

AEASat  
**Nonprofit Research Activities Survey (2016-2018), National Center for Science  
and Engineering Statistics**  
Public Comment Opportunity

The Survey of Nonprofit Research Activities (NPRA) is a new survey. Its primary objective is to obtain information from 6,500 nonprofit non-academic research organizations and fill long-standing data gaps in the NCSES publication *National Patterns of R&D Resources*. The last survey of nonprofit research activity occurred in 1996 and 1997.

The National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES), National Science Foundation, invites the public to provide comments to OMB on the proposed new NPRA that covers the years 2016-18.

AEA members are encouraged to describe the value of the NPRA for economic research; comment on the data collection instruments and methods; and suggest changes that would enhance data quality, value, and accessibility and lower respondent burden and federal cost.

*Federal Register* notice: [December 4, 2017](#) (includes instructions for submitting comments)

- [Information Collection Request](#) (ICR) submitted to OMB, including:
    - [Survey instruments](#)
    - [Supporting Statement](#)
  - Due date: January 3, 2018
  - More information: Ronda Britt, Project Officer, NPRA Survey, Survey Statistician, National Science Foundation, (703) 292-7765
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Information on ICR Process:

- By law, each data collection carried out by a federal agency must be cleared by OMB. Through the *Federal Register* notice, NCSES is announcing that it has submitted a request to OMB for clearance to conduct the NPRA for 2016-18 and offers the public a 30-day opportunity to submit comments to OMB.
- After the close of the 30-day comment period, OMB will make its decision.

Guidance on Preparing Comments:

- AEA members may comment on any aspect of the proposed data collection. Possible topics, for instance, include needs, uses, methodology, survey design, cost, schedule, and consultation with data users.
- AEA members may frame their comments on specific topics in any way, such as:
  - assessments – identifying what they do and do not like and support

- suggestions – for how NCSES might proceed in this or future collections
- requests – for example, for a change in the design of the survey instrument, to be consulted in the future, to carry out research on an alternative approach
- observations – for example, implications of the sample size for statistical reliability
- AEA members may consider proposing that OMB incorporate a request in its “terms of clearance.” For instance, a member could suggest as a term of clearance that NCSES research the efficacy of an alternative set of questions and report back to OMB in a year on the results.

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For assistance in preparing comments, feel free to contact AEASat staff—Andrew Reamer (Research Professor, George Washington Institute of Public Policy, George Washington University) at [areamer@gwu.edu](mailto:areamer@gwu.edu) or (202) 994-7866.