

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4818-N-13]

Notice of Proposed Information Collection for Public Comment: Project Rent Surveys for Update of Section 8 Fair Market Rents

AGENCY: Office of Policy Development and Research, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection requirement described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

DATES: January 30, 2004.

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: Reports Liaison Officer, Office of Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW., Room 8226, Washington, DC 20410.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marie Lihn, Economic and Market Analysis Division, Office of Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW., Room 8222, Washington, DC 20410; telephone (202) 708-0614; e-mail marie_l. lihn@hud.gov. This is not a toll-free number. Copies of the proposed forms and other available documents submitted to OMB may be obtained from Ms. Lihn.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of Housing and Urban Development will submit the proposed information collection package to OMB for review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35, as amended).

This Notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed

collection of information to: (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; (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 the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

This Notice also lists the following information:

Title of Proposal: Project Rent Survey for Update of Section 8 Fair Market Rents.

Description of the need for the information and proposed use: HUD is testing a new methodology to determine if it can be used in place of telephone random digit dialing (RDD) surveys of individuals. HUD currently contracts with a private company to conduct two types of RDD surveys: (1) Approximately 50 individual fair market rent (FMR) areas are surveyed every year to test the accuracy of their FMRs; (2) In addition, 20 RDD surveys are conducted every year to provide updating factors for FMRs not surveyed individually and for Annual Adjustment Factors (AAFs). These surveys are conducted in the non-metropolitan portions of all 10 HUD regions, and in the 10 metropolitan portions of the regions that do not have their own Consumer Price Index (CPI) surveys. While RDD telephone surveys have been used for several years to adjust FMRs, these surveys are becoming more difficult and more costly to conduct. This survey of project rents would replace both the regional and area telephone RDDs with surveys of approximately 30 standard rental projects in 200 areas. These project surveys would provide regional change factors for updating the FMRs and

specific change factors will be calculated for FMR areas where the Section 8 program is not working properly. It is unlikely that one-fourth of the 200 areas would ever have to be surveyed in a given year, so this request is being made on this maximum amount of 50 areas. In the study of project rents currently underway, using only purchased data, it is clear that data can be purchased for most metropolitan areas.

The survey will be conducted in the field by qualified rental appraisers with the project management staff. In each area, 30 rental projects will be surveyed and questions will cover rent, age of structure, utilities, number and size of units, and recent changes to the area. The survey form has 31 questions, but the appraiser should be able to answer almost one-third by site inspection. The interview with the resident manager should take up, at most 7 minutes to complete.

This new method would be a fast, inexpensive way to update Section 8 Fair Market Rents (FMRs). This new method would only provide estimates of annual rent changes, not actual rents, as the current area RDD survey does. Section 8(C)(1) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 requires the Secretary to publish Fair Market Rents (FMRs) annually to be effective on October 1 of each year. FMRs are used for the Section 8 Rental Certificate Program (including space rentals by owners of manufactured homes under that program); the Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy program; housing assisted under the Loan Management and Property Disposition programs; payment standards for the Rental Voucher program; and any other programs whose regulations specify their use.

Members of affected public: Managers of rental projects.

Estimation of the total numbers of hours needed to prepare the information collection including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response:

Type of survey	Number of interviews	Average minutes each	Total minutes	Total hours
Field Interviews	1,500	7	10,500	1,313

Status of the proposed information collection: Pending OMB approval.

Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. chapter 35, as amended; and section 8(C)(1) of the United States Housing Act of 1937.

Dated: November 17, 2003.

Darlene F. Williams,

General Deputy Assistant, Secretary for Policy Development and Research.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary

Invasive Species Advisory Committee; Request for Nominations

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Interior.

ACTION: Request for nominations.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of the Interior, on behalf of the interdepartmental National Invasive Species Council, proposes to appoint new members to the Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC). The Secretary of the Interior, acting as administrative lead, is requesting nominations for qualified persons to serve as members of the ISAC.

