



Billing Code: 4162-20 – P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

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

Periodically, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will publish a summary of information collection requests under OMB review, in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). To request a copy of these documents, call the SAMHSA Reports Clearance Officer on (240) 276-1243.

Proposed Project: Evaluation of the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Program – New

SAMHSA is conducting the federally mandated Evaluation of the PATH program. The PATH grant program, created as part of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1990, is administered by SAMHSA's CMHS' Homeless Programs Branch. The PATH program is authorized under Section 521 et seq. of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, as amended. The SAMHSA PATH program funds each Fiscal Year the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and four U.S. Territories (the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands). The PATH grantees make grants to local, public and non-profit organizations to provide the PATH allowable services.

The SAMHSA Administrator is required under Section 528 of the PHS Act to evaluate the expenditures of PATH grantees at least once every three years to ensure they are consistent with legislative requirements and to recommend changes to the program design or operations.

The primary task of the PATH evaluation is to meet the mandates of Section 528 of the PHS Act.

The second task of the PATH evaluation is to conduct additional data collection and analysis to

further investigate the sources of variation in key program output and outcome measures that are important for program management and policy development. The PATH evaluation builds on the previous evaluation which was finalized in 2016 and was conducted as part of the National Evaluation of SAMHSA Homeless Programs. The PATH evaluation will use web surveys, telephone interviews and site visits to facilitate the collection of information regarding the structures and processes in place at the grantee and provider level. Data regarding the outputs and outcomes of the PATH program will be obtained from grantee applications, providers' intended use plans (IUPs) and from PATH annual report data, which is also required by Section 528 of the PHS Act and is approved under OMB No. 0930-0205.

Web Surveys will be conducted with all State PATH Contacts (SPCs) and staff from intermediary and PATH provider organizations. The *Web Surveys* will capture detailed and structured information in the following topics: selection, monitoring and oversight of PATH providers; populations served; the PATH allowable or eligible services provided; sources for match funds; provision of training and technical assistance; implementation of Evidence Based Practices (EBPs) and innovative practices including SOAR; data reporting, use of data and the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS); and collaboration, coordination and involvement with Continuums of Care (CoCs) and other organizations. The SPCs for all grantees (n=56), the Project Directors from the PATH provider organizations (n=500) and staff from the intermediary organizations (n=28) will be contacted to complete the web surveys. The *Web Surveys* will be administered once.

Site Visits will be conducted with a purposive sample of PATH grantees and providers to collect more nuanced information than will be possible with the web survey. Semi-structured

discussions will take place with the SPCs, grantee staff, PATH provider staff including the Project Director and other key management staffs, outreach workers, case managers and other clinical treatment staff, key stakeholders at the grantee and provider level and consumers. Five grantees will be selected for *Site Visits* and visited within each grantee will be one to two PATH providers. The *Site Visits* will be utilized to collect information regarding: provider and state characteristics; practices and priorities; context within which the grantees and providers operate; and services available within the areas the providers operate. Also, discussed will be the successes, barriers, and strategies faced by PATH grantees and providers. Focus groups will be held with current or former consumers of the PATH program to obtain consumer perspectives regarding the impact of the programs. The *Site Visits* will be conducted once.

Telephone Interviews will be conducted with a sample of SPCs (n=28) and intermediary (n=14) and provider staff (n=60) to explore through open-ended questions in greater detail, explanations for variations among providers in measures that are important for program management and policy development. The outputs of the PATH program include: the number of persons receiving PATH-funded services, outreached/contacted and enrolled; the number of services provided; and the number of referrals provided. The outcome evaluation will be limited, given limitations in available data and will include the number of persons referred to and attaining substance use treatment, primary health services, job training, educational services, housing services, housing placement assistance, income assistance, employment assistance and medical assistance. The *Telephone interviews* will be conducted once.

The estimated burden for the reporting requirements for the PATH evaluation is summarized in the table below.

Annual Burden Table

Instrument/Activity	Number of Respondents	Responses per Respondent	Total Responses	Hours per Response	Total Hour Burden
Web Surveys					
SPC Web Survey	56 ¹	1	56	1	56
PATH Intermediary Web Survey	28 ²	1	28	1	28
PATH Provider Web Survey	500 ³	1	500	1	500
Telephone Interviews					
SPC Telephone Interview	28 ⁴	1	28	1	28
PATH Intermediary Telephone Interview	14 ⁵	1	14	1	14
PATH Provider Telephone Interview	60 ⁶	1	60	1	60
Site Visit Interviews					
Opening Session with State Staff	25 ⁷	1	25	2	50
SPC Session	5 ⁸	1	5	2	10
State Stakeholder Session	25 ⁹	1	25	1.5	37.5
Opening Session with PATH Provider Staff	50 ¹⁰	1	50	2	100
PATH Provider PD Session	10 ¹¹	1	10	2	20
PATH Provider Direct Care Staff Session	50 ¹²	1	50	2	100
Provider Stakeholder Session	50 ¹³	1	50	1.5	75
Consumer Focus Groups	100 ¹⁴	1	100	1.5	150
Total	1,001	-	1,001	-	1,228.5

¹ 1 respondent X 56 SPCs =56 respondents

² 1 respondent X 28 Intermediaries= 28 respondents

³ 1 respondent X 500 PATH providers=500 respondents

⁴ 1 respondent X 28 SPCs =28 respondents

⁵ 1 respondent X 14 Intermediaries= 14 respondents

⁶ 1 respondent X 60 PATH providers=60 respondents

⁷ 5 respondents X 5 site visits=25 respondents

⁸ 1 respondent X 5 site visits=5 respondents

⁹ 5 respondents X 5 site visits =25 respondents

¹⁰ 5 respondents X 10 site visits (2 providers per state) =50 respondents

¹¹ 1 respondent X 10 site visits (2 providers per state) =10 respondents

¹² 5 respondents X 10 site visits (2 providers per state) =50 respondents

¹³ 5 respondents X 10 site visits (2 providers per state) =50 respondents

¹⁴ 10 respondents X 10 site visits (10 Consumers per provider (2 providers per state) =100 respondents

Written comments and recommendations concerning the proposed collection should be sent by DATE to the SAMHSA Desk Officer at the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB). To ensure timely receipt of comments, and to avoid potential delays in OMB's receipt and processing of mail sent through the U.S. Postal Services, commenters are encouraged to submit their comments to OMB via email to: OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov. Although commenters are encouraged to send their comments via email, commenters may also fax their comments to: 202-395-7285. Commenters may also mail them to: Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, New Executive Office Building, Room 10102, Washington, DC 20503.

Summer King
Statistician

[FR Doc. 2017-18136 Filed: 8/25/2017 8:45 am; Publication Date: 8/28/2017]