DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[AGENCY]
Office of Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD.

ACTION:
Request for comments.

SUMMARY:
The Department of Housing and Urban Development is seeking comments from the public regarding the burden faced when applying for or maintaining eligibility for HUD’s housing programs. HUD recognizes that these administrative hurdles and paperwork burdens disproportionately fall on the most vulnerable populations and prevent individuals and entities from accessing benefits for which they are legally eligible. Public comment submitted in response to this request for comment will assist HUD in better understanding, identifying, and reducing HUD’s public program administrative burden and ultimately further its mission to pursue transformative housing and community-building policies and programs.

DATES:
Comment Due Date: August 14, 2023.

ADDRESSES:
Interested persons are invited to submit comments responsive to this request for comment. There are three methods for submitting public comments. All submissions must refer to the above docket number and title.

1. Electronic Submission of Comments. Comments may be submitted electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov. HUD strongly encourages commenters to submit comments electronically through www.regulations.gov. Electronic submission of comments allows the commenter maximum time to prepare and submit a comment, ensures timely receipt by HUD, and enables HUD to make comments immediately available to the public. Comments submitted electronically through www.regulations.gov can be viewed by other commenters and interested members of the public. Commenters should follow the instructions provided on that website to submit comments electronically.

2. Submission of Comments by Mail. Comments may be submitted by mail to the Regulations Division, Office of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Room 10276, Washington, DC 20410–0500.

3. Submission of Comments by Electronic Mail. Comments may be submitted by electronic mail to the Regulations Division, Office of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development at improvingaccesstopublicbenefitprograms@hud.gov.

Note: To receive consideration as a public comment, comments must be submitted through one of the three methods specified above.

Public Inspection of Public Comments. Copies of all comments submitted will be available for inspection and downloading at www.regulations.gov. HUD will also make all properly submitted comments and communications available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours at the above address. Due to security measures at the HUD Headquarters building, you must schedule an appointment in advance to review the public comments by calling the Regulations Division at 202–708–3055 (this is not a toll-free number). HUD welcomes and is
prepared to receive calls from individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as individuals with speech or communication disabilities. To learn more about how to make an accessible telephone call, please visit https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/telecommunications-relay-service-trs. Copies of all comments submitted are available for inspection and downloading at www.regulations.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Todd Richardson, General Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Room 8100, Washington, DC 20410, telephone 202–402–5706 (this is not a toll-free number). HUD welcomes and is prepared to receive calls from individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as individuals with speech or communication disabilities. To learn more about how to make an accessible telephone call, please visit https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/telecommunications-relay-service-trs.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
I. Background
Applying for and maintaining eligibility for public benefits and services, including housing programs, often requires completing and submitting a variety of forms. HUD and its housing partners that administer its programs (including Public Housing Authorities, State and local governments, non-profit recipients of CDBG programs, Multifamily Housing owners, and FHA lenders) use the information collected by these forms to determine whether applicants are eligible or if current recipients continue to be eligible. These forms and other methods of information collections may create burdens that disproportionately fall on the most vulnerable populations and prevent individuals and entities from accessing services for which they are legally eligible. These burdens include the expenditure of time, effort, or financial resources to generate, maintain, or provide information to HUD or its housing partners. For example, individuals may be required to provide a list of family members, the family’s total annual family income, the assets available to each family member in the household, and the value of such assets in order to access public housing. Individuals applying for or maintaining eligibility for public benefits or services may also face burdens such as time spent gathering records and documentation needed to prove eligibility, travel time associated with developing and submitting the collection, or even time waiting to speak with agency personnel.

Consistent with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), 1 agencies must ensure that both the quantitative burden estimates and the narrative description supporting its information collection requests reflect the beginning-to-end experience of completing the information collection activity. Specifically, the burden faced by individuals applying for and maintaining eligibility for public benefits should also include:

—Information and learning costs, which refer to the time, effort, money, and other resources that individuals need to expend to learn about the existence of a public service or benefit, rules governing their eligibility and application, certification, benefits maintenance, and post-award reporting or recertification processes.
—Compliance costs, which refer to the time, effort, money, and other resources that individuals need to expend to follow through with program application, certification, or recertification, including filling out necessary paperwork, waiting for correspondence from program agencies, planning for in-person meetings, and producing documentation to confirm their eligibility (for instance, records of household composition, income, or assets).
What is the Department of Housing and Urban Development seeking comments from the public about?

