USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

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Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

School Nutrition Association
2900 S. Quincy St.
Suite 700
Arlington, VA 22206

Dear Ms. Anderson and Ms. Montague,

Thank you for your response, on behalf of the School Nutrition Association, to the Federal Register Notice requesting comments on the extension of the Generic Clearance to Conduct Formative Research or Development of Nutrition Education and Promotion Materials and Related Tools and Grants for FNS Population Groups. This notice was published in the Federal Register on December 20, 2018.

In your letter, your comments addressed areas of concern specifically within the school population, as they relate to school meals, in ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected and in ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who respond. In the ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected, you recommended that whenever FNS develops materials and resources, that FNS coordinates across state and local levels to promote their availability and that FNS coordinates with state agencies – as well as with SNA and its state affiliates as a way to help expand the reach of such materials. You also recommended that FNS look beyond the primary audience and consider how to disseminate messages and information that would benefit the child's household, as well as other direct and indirect stakeholders.

For ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who respond, SNA stated that school nutrition professionals are asked to participate in numerous information collections each year and that in addition to research-based requests, there are a number of initiatives and programs that make research data collection a requirement for participation. In light of the fact that these requests are placing a significant burden on school meal operators, you recommended that FNS review grant requirements and consult with both state agencies and local school nutrition directors for feedback on proposed grant designs and the possible impact on potential applicants, in addition to engaging school nutrition professionals with strong academic credentials and in-depth knowledge of the complex day-to-day operations of the child nutrition programs to help support data collection processes.

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The Generic Clearance to Conduct Formative Research or Development of Nutrition Education and Promotion Materials and Related Tools and Grants for FNS Population Groups is a clearance vehicle that various programs in the Food and Nutrition Service use to obtain feedback from school nutrition professionals, teachers, children and their parents or guardians, among others, on various materials such as handbooks, handouts, videos, teaching materials, and other items. This generic is also used to obtain feedback from grant recipients on their experiences with grants in order to determine how best to develop future grants. As such, your suggestions to improve the quality and utility of the information and to minimize the burden related to these activities have been forwarded for consideration in regards to both the generic clearance process and the development of the specific information collection submissions.

FNS appreciates your comments and interest in its programs and research. Thank you very much for commenting.

Sincerely,

Rachelle Ragland-Greene
Christina Sandberg

Rachelle Ragland-Greene and Christina Sandberg
Information Collection Clearance Officers
Planning and Regulatory Affairs Office/Office of Policy Support
USDA – Food and Nutrition Service

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