



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

**Proposed Information Collection Activity; 2024 National
Survey of Early Care and Education Longitudinal Follow-ups
(Office of Management and Budget #: 0970-0391)**

AGENCY: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation,
Administration for Children and Families, Department of
Health and Human Services.

ACTION: Request for public comments.

SUMMARY: The Administration for Children and Families
(ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS),
is proposing a data collection activity to be conducted
September 2024 through May 2025 as a follow-up of the 2024
National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE). The
objectives of the 2024 NSECE Longitudinal Follow-ups are to
build on the design and implementation of the 2024 NSECE to
collect urgently needed information on the following two
topics relevant to early care and education (ECE) policy:
1) how households learn about and make use of financial
assistance in seeking and selecting ECE, with additional
focus on paid individual care arrangements; and 2) patterns
of retention and attrition among individuals in the center-
based ECE workforce.

DATES: *Comments due within 60 days of publication.* In
compliance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction

Act of 1995, ACF is soliciting public comment on the specific aspects of the information collection described above.

ADDRESSES: You can obtain copies of the proposed collection of information and submit comments by emailing OPREinfocollection@acf.hhs.gov. Identify all requests by the title of the information collection.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description: The 2024 NSECE Longitudinal Follow-ups will consist of two nationally representative surveys:

1. a survey of households (1) with incomes under 300 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) and with at least one resident child under the age of 9 years and/or (2) who had used paid care by an individual in the spring of 2024 (2024 NSECE Household Follow-up)
2. a survey of individuals who were employed in early 2024 in center-based ECE programs working directly with children in classrooms serving children age 5 years and under, not yet in kindergarten (2024 NSECE Workforce Follow-up).

Participants will be drawn from respondents to the 2024 NSECE Household and Workforce surveys.

The 2024 NSECE Longitudinal Follow-up data collection efforts will provide urgently needed information that will expand the potential of the 2024 NSECE data to describe:

1) households' search for and use of financial assistance for ECE (including assistance for paid individual care arrangements); and 2) employment experiences of individuals who have recently worked in center-based ECE classrooms. The household follow-up in Fall 2024 will re-interview households participating in the 2024 NSECE who (1) report using paid individual ECE or (2) report incomes below 300 percent of the FPL and have at least one resident child under age 9 years. The workforce follow-up in early 2025 will re-interview individuals who participated in the 2024 NSECE workforce survey (i.e., served as center-based classroom-assigned instructional staff between January and July 2024). Both follow-up surveys are designed to collect in-depth information that was not feasible to collect in the 2024 NSECE and which can be uniquely collected through re-interviews of selected 2024 NSECE participants. The household follow-up will include information about households' awareness of and experience with publicly funded ECE programs, how households selected ECE arrangements for Fall 2024, and who provided paid individual care to the households' children in early 2024. The workforce follow-up will include information about the experiences of ECE instructional staff over time, where workers who leave ECE employers or the ECE sector go and why they leave, and workers' experiences in various ECE settings throughout their ECE careers. Accurate data on

families with young children and the experiences of ECE workers are essential to assess the current landscape of ECE, and to provide insights to advance ECE policy and initiatives. The household follow-up will be fielded using multi-mode survey methodologies in Fall 2024, and the workforce follow-up will be fielded using multi-mode survey methodologies in the first half of 2025. Both follow-ups will enhance the value of the 2024 NSECE by expanding the potential utility of those data to describe household and worker experiences over time and to address additional information needs.

Respondents: 1. Households participating in the 2024 NSECE and either a. reporting a paid individual ECE arrangement in the 2024 NSECE, or b. having at least one resident child under age 9 and who reported incomes under the 300 percent Federal poverty level in the 2024 NSECE. 2. Individuals who participated in the 2024 NSECE survey of center-based classroom-assigned instructional staff (workforce).

Annual Burden Estimates

Instrument	No. of Respondents (total over request period)	No. of Responses per Respondent (total over request period)	Avg. Burden per Response (in hours)	Total/Annual Burden (in hours)
2024 NSECE Household Follow-up Questionnaire	3,750	1	.36	1,350
2024 NSECE Workforce Follow-up Questionnaire (Classroom Staff)	5,550	1	.33	1,832

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 3,182

Comments: The Department specifically requests comments 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) the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; 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. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted within 60 days of this publication.

Authority: Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, as amended by the CCDBG Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-186). Social Security Act, section 418 as extended by the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2017 and the TANF Extension Act of 2019. Section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. chapter 35.

Mary C. Jones,
ACF/OPRE Certifying Officer.

[FR Doc. 2024-06982 Filed: 4/2/2024 8:45 am; Publication Date: 4/3/2024]