



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

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

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has submitted the following information collection requirement to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. This is the second notice for public comment; the first was published in the Federal Register at 81 FR 20688 and four comments were received. NSF is forwarding the proposed renewal submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance simultaneously with the publication of this second notice.

The full submission may be found at:

<http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>.

COMMENTS: Comments regarding (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the

quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; or (d) ways to 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 should be addressed to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for National Science Foundation, 725-17th Street NW., Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503, and to Suzanne H. Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1265, Arlington, Virginia 22230 or send email to *splimpto@nsf.gov*. Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received within 30 days of this notification. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling 703-292-7556. 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).

NSF may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs

potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Supplementary Information:

Comments: As required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), comments on the information collection activities as part of this study were solicited through publication of a 60-Day Notice in the Federal Register on January 11, 2016, at 81 FR 20688. Four comments were received, to which we here respond. One comment came from the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology. They expressed support for the survey, stating that it is a unique data resource that they often use in development of their own reports and factsheets. They wrote that the utility of the survey would be enhanced if it were available on a more frequent basis and if the data were available more rapidly. NSF understands that data users need more timely data and thus we continually look for procedural changes to reduce the time required to collect and publish the data. Our changes have resulted in the survey data being published by November each year, approximately 6 months following the

close of the survey and data follow up activities.

Previously the data were not published until the spring of the following year, or one year following the official close of the survey. We plan to continue looking for ways to improve the timeliness of the survey data release, but we have no plans to survey institutions more frequently than annually at this time.

The second comment came from Jason Owen-Smith, Executive Director, Institute for Research on Innovation & Science (IRIS) at the University of Michigan. He expressed support for the survey and asked NSF to consider linking the administrative data maintained by IRIS into the HERD survey data to increase the survey data's utility. NSF is very interested in the administrative data maintained by IRIS and was an active participant in the Star Metrics project (predecessor of UMetrics). We will contact Dr. Owen-Smith to discuss the possibilities for data linking in the coming year.

The third comment came from Marc Kastner, President of the Science Philanthropy Alliance. He expressed support for the survey and requested more data on the amount of funding devoted to basic research versus applied research. Currently the survey does measure the split between basic research, applied research and experimental development by

overall federal and nonfederal totals. We have no plans to expand the survey to obtain this split by all sources of funding or field due to the burden that would place on universities in responding to the survey.

A fourth comment came from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). They expressed general support for the survey and requested a few additional data elements to be considered for future collection. NSF is in regular contact with BEA about their data needs and the feasibility of adding questions to the HERD or FFRDC Surveys to address these needs. As part of the survey redesign, NSF added several items requested by BEA to the questionnaire, where the additional detail posed no significant increase in burden for the institutions. NSF will continue to consider additional items in future years while still prioritizing respondent burden. There are no plans to incorporate these data items on the HERD or FFRDC Surveys for FY 2016.

Title of Collection: Higher Education Research and Development Survey

OMB Approval Number: 3145-0100.

Expiration Date of Current Approval: September 30, 2016.

Summary of Collection:

The Higher Education Research and Development (R&D) Survey (formerly known as the Survey of R&D Expenditures at Universities and Colleges) originated in fiscal year (FY) 1954 and has been conducted annually since FY 1972. The survey represents one facet of the higher education component of the NSF's National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) statistical program authorized by the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 §505, codified in the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (NSF Act), as amended, at 42 U.S.C. §1862. Under paragraph "b", NCSES is directed to

"(1) collect, acquire, analyze, report, and disseminate statistical data related to the science and engineering enterprise in the U.S. and other nations that is relevant and useful to practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and the public, including statistical data on

(A) research and development trends;

(B) the science and engineering workforce;

(C) U.S. competitiveness in science, engineering, technology, and research and development..."

Use of the information: The proposed project will continue the annual survey cycle for three years. The Higher Education R&D Survey will provide continuity of statistics on R&D expenditures by source of funding, type of R&D (basic research, applied research, or development), and field of R&D, with separate data requested on research equipment by field. Further breakdowns are collected on funds passed through to subrecipients and funds received as a subrecipient, and on R&D expenditures by field from specific federal agency sources. As of FY 2010, the survey also requests total R&D expenditures funded from foreign sources, R&D within an institution's medical school, clinical trial expenditures, R&D by type of funding mechanism (contracts vs. grants), and R&D by cost category (salaries, equipment, software, etc.). The survey also requests headcounts of principal investigators and other personnel paid from R&D funds.

Data are published in NSF's annual publication series *Higher Education Research and Development*, available on the web at <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvyherd/>.

Expected respondents: The FY 2016 Higher Education R&D Survey will be administered to approximately 700 institutions. In addition, a shorter version of the survey

asking for R&D expenditures by source of funding and broad field will be sent to approximately 300 institutions spending under \$1 million on R&D in their previous fiscal year. We also expect approximately 150 institutions to respond to the population screener form sent to determine eligibility for the survey. Finally, a survey requesting R&D expenditures by source of funds, cost categories, and type of R&D will be administered to the 42 Federally Funded Research and Development Centers.

Estimate of burden: The survey is a fully automated web data collection effort and is handled primarily by administrators in university sponsored programs and accounting offices. To minimize burden, institutions are provided with an abundance of guidance and resources on the web, and are able to respond via downloadable spreadsheet if desired. Each institution's record is pre-loaded with the 2 previous years of comparable data that facilitate editing and trend checking. Response to this voluntary survey has exceeded 95 percent each year.

The average burden estimate is 1 hour for the approximately 150 institutions responding to the population screener form, 55 hours for the approximately 700 institutions reporting over \$1 million in R&D expenditures

on the standard form, 8 hours for the approximately 300 institutions reporting less than \$1 million on the short form, and 12 hours for the 42 organizations completing the FFRDC survey. The total calculated burden across all forms is 40,812 hours.

Dated: July 6, 2016

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[FR Doc. 2016-16421 Filed: 7/11/2016 8:45 am; Publication Date: 7/12/2016]