study. This feedback will provide insights into customer or stakeholder perceptions, experiences and expectations, provide an early warning of issues with service, or focus attention on areas where communication, training or changes in operations might improve delivery of products or services. These collections will allow for ongoing, collaborative and actionable communications between the Agency and its customers and stakeholders. It will also allow feedback to contribute directly to the improvement of program management.

Feedback collected under this generic clearance will provide useful information, but it will not yield data that can be generalized to the overall population. This type of generic clearance for qualitative information will not be used for quantitative information collections that are designed to yield reliably actionable results, such as monitoring trends over time or documenting program performance. Such data uses require more rigorous designs that address: The target population to which

generalizations will be made, the sampling frame, the sample design (including stratification and clustering), the precision requirements or power calculations that justify the proposed sample size, the expected response rate, methods for assessing potential non-response bias, the protocols for data collection, and any testing procedures that were or will be undertaken prior fielding the study. Depending on the degree of influence the results are likely to have, such collections may still be eligible for submission for other generic mechanisms that are designed to yield quantitative results.

The Agency received no comments in response to the 60-day notice published in the **Federal Register** on April 30, 2014 (79 FR 24432).

This is an Extension information collection request. During the past three years the information has been used by programs within NIOSH to collect feedback from customers and stakeholders. Respondents will be screened and selected from Individuals and Households, Businesses, Organizations, and/or State, Local or Tribal Government. Below we provide CDC’s projected annualized estimate for the next three years. There is no cost to respondents other than their time. The estimated annualized burden hours for this data collection activity are 28,750.

ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED BURDEN HOURS

Type of respondents	Form name	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Average burden per response (in hrs.)
Individuals and Households, Businesses, Organizations	Print Surveys	108,000	1	15/60
	Focus Groups	500	1	2
	Online Surveys	3,000	1	15/60

Leroy A. Richardson,
*Chief, Information Collection Review Office,
Office of Scientific Integrity, Office of the
Associate Director for Science, Office of the
Director, Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention.*
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[Document Identifier CMS–372(S)]

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

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 any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency’s functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information