We estimate the average time to complete the NSHAPC–100A, Service Provider Core Data Questionnaire (refer to Attachment A) to be 15 minutes; the review of the combined list of service providers to be 15 minutes, and the detailed program level questionnaire (refer to Attachments B to L) to be 30 minutes. These estimates are based on in-house testing of the questionnaires by the Census Bureau. We estimate the information burden for these forms to be 20,350 hours. This includes:

6,250 hours for the CATI interview.
6,250 hours for review of the

combined list of service providers.

5,000 hours for the detailed program level questionnaire.

• 2,850 hours for the Client

Questionnaire.

13. Reason for Change in Burden

Not Applicable. This is a new survey. There are, therefore, 0 hours in the current OMB inventory.

14. Project Schedule

Beginning in October 1, 1995, the Census Bureau plans on telephoning all service providers within sample areas to collect basic information about programs offered. After the phone calls are completed, the Census Bureau will mail the listings of service providers by sample area and the NSHAPC—L(2)L letter to providers contacted by telephone. A subsample of providers will also be asked to provide more detailed information about the services they offer. After conducting the CATI interviews, the Census Bureau will mail the appropriate questionnaires, NSHAPC Form 100B to 100L, to the providers in sample.

Census Bureau personnel also will contact individuals from federal and state governments, agencies, organizations and knowledgeable local persons and ask them to review the lists of service providers. The Census Bureau will conduct these operations during October 1995 to January 1996.

B. Collection of Information Employing Statistical Methods

1. Universe and Respondent Selection

The Census Bureau will conduct the national survey in 76 primary sampling areas. The Census Bureau will interview all service providers in the sample areas to collect basic information about the programs offered. This is a total of 25,000 interviews. The Census Bureau will select a subsample of providers within those areas and conduct detailed mail interviews for the programs and services offered by the provider. This is a total of a 5,000 providers.

Phase 1 of the survey will provide information on the types of programs and services available to homeless people. Phase 2 of the survey will provide detailed characteristics about homeless service users (clients), including the literally homeless. Most research to date has been conducted in urban and suburban areas. For such areas, there is a growing consensus among researchers that a service-based survey design with sampling over time (vs. one-time sampling) will give a good representation of the homeless population. For nonmetropolitan areas, the consensus is that an expansion of the types of service providers is needed to cover the homeless adequately. The Department of Agriculture requested an increase in the number of sample areas and the Census Bureau identified ways to design the survey to produce reasonably precise estimates of rural homelessness. However, it should be noted that the procedures for measuring rural homelessness will be less sophisticated than our procedures in urban areas. There is much to learn about rural areas and the NSHAPC is an excellent opportunity to collect information about rural homelessness. In the nonmetroplitan areas the sampling frame is the set of Community Assistance Program (CAP) "Catchment Areas", wherever they exist. CAP catchment areas are counties or local areas grouped together to receive funding and provide services to the needy and are served by a CAP agency. Our preliminary research indicates that CAP agencies are a good source for lists of services in the nonmetropolitan areas they cover. In a few nonmetropolitan areas where CAPs do not exist, the sampling frame is the set of counties or groups of counties.

2. Procedures for Collecting Information

Sampled Service Providers

The Census Bureau will conduct the survey in 76 sample areas; this is the first stage of sampling. Within each sample area, a comprehensive list of service providers will be developed. All providers will furnish basic, core information on programs offered. Phase 1, also includes a second stage of sampling where a subset of service providers will be selected within each sample area to be asked more detailed information about their programs and services.

Sample of Clients (Service Users)

In Phase 2, a sample of clients will be selected for interviewing. This is a three-stage sample, where the first-stage sample corresponds to the same 76 geographic areas discussed above for the provider-interview sample. In the second stage, a sample of providers will be selected in each sample area but only in designated programs. In the third stage, a sample of the clients at each of the sample provider facilities will be selected.

Estimation

In Phase 1, the estimates needed are proportions of providers falling in different categories.

The estimates needed for Phase 2 consist of proportions of clients falling in different categories. The base for these proportions can be derived in two ways:

a. Weighted estimates of the average number of persons using services on any given day in February;

b. Weighted estimates of the total number of persons using services at any time during February.

Other estimates can be derived from these. For example, the weights applied to obtain estimates (a) or (b) could be used for estimates only of those serviceusing persons who are homeless according to different definitions of homelessness. For the national survey, it is likely that a range of estimates will be provided, corresponding to different assumptions about coverage and multiplicity biases.

The weights for (a) will be standard survey weights based on the selection probability, with adjustments for nonresponse. There will be a "multiplicity" adjustment to reduce the relative weight of people who have more than one change of selection because they use more than one type of program, for example, both shelters and soup kitchens, as determined from the questionnaire.

For (b) three estimation methods are under consideration. One purpose of the pretest was to get information to evaluate these methods.

METHOD 1: *The weight will be* proportional to the number of consecutive days prior to the interview (up to 28 days) that the person did not use a shelter (for the shelter sample) or soup kitchen (for the soup kitchen sample), and likewise for other types of programs. For example, a person who says this is their first night in any shelter in the last 28 days will be given a weight 28 times the typical weight of a person who was in a shelter the night before. (Intuitively, the method assumes that for every person we find who is just entering homelessness, there are 27 others whom we miss because we did not happen to interview them on their first day.) There is a precise mathematical justification for the