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To: kmilliken@fahe.org
Cc: [O'Reilly, Maureen D. \(Fed\)](#); [Campbell, Stephen L. \(Fed\)](#); [Schmit, Mark A. \(Fed\)](#); [Blum, Megean D. \(Fed\)](#)
Subject: Fahe Comments Re OMB Control Number 0693-0032
Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2024 12:20:01 PM
Attachments: [Fahe Comments Re OMB Control Number 0693-0032.pdf](#)
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[image005.png](#)

Good afternoon, Kylie,

Thank you for Fahe's comment on NIST MEP's Comment Request on Manufacturing Extension Partnership Management Information Reporting (OMB Control Number 0693-0032) published in the Federal Register on September 9, 2024. Manufacturing Extension Partnership. (MEP) is a national network of locally based manufacturing extension centers that assists small- and medium-sized manufacturers to improve their productivity, improve profitability, and enhance their economic competitiveness. The information collected will provide the MEP with information regarding MEP Center performance regarding the delivery of technology, and business solutions to U.S.-based manufacturers. The collected information also assists in determining the performance of the MEP Centers at both local and national levels, providing information critical to monitoring and reporting on MEP programmatic performance and assist management in policy decisions. BABA compliance is outside of the scope of this collection, as is information about the operating plans of an individual MEP center client. MEP does, however, make public its own strategic plan, which is available [here](#).

While MEP can conduct market research to find small to medium size domestic manufacturers, we do not possess the authority to make BABA determinations. That authority is with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Information on MEP's supplier scouting service to conduct this market research is available [here](#). For information on the exact process, that is available [here](#). It is not dedicated solely to BABA, and more information on BABA and its requirements is available [here](#).

The MEPNN Supplier Scouting process begins with a request from a company or federal agency. Below are the basic steps:

- Government agencies with supply chain needs can use the MEPNN Supplier Scouting service by completing a [Supplier Scouting Opportunity Synopsis form](#). Companies with supply chain needs should contact their [local MEP Center](#).
- NIST MEP disseminates the information to MEP Centers in every state and Puerto Rico to conduct a nationwide search for U.S. manufacturers with the capabilities and business interests to supply the needed item.
- The results are summarized by NIST MEP and reported to the organization that submitted the request. MEPNN Supplier Scouting typically takes 30-45 days to return results.

As you are aware, there is no database, listing, or repository of manufacturers who are listed as BABA compliant or eligible. NIST MEP does not require the MEP Centers to report this information about clients as part of this collection. Information collected under OMB Control Number 0693-0032 includes information detailing client address and DUNS number, as well as primary and secondary contact information to conduct the NIST MEP Client Survey (OMB Control No. 0693-0021) measuring realized impacts (sales, investment, employment, cost savings, etc.) of services to our clients.

Thank you.

MELISSA DAVIS

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From: Kylie Milliken <kmilliken@fahe.org>

Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 11:54 AM

To: pranist <pranist@nist.gov>

Cc: Joshua Stewart <jstewart@fahe.org>

Subject: Fahe Comments Re OMB Control Number 0693-0032

Good morning Maureen,

My name is Kylie Milliken and I'm an advocacy associate at Fahe, a network of nonprofit affordable housing providers building thriving communities in Appalachia. I'm writing to submit Fahe's comments in response to NIST MEP's Comment Request; Manufacturing Extension Partnership Management Information Reporting (OMB Control Number 0693-0032) published in the Federal Register on September 9, 2024. Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and let me know if I can send over any additional materials or information!

Kylie

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