1. Difficulties in obtaining access to HUD’s housing program.
2. Potential changes in national zoning regulations for mixed-use housing.
4. Insurance requirements for HUD-sponsored new construction in disaster-prone areas.

When is the due date for public comment on the burdens placed on individuals applying for HUD’s housing programs?

1. August 14, 2023
2. September 9, 2023
3. January 2, 2024
4. July 31, 2023

What do “compliance costs” refer to in the context of access to HUD’s public benefit programs?

1. Time, effort, money, and resources needed to behave in accordance with paperwork requirements.
2. Information and self-education required to familiarize oneself with the public services available.
3. Disclosure requirements for proving your organization has not shared information unduly with others.
4. Cognitive load, distress, anxiety, distrust, or loss of autonomy and dignity.

What agency published the document on July 5 concerning Delegations and Designations?

1. National Aeronautics and Space Administration
2. Federal Aviation Administration
3. Department of Defense
4. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

What is the purpose of the document published in the Federal Register by NASA?

1. To correct an error in a previous document regarding Delegations and Designations
2. To announce a new policy regarding procurement of launch services
3. To solicit public comments on proposed changes to Rule 210.12(b)(2) regarding astronaut training requirements
4. To provide guidance on sharing satellite data with foreign partners

</Answers 2>

<Question 3>
What will NASA do if it receives adverse comments on the direct final rule published on July 5, 2023?
</Question 3>

<Answers 3>
1. Publish a timely withdrawal of the rule and this correction to the rule
2. Extend the comment period by 30 days
3. Schedule public hearings to discuss the comments and reactions to the comments
4. Proceed with implementing the rule as planned

</Answers 3>

<Question 4>
What specifically needs to be corrected in the original NASA Federal Register document?
</Question 4>

<Answers 4>
1. The amendatory instruction for section 1204.501 paragraph (a)
2. The chapter heading for section 1107.323 paragraph (b) describing responsible disclosure of satellite data
3. The effective date of the delegations and designations, July 29, 2023
4. The point of contact for further information, Todd Richardson

</Answers 4>""
following correction is made:
§ 1204.501
[Amended]
1. On page 42871, in the first column, correct amendatory instruction 2.a. for § 1204.501 to read: “a. In paragraph (a) introductory text, add the words “the Office of” before the word “Strategic” and remove the words “Integrated Asset Management” and add in their place the words “Facilities and Real Estate.”

Nanette Smith,
Team Lead, NASA Directives and Regulations.

mc_qa3 = """"\n\nHuman: Hello Claude. Here is a section from the minutes of a government meeting. Please read it carefully and devise five factual questions about it, along with three wrong answers and the right answer for each. Put questions in <Question></Question> tags and answers in <Answer></Answer> tags, as in the examples.

Here are two examples.

<Example>
<Passage>
{example_passage1}
</Passage>
{questions1}
</Example>

<Example>
<Passage>
{example_passage2}
</Passage>
{questions2}
</Example>

Now here is the passage I would like you to write questions for.

<Passage>
{test_passage}
</Passage>

Please write five factual questions about this document that can be answered with reference to it and without any outside knowledge. For each question, give three wrong answers and the right answer. Always put the correct answer first. Write 4 non-numerical questions and one numerical one. Make sure the wrong answers are highly detailed. Put the question inside <Question N></Question N> tags, and the answers inside <Answers N></Answers N> tags, where N is the index of the question, as in the examples.
Baseline QA Prompt

Human: Please read the following government record closely and then answer the multiple choice question below.

<Government Record>
{chunk}
</Government Record>

Here is the question:

<Question>
{question}
</Question>

Based on the government record above, select the correct answer to the question from the list below and write the corresponding letter (A, B, C, or D) in <Answer></Answer> tags.

