

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR
PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION
Iraqi Citizens and Nationals Employed by Federal Contractors and
Grantees
OMB Number 1405- 0184
DS-7655**

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. The Refugee Crisis in Iraq Act of 2007 was included in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 which became Public Law 110-181 on 28 January 2008. Section 1248(c) of this Act requires the Secretary of State to request from each Department of State prime contractor, grantee, or cooperative agreement partner that has performed work in Iraq since March 20, 2003, under a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement with the Department that is valued in excess of \$25,000, information that can be used to verify the employment of Iraqi citizens and nationals by such contractor, grantee or cooperative agreement partner. To the extent possible, biographical information, to include employee name, date(s) of employment, biometric, and other data must be collected and used to verify employment for the processing and adjudication of refugee, asylum, special immigrant visa, and other immigration claims and applications.
2. The information from this collection will be used to the extent possible by the Department of State's Bureaus of Population, Refugees and Migration and Consular Affairs, as well as the Department of Homeland Security to process and adjudicate refugee, asylum, special immigrant visa, and other immigration claims and applications.
3. The method for the collection of information will be via electronic submission, as it is viewed as the most efficient and least burdensome method of collection. The format for compiling the information will be the Department of State's myData. Contracting officers and Grants officers will distribute by email to the contractors, grantees and cooperative agreement partners under their authority the DS-7655 form file and Cerenade e-Form filler installation instructions. Respondents, using the Cerenade filler, complete the form and email the form file to their Contracting Officers or Grants Officer.
4. This collection is specifically designed for meeting the requirements of Public Law 110-181, Section 1248(c). The employment verification data to be collected is specific to each Federal contractor, grantee and cooperative agreement partner and is not available or duplicated by another source. The information required is available only from Federal contractors, grantees and cooperative agreement partners. At this time, there is no indication that any alternate source is available.
5. The impact to small businesses or other small entities will be minimal.
6. Failure to collect the required information from contractors, grantees and cooperative agreement partners may affect the ability of the Department of State's Bureaus of Population,

Refugees and Migration and Consular Affairs and the Department of Homeland Security to efficiently process the applications of certain Iraqi citizens and nationals seeking refugee status, and Iraqi citizens and nationals seeking special immigrant visas, or other immigration claims. The frequency for collecting information under this requirement is the necessary minimum to ensure that the Department of State meets the requirements set forth under the Act mandating this collection.

7. There are no special circumstances for this collection of information.
8. A 60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Iraqi Citizens and Nationals Employed by U.S. Federal Contractors and Grantees was published in the *Federal Register* (83 FR 27819) on June 14, 2018 to solicit public comment. One comment was received which was not germane to the collection, but rather a general complaint against refugees and immigrants.
9. No payment or gift of any kind will be provided to respondents.
10. No promises of confidentiality have been made to respondents.
11. The information collection does not include questions of a sensitive nature.
12. Respondents: 50 Department of State contractors, grantees and cooperative agreement partners

Number of Responses: 200

Burden Hours per Response: 30 minutes

Hour Burden for Collection: 200 responses x 30 minutes = 100 hours

The approximate number of responses is based on the number of Iraqi P2 arrivals fiscal year 2017 per month. The accuracy of the number of Iraqis, currently or formerly employed under a Department of State contract, grant or cooperative agreement, is uncertain due the security issues associated with collecting the personal information of Iraqis supporting the Department of State's efforts in Iraq.

Each response is estimated to take 30 minutes to complete, including research, filling out the form and submission. This results in a total estimated annual hour burden of 100 hours for the information collection.

Responses will be drafted and compiled by Department of State contractors, grantees and cooperative agreement partners and will be carried out as part of their customary and usual business practices and, therefore, imposes a minimal burden on respondents.

13. There are no capital, start-up, operation, maintenance, or other similar costs to the respondents associated with this collection. The estimated annualized cost to respondents is \$0.

14. U.S. government resources used in this collection:

Number of Responses: 200

Time to Review Each Response: 8.1 minutes

Total Time to Review: 200 responses x 8.1 minutes = 27 hours

Based on a GS-11 working 27 hours to review applications, the annualized costs to the Federal Government would be \$675 (27 hours x \$25/hour) as a result of this collection.

15. There are changes to the form – primarily to change the title of the last section to “Confidentiality Statement and Paperwork Reduction Act Statements.”

16. No information from this collection will be published.

17. The expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection will be displayed.

18. There are no exceptions to the certification statement.

B. COLLECTION OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This collection does not employ statistical methods.