

**Comments on Information Collection Request for the
National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979 (OMB Control Number 1220-0109)**

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1 . Sources of college payments

The NLSY currently asks about what percentage of education costs for their kids, particularly for college, are out of pocket. It would be extremely useful for researchers to understand exactly how parents are paying for college. For example, how much federal aid of each type (e.g., Pell grants, Stafford loans, PLUS loans) is taken, and how much is being taken in private loans? How much state aid is taken as well as institutional grants? It would be of high use to the research community to understand what the sticker price of the university or college is, what the net price actually paid is, and what the financial aid components are that equate the two prices. Similarly, asking parents what steps they have taken to pay for college would be of much interest.

2 . National Student Clearinghouse administrative records

Linking the children of the NLSY to administrative enrollment and attainment records from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) would be of high value. Doing this would allow for a clear linking between the wealth of parental information and their childrens' postsecondary investments.

3. Federal financial aid administrative records

Linking the children of the NLSY to federal administrative data on financial aid would be extremely useful to ensure accurate information on financial aid.

4. Social Security and federal assistance administrative records

With research moving much more to using administrative earnings and program participation datasets, it would great if the NLSY could link their data to administrative Social Security earnings records and to administrative federal assistance program use, such as food stamps, Medicaid, and TANF/AFDC. While participation and earnings questions are asked, measurement error concerns make linking to administrative outcomes of high value. It also would allow examinations of the character of the measurement error in the survey responses and more accurate estimates of the returns to education with respect to long-run labor market earnings as well as program participation.

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