<Answers>
{answers}
</Answers>

Assistant: Based on the government record provided, the correct answer to the question is:
QA Prompt with Scratchpad

Human: Please read the following government record closely and then answer the multiple choice question below.
<Government Record>
{chunk}
</Government Record>
Now here is the question for you to answer:
<Question>
{question}
</Question>
Pull 2-3 relevant quotes from the record that pertain to the question and write them inside <scratchpad></scratchpad> tags. Then, select the correct answer to the question from the list below and write the corresponding letter (A, B, C, or D) in <Answer></Answer> tags.
<Answers>
{answers}
</Answers>

Assistant:

External Examples Prompt

Human: Please read the following government record closely and then answer the multiple choice question below.
<Government Record>
{chunk}
</Government Record>
First, here are two example questions with correct answers.
<Question>
Who was the first president of the United States?
</Question>
<Answers>
A. Thomas Jefferson
B. George Washington
C. Abraham Lincoln
D. John Adams
</Answers>
Here, the correct answer is:
<Answer>
B. George Washington
</Answer>

<Question>
What is the boiling temperature of water, in degrees Fahrenheit?
</Question>
Now, based on the government record you’ve just read, please answer this question:

Select the correct answer to the question from the list below and write the corresponding letter (A, B, C, or D) in <Answer></Answer> tags.

<Answers>

Assistant:

External Examples Prompt with Scratchpad

Human: Please read the following government record closely and then answer the multiple choice question below.

<Government Record>

Based on the government record above, select the correct answer to the question from the list below and write the corresponding letter (A, B, C, or D) in <Answer></Answer> tags.

First, here are two example questions.

<Question>
Who was the first president of the United States?
</Question>

<Answers>
A. Thomas Jefferson
B. George Washington
C. Abraham Lincoln
D. John Adams
</Answers>

Here, the correct answer is:

B. George Washington
What is the boiling temperature of water, in degrees Fahrenheit?

A. 200
B. 100
C. 287
D. 212

Here, the correct answer is:
D. 212

Now, based on the government record you’ve just read, please answer this question:

Pull 2-3 relevant quotes from the record that pertain to the question and write them inside <scratchpad> tags. Then, select the correct answer to the question from the list below and write the corresponding letter (A, B, C, or D) in <Answer></Answer> tags.

Assistant:
def gen_mc_answer_lc_with_examples_prompt(num_examples):
    examples_section = "some example questions that refer to the government record above, along with correct answers."
    for i in range(num_examples):
        examples_section += """"""""""""""
            <Question>
            {sample_question"""" + str(i+1) + """""
            </Question>
            <Answers>
            {sample_answers"""" + str(i+1) + """""
            </Answers>
            Here, the correct answer is:
            <Answer>
            {correct_answer"""" + str(i+1) + """""
            </Answer>"
        return """

Human: Please read the following government record closely and then answer the multiple choice question below.
<Government Record>
{chunk}
</Government Record>
First, here are """"""" + examples_section + """
Now here is the question for you to answer.
<Question>
{question}
</Question>
Select the correct answer to the question from the list below and write the corresponding letter (A, B, C, or D) in <Answer></Answer> tags.
<Answers>
{answers}
</Answers>

Assistant:
Prompt with Examples and Scratchpad

def gen_mc_answer_lc_with_examples_prompt_scratchpad(num_examples):
    examples_section = "some example questions that refer to the government record above, along with correct answers."
    for i in range(num_examples):
        examples_section += "
<Question>
{sample_question" + str(i+1) + ""
</Question>
<Answers>
{sample_answers" + str(i+1) + ""
</Answers>
Here, the correct answer is:
<Answer>
{correct_answer" + str(i+1) + ""
</Answer>"
return "\nHuman: Please read the following government record closely and then answer the multiple choice question below.
<Government Record>
{chunk}
</Government Record>
First, here are " + examples_section + "
Now here is the question for you to answer.
<Question>
{question}
</Question>
Pull 2-3 relevant quotes from the record that pertain to the question and write them inside <scratchpad></scratchpad> tags. Then, select the correct answer to the question from the list below and write the corresponding letter (A, B, C, or D) in <Answer></Answer> tags.
<Answers>
{answers}
</Answers>

Assistant: 
"