- (1) be compared with the findings of a 1987 Urban Institute survey of homeless characteristics to understand reported changes in the nature of homelessness, especially those related to families with children:
- (2) provide a basis for assessing local efforts to construct "continuums of care" for homeless people;
- (3) be used to develop measures to assess the impact and performance of current homeless programs;

(4) will assist local governments and nonprofit organizations in designing more effective local programs; and

(5) provide a baseline for examining the effects on the homeless population of proposed changes to the McKinney homeless assistance programs, and America's "safety net" programs for the poor (e.g., Section 8, AFDC, JTPA, and Medicaid programs).

Form Number: None. Respondents: Homeless service providers and homeless persons.

Frequency of Submission: One-time. Reporting Burden: See attachment. Total Estimated Burden Hours: Phase

1, Provider Surveys 17,500.

Status: New Survey.

Contact: James E. Hoben, HUD, (202) 708-0574 X132, George A. Ferguson, HUD, (202) 708–1480, Joseph F. Lackey, Jr., OMB, (202) 395–7316.

Date: July 27, 1995.

Supporting Statement

A. Justification

1. Necessity of Information Collection

The National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients (NSHAPC) includes two phases: the collection of information on service providers (providers) and the collection of information on service users (clients).

Phase 1: In Phase 1, the Census Bureau will:

- (1) Select a sample of geographic areas
- (2) Develop a comprehensive list of service providers in the survey sample
- (3) Collect basic information from all service providers within the sample areas on programs offered, via a computer-assisted telephone interview.
- (4) Select a subsample of providers and collect detailed information on programs and services by mail, with telephone follow-up.

Note: Steps 1 and 2 must be completed if Phase 2 is conducted.

Phase 2: In Phase 2, the Census Bureau will:

- (1) Select a sample of service users (clients) within the sample areas in two other stages.
- (2) Select a sample of providers in designated programs.

(3) Select clients and conduct personal visit interviews at selected service provider facilities.

This request is for clearance to conduct Phase 1 of the survey. A second OMB package will be submitted later for Phase 2. This request is for the following questionnaires listed by title and code number.

Data to be collected from all providers:

• NSHAPC-100A, Service Provider Core Data Questionnaire.

Data to be collected from major shelter providers: (Note: Each of these instruments is essentially identical, except for the title. Therefore, review of one satisfies review of the others.)

- NSHAPC-100B, Emergency Shelter Programs.
- NSHAPC-100C, Transitional Housing Programs.
 - NSHAPC-100D, Voucher Programs.

 NSHAPC–100E, Permanent Housing for the Homeless Programs.

Data to be collected from special service providers: (Note: Each of these instruments is essentially identical, except for the title. Therefore, review of one satisfies review of the others.)

- NSHAPC-100F, Alcohol/Drug Programs.
- NSHAPC-100G, Mental Health Care Programs.
- NSHAPC-100H, Physical Health Care Programs.
- NSHAPC–100I, Drop-In Center Programs.
- NSHAPC-100J, HIV/AIDS Programs.
- NSHAPC-100L, Other Programs. Data to be collected from homeless outreach programs:
- NSHAPČ-100K, Outreach Programs.

Instrument for updating list of providers in a geographic area:

• NSHAPC-100M, List of Providers Offering Homeless Programs.

The national survey will provide estimates of the number and characteristics of service providers, and an assessment of the types of programs and services available to people who are homeless. The survey will also provide (in Phase 2) detailed characteristics of persons using services.

The national survey is being sponsored by the following Federal

- · Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
- Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).
 - Department of Agriculture (USDA).
 - Department of Commerce (DOC).
 - Department of Education (ED).

- Department of Energy (DOE).
- Department of Labor (DOL).
- Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Social Security Administration (SSA).
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Data will be collected under HUD's data collection authority.

As part of the 1990 Census, the Census Bureau enumerated persons residing in homeless shelters and preidentified street locations. However, this operation was not designed to provide the full range of information needed for guiding policy decisions related to homelessness. With this understanding, in September of 1993, the Bureau of the Census convened a conference of researchers, representatives of public interest groups, and government representatives to discuss ways of improving data collection on the homeless population. The consensus among this group was that the decennial census is not the appropriate vehicle for gathering information on the homeless population. They suggested that a new national survey using updated methodologies to obtain an accurate and useful picture of those homeless people who use services in the United States is needed.

2. Needs and Uses

The information the new survey would provide is critical for developing the kinds of effective public policy responses needed to break the cycle of homelessness, both through targeted programs and the leveraging of mainstream resources. This survey would provide up-to-date information about the characteristics of today's providers of homeless services and the homeless population who use services. The last comparable national study was in 1987 when the Urban Institute completed a survey of homeless persons. Also, included in the NSHAPC would be the first national examination of the characteristics of homelessness in rural America, fulfilling a Congressional mandate for a report on this subject.

The national NSHAPC survey would:

1. Provide information on the types of programs and services available to homeless persons, including population groups primarily served (e.g., veterans, people with mental illness); days of operation, occupancy levels, and sources of funding.

2. Provide national information on the types of services available to homeless persons in both urban and rural communities.

3. Provide information not addressed by the last national study in 1987 such