

TO: Jane Duffield
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

FROM: Phyllis K. Fong
Inspector General

SUBJECT: Food and Nutrition Service (FNS): *Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request –Food Program and Reporting System (FPRS)*

The USDA Office of Inspector General (OIG) has reviewed the above-referenced notice, published in the Federal Register on July 6, 2015. See 80 Fed. Reg. 128, 38427 (July 6, 2015). FNS provided specific topics in the notice for reviewers to address. See p. 38427. Below are OIG's responses to parts (a) and (c) of the invited comments:

(a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility;

OIG Response: With respect to fraud investigations, strengthening data records to capture pertinent information is necessary to increase the overall efficiency of SNAP.

(c) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;

OIG Response: In *Section E. -Fraud Investigations*, (See pp. 38428-9 of notice) FNS' use of data to monitor State agency activity levels and performance is critical in combatting fraud. Even greater levels of program administration may be achieved by including a data section that would allow individuals additional space to write in submissions relative to trending fraud schemes associated with eligibility fraud and trafficking. Including such a section would facilitate a larger assessment of the fifty-three annual state agency responses related to fraud for form FNS-366B (See p. 38429 of notice.) Such collective monitoring of State and local trends could enhance FNS' and OIG's ability to adapt investigative approaches on a national level.