

proposed § 247.8. The certification period requirements, which are also currently under § 247.7, would be moved to the proposed § 247.16. In this rule, we propose to allow State and local agencies to extend the certification of elderly participants for additional six-month periods without a formal review of eligibility. Local agencies would have to confirm the elderly participant's address and continued interest in receiving CSFP benefits. This change would reduce the time required for recertification, or contact with, elderly participants from 30 minutes to 15 minutes (0.25 hrs.). The burden for the twice-annual recertification of the approximately 381,000 elderly individuals projected to be participating in fiscal year 2004 would be 190,500 hours. The time required for recertification of women, infants, and children would remain the same (0.50 hrs.). The burden for the twice-annual recertification of the 66,000 women, infants, and children projected to be participating in fiscal year 2004 would be 66,000 hours. The total burden for applications and recertifications would be reduced from 342,000 hours to 256,500 hours. We propose to remove the current requirement that the local agency provide a verification of certification form to participants moving

to another location. This would remove the information collection burden of 110 hours for this activity.

Section 247.23, State provision of administrative funds to local agencies. The requirement that State agencies request approval to retain administrative funds above a specific limit, which is currently under § 247.11, would be moved to the proposed § 247.23. We propose to allow all State agencies, regardless of whether they are involved in storage of commodities, to request approval to retain more funds. We do not believe, however, that this will result in an increase in the present information collection burden for this requirement.

Section 247.30, Claims. Under the proposed § 247.30, we propose to require that the State or local agency pursue a claim against a participant to recover the value of benefits improperly received or used if it determines that the participant, or the parent or caretaker of the participant, received or used the commodities through fraud. The State agency would have to maintain all records regarding claims actions taken against participants. Since 7 CFR part 247 and 7 CFR part 250 do not currently address specific criteria relative to the establishment and pursuit of claims against participants, there is currently no recordkeeping burden regarding such

claims. We estimate that State and local agencies would initiate a total of 500 claims actions against participants each year. The recordkeeping burden would be 5 minutes (0.08 hrs.) for each claims action. The total recordkeeping burden for claims would be 40 hours.

Section 247.34, Management evaluation system. The requirement that State agencies perform management evaluations of local agencies, which is currently under § 247.21, would be moved to the proposed § 247.34. We propose to reduce the requirement for State agency on-site reviews of local agencies from annual to every two years. Thus, of the 103 local agencies currently participating, 52 would have to be reviewed each year. The total burden for management evaluations would be reduced from 480 hours to 416 hours.

*Respondents:* State, Local, or Tribal Government; program participants; business or other for profit; nonprofit institutions; Federal government.

*Total Annual Responses:* Current: 917,758; Proposed: 1,126,931.

*Estimate of Burden:* Current: 1,154,152; Proposed: 1,066,363.

The proposed changes in information collection burden for the reporting and recordkeeping requirements described above are included in the following table.

	Annual responses	Hours per response	Total hours
<b>Reporting</b>			
Section 247.4 State/local agreements:			
Present .....	60	8	480
Proposed .....	50	2	100
Section 247.6 State Plan/State Plan amendments:			
State Plan:			
Present .....	20	100	2,000
Proposed .....	1	50	50
State Plan amendments:			
Present .....	Included above under State Plan		
Proposed .....	35	5	175
Sections 247.8, 247.16 Applications/Recertifications:			
Present .....	684,000	0.50	342,000
Proposed .....	894,000	0.29	256,500
Verification of certification form:			
Present .....	1,325	0.08	110
Proposed .....	0	0	0
Section 247.34 Management reviews:			
Present .....	60	8	480
Proposed .....	52	8	416
<b>Recordkeeping</b>			
Section 247.30 Records of participant claims:			
Present .....	0	0	0
Proposed .....	500	0.08	40
Total			
Present .....	917,758		
Proposed .....	1,126,931		