

**APPENDIX F**  
**OMB PUBLIC COMMENTS**



April 23, 2014

Administration for Children and Families  
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation  
370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW  
Washington, DC 20447

Attn: OPRE Reports Clearance Officer

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to submit our comments regarding the proposed Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey (FACES) (Federal Register Volume 79, Number 40 (Friday, February 28, 2014) Pages 11445-11446).

The National Head Start Association is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization that believes that every child, regardless of circumstances at birth, has the ability to succeed in life if given the opportunity that Head Start offers to children and their families. It is the national voice of more than a million children in Head Start and Early Head Start programs in the United States. Head Start and Early Head Start represent a national commitment to providing early learning opportunities for the children who are most at-risk and who have been proven to benefit most from early learning experiences.

The Head Start FACES study has provided important insights into the growth and impact of the Head Start program over time. As the next iteration begins, we applaud the commitment this study represents to learning from data and particularly the Plus Studies that will offer a way to better understand some of the specific interventions that have developed to best capitalize on communities' resources and address communities' needs.

One of the emerging areas of Head Start interventions is a deeper two-generation focus on how programs that provide the most intense supports for parents' education, workforce training, and family stability are positioned to change long-term outcomes for both children and families. To that end, we make three recommendations to help document the two-generation work Head Start does with families.

1. In sections J, K, and L of the Head Start Parent Interview, in addition to asking about parent employment, we suggest the interview probe whether parents are engaged in education or job training activities and then whether their access to those opportunities was facilitated by the Head Start program.

1651 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314  
Tel: (703) 739-0875 - Fax: (703) 739-0878 - [www.nhsa.org](http://www.nhsa.org)

The National Head Start Association, an independent membership organization, advocates on behalf of the entire Head Start community and provides training and resources to Head programs nationwide.

2. In section M of the Head Start Parent Interview, we suggest that after parents are asked about the social services they accessed, a question should be added about whether that access was facilitated by the Head Start program.
3. Finally, we strongly urge the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation to consider designing a Plus Study as FACES 2014 moves forward to look more closely at the ways Head Start programs support families' economic stability and social mobility through two-generation work.

FACES represents an exciting opportunity to document Head Start's legacy of innovative practices and high-quality comprehensive services for the children who need them most. Thank you again for the chance to share our comments. If you have any questions, you can contact me at [yvinci@nhsa.org](mailto:yvinci@nhsa.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Yamin Visci". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Yamin" and last name "Visci" clearly distinguishable.

Executive Director  
National Head Start Association



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

901 D Street SW, Washington DC 20447 [www.acf.hhs.gov](http://www.acf.hhs.gov)

Yasmina Vinci  
Executive Director  
National Head Start Association  
1651 Prince Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Ms. Vinci:

Thank you for your comments on the proposed data collection for the Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey (FACES) (*Federal Register* Volume 79, Number 40 (February 28, 2014) Pages 11445-11446). The current clearance package for the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) focuses on the data collection scheduled for fall 2014. We streamlined the fall 2014 parent survey from prior rounds of FACES in order to capture the key contextual child and family information as well as program outcomes for children and families. We are now reviewing the content to be collected from parents and Head Start staff in spring 2015, and many of the topics you recommend are under consideration. Below, we provide some additional information on our next steps. Our proposed spring 2015 instruments will be presented in an OMB clearance package to be submitted this fall.

### COMMENTS

1. In sections J, K, and L of the Head Start Parent Interview, in addition to asking about parent employment, we suggest the interview probe whether parents are engaged in education or job training activities and then whether their access to those opportunities was facilitated by the Head Start program.

**Response: We are currently planning our spring 2015 data collection, looking more closely at program impact areas and family engagement outcomes in relation to the Head Start Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (PFCE) framework. Education and job training (as well as support from Head Start in locating such activities) is an area we are considering. (The types of questions you suggest were included in prior rounds of FACES as part of a one-hour parent interview.)**

2. In section M of the Head Start Parent Interview, we suggest that after parents are asked about the social services they accessed, a question should be added about whether that access was facilitated by the Head Start program.

**Response: The types of social and community services accessed by parents is another topic being considered for the spring 2015 parent survey in relation to the Head Start PFCE framework. Many of these questions were asked in prior rounds of FACES.**



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901 D Street SW, Washington DC 20447 [www.acf.hhs.gov](http://www.acf.hhs.gov)

3. Finally, we strongly urge the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation to consider designing a Plus Study as FACES 2014 moves forward to look more closely at the ways Head Start programs support families' economic stability and social mobility through two-generation work.

**Response: We are exploring the possibility of conducting one or more Plus Studies in spring 2015, including more in-depth studies of parent engagement and program functioning. Additionally, we have begun planning for the spring 2015 Core program and center director surveys as well as the parent survey that will be administered in the spring. We are considering questions in the director survey about particular services and supports that programs provide parents as well as questions in the parent survey about parent involvement, engagement, and satisfaction with the program.**

We appreciate your interest in FACES as a source of information on what is happening in Head Start programs.

Sincerely,

Maria Woolverton  
FACES Project Officer