DATES: Nominations must be received by December 31, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be sent to Lori Williams, Executive Director, National Invasive Species Council (OS/SIO/NISC), 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kelsey Brantley, Program Analyst, at (202) 513-7243, fax: (202) 371-1751, or by e-mail at Kelsey_Brantley@ios.doi.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Advisory Committee Scope and Objectives

The purpose and role of the ISAC are to provide advice to the Invasive Species Council (Council), as authorized by Executive Order 13112, on a broad array of issues including preventing the introduction of invasive species, providing for their control, and minimizing the economic, ecological, and human health impacts that invasive species cause. The Council is Co-chaired by the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce. The duty of the Council is to provide national leadership regarding invasive species issues. Pursuant to the Executive Order, the Council developed a National Invasive Species Management Plan. The Plan is available

on the web at <http://www.invasivespecies.gov>. The Council is responsible for effective implementation of the Plan. The Council coordinates Federal agency activities concerning invasive species; prepares, revises, and issues the National Invasive Species Management Plan; encourages planning and action at local, tribal, State, regional and ecosystem-based levels; develops recommendations for international cooperation in addressing invasive species; facilitates the development of a coordinated network to document, evaluate, and monitor impacts from invasive species; and facilitates establishment of an information-sharing system on invasive species that utilizes, to the greatest extent practicable, the Internet.

The role of ISAC is to maintain an intensive and regular dialogue regarding the aforementioned issues. ISAC provides advice in cooperation with stakeholders and existing organizations addressing invasive species. The ISAC meets up to four (4) times per year.

Terms for approximately half of the current members of the ISAC will expire at the end of 2003. Current members of the ISAC are eligible for reappointment. The Secretary of the Interior will appoint members to ISAC in consultation with the Secretaries of Agriculture and Commerce. The Secretary of Interior actively solicits new nominees to the ISAC. Members of ISAC should be knowledgeable in and represent one or more of the following communities of interests: Weed science; fisheries science; rangeland management; forest science; entomology; nematology; plant pathology; veterinary medicine; the broad range of farming or agricultural practices; biodiversity issues; applicable laws and regulations relevant to invasive species policy; risk assessment; biological control of invasive species; public health/epidemiology; industry activities, structure, and international affairs or trade; tribal or state government interests; environmental education; ecosystem monitoring; natural resource database design and integration; and internet-based management of conservation issues.

Members should also have practical experience in one or more of the following areas: Representing sectors of the national economy that are significantly threatened by biological invasions (*e.g.* agriculture, fisheries, public utilities, recreational users, tourism, etc.); representing sectors of the national economy whose routine operations may pose risks of new or expanded biological invasions (*e.g.*

shipping, forestry, horticulture, aquaculture, pet trade, etc.); developing natural resource management plans on regional or ecosystem-level scales; addressing invasive species issues, including prevention, control and monitoring, in multiple ecosystems and on multiple scales; integrating science and the human dimension in order to create effective solutions to complex conservation issues including education, outreach, and public relations experts; coordinating diverse groups of stakeholders to resolve complex environmental issues and conflicts; and complying with NEPA and other federal requirements for public involvement in major conservation plans. Members will be selected in order to achieve a balanced representation of viewpoints, so to effectively address invasive species issues under consideration. No member may serve on the ISAC for more than three (3) consecutive terms. All terms will be limited to two (2) years in length.

Members of the ISAC and its subcommittees serve without pay. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services of the ISAC, members shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in the government service, as authorized by section 5703 of Title 5, United States Code.

Submitting Nominations

Nominations should be typed and should include the following:

1. A brief summary of no more than two (2) pages explaining the nominee's suitability to serve on the ISAC.
2. A resume or curriculum vitae.
3. Letters of reference.

Nominations should be sent no later than 45 days after the **Federal Register** notice, to Lori Williams, National Invasive Species Council (OS/SIO/NISC), 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

To ensure that recommendations of the ISAC take into account the needs of the diverse groups served, the Department of the Interior is actively soliciting nominations of qualified minorities, women, persons with disabilities and members of low income populations.

Dated: November 24, 2003.

James Tate, Jr.,

Science Advisor to the Secretary of the Interior.

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