

U.S. Small Business Administration
Disclosure Statement - Leveraged Licensees; Disclosure Statement Non-leveraged
Licensees
Forms 856 and 856a
OMB Control No. 3245-0118
Justification – Part A Supporting Statement

A. Justification

SBA seeks OMB's approval to reinstate this collection of information (OMB Control No. 3245-0118) for disclosure statements for leveraged and non-leveraged licensees for the Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) program. The forms have not been revised from the prior approved versions.

1. Circumstances necessitating the collection of information.

The Office of Investment and Innovation of the Small Business Administration (SBA) is required to examine SBICs pursuant to section 310(c) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, as amended, 15 U.S.C. Section 687b(c), and 13 CFR 107.690 to 107.692. The purpose of the examination as stated in the statute is to determine, in part, whether or not the SBIC has engaged "solely in lawful activities and those [activities] contemplated" by title III of the Small Business Investment Act. SBA collects information on Forms 856 and 856A as part of its effort to meet this statutory requirement.

2. How, by whom and for what purpose information will be used.

The information in SBA Forms 856 and 856A is collected by the Office of SBIC Examinations in advance of an SBIC's examination and is used by SBA examiners in all examinations of SBICs as a means of gathering information relevant to the examination. The two versions of the form are tailored to whether or not an SBIC has outstanding leverage (SBA financial assistance); the Form 856A is shorter and is designed for non-leveraged SBICs, which present no financial risk to SBA. The information collected is similar to the type of information that an independent auditor obtains from a client through a management representation letter, as required by generally accepted auditing standards. Obtaining these written representations from management helps to avoid misunderstandings and documents management's responsibility and accountability for key aspects of an SBIC's regulatory compliance.

3. Technological collection techniques.

The forms are emailed to respondents prior to the scheduled examination. Each respondent is an SBIC that is in direct personal contact with an SBA examiner at the time the information is collected. The completed and signed forms may be returned to the examiner by email or other secure file transfer as arranged with SBA. All forms are collected electronically.

4. Avoidance of Duplication.

SBA has taken steps to identify and minimize duplication. Questions 6 and 7 of Forms 856 and 856a cover information that is also provided directly to SBA on Form 468 (Annual Financial Statement) by examined SBICs, although not as of the same date. The information collected by Forms 856 and 856a are necessary to identify any changes that

may have occurred between the Annual Financial Statement date and the examination date.

5. Impact on small businesses or other small entities.

There are approximately 358 licensed SBICs, of which over 90% are small entities. The impact of the information collection on these entities is not significant. The information is generally collected by SBA examiners approximately once per year from leveraged Licensees and every 18 months from non-leveraged SBICs, based on a typical examination schedule. The information requested is the type of information that companies would generally maintain in the normal course of business. For non-leveraged SBICs, SBA uses a shorter form that eliminates the collection of financial disclosure information, since these companies present SBA with no financial risk.

6. Consequences if collection of information is not conducted.

The collection provides information about an SBIC's operations that either is not reported at all in its financial statements or, if reported, may not be up to date at the time of the examination, including certain contingent obligations, contractual relationships, fees charged for certain services, litigation, and investment transactions involving related parties. Without disclosure of this information, SBA would be unable to evaluate key aspects of an SBIC's financial health and regulatory compliance, increasing the risk of financial loss to the government and/or undetected noncompliance with laws and regulations.

7. Existence of special circumstances.

This collection of information requires responses within 10 days of receipt by the respondent. The requested turn-around time is intended to minimize the time involved in conducting each SBIC examination. SBA is required by statute to examine each SBIC at least every two years (15 U.S.C. Section 687b). Due to limited examination staff resources, in order to comply with the statutory mandate, SBA limits the time consumed by each examination as much as possible. SBA believes that the 10-day response time balances the Agency's need to limit the duration of each examination and the time needed by SBICs to respond to the request for information.

This collection includes confidential business and financial information, which is protected to the extent permitted by law. Records are maintained under conditions designed to preclude access by persons other than Agency personnel with a need to know.

No other special circumstances exist.

8. Solicitation of Public Comment.

SBA published a notice in the Federal Register on May 12, 2025, at 90 FR 20201. The comment period ended on July 11, 2025; SBA received no comments other than a requested confirmation that there were no substantive changes since the forms were last approved.

9. Payment or gifts.

Not applicable. No payment or gifts are provided to respondents.

10. Assurance of confidentiality.

No assurances of confidentiality are given to SBICs responding to this collection of information. However, SBIC examiners maintain the records under conditions designed to preclude access by anyone other than Agency personnel or approved contractors, with a need to know. Generally, the information collected will be protected to the extent permitted by law. The financial data in particular is protected from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act; specifically, exemptions 4, 6 and 8 which allow SBA to withhold financial data on individual companies and individuals that are the licensee's Associates which are also officers, directors, or employees of portfolio companies.

11. Questions of a sensitive nature.

The collection of information may include personal financial information, which SBA reviews to determine whether an SBIC has engaged in prohibited conflict of interest transactions. Although this information is needed to fulfill SBA's statutory responsibilities with respect to SBIC examinations, it is not retrieved by individual identifier. The Agency has reviewed the requirements of the Privacy Act and determined there is no need for a Privacy Act system of records for this collection of information.

12. Estimate of the hourly burden of the collection of information.

Based on feedback gathered from a small number of respondents, and utilizing salary information for Chief Executive (11-1011) - NAICS 523000 Securities, Commodity Contracts and Other Financial Investments and Related Activities ([Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics](#)) as of May 2024, estimates of burden of collection are as follows:

Form 856:

Annual burden hours:

- Number of respondents (leveraged SBICs) – 254
- Number of responses per respondent – 1
- Estimated hours to complete the form per respondent: 1.0 hour
- Burden hours: $254 \times 1 = 254$ hours

Respondent's Cost for Burden Hours:

Estimated officer's salary = \$172/hour

254 burden hours x \$172/hour = \$43,688

Form 856A:

Annual burden hours:

- Number of respondents (non-leveraged SBICs) – 69
- Number of responses per respondent – 1
- Estimated hours to complete the form per respondent: 0.75 hour
- Burden hours: $69 \times 0.75 = 52$ hours

Respondent's Cost for Burden Hours:

Estimated officer's salary = \$172/hour

52 burden hours x \$172/hour = \$8944

Total for Both Form 856 and Form 856A:

Burden per Response:			
	Time Per Response	Hours Per Response	Cost Per Response
Reporting	57 minutes	.95 hours	\$163.40
Record Keeping			
Third Party Disclosure			
Total	57 minutes	.95 hours	\$163.40

Annual Burden:

	Annual Number of Responses	Annual Time Burden (Hours)	Annual Cost Burden (Dollars)
Reporting	323	307	\$52,778
Record Keeping			
Third Party Disclosure			
Total	323	307	\$52,778

13. Estimate of total annual cost burden for submission.

No start-up or operating costs.

14. Estimated annualized cost to the Federal government.

Estimated cost to Government of examiner’s review of completed form:

- GS-13/Step 5 (based on DC/Baltimore locality) estimated salary: \$66/hour
- 1.5 hour x 254 = 381 hours x \$66/hour = \$25,146 (Form 856)
- 1.0 hour x 69 = 69 hours x \$66/hour = \$4554 (Form 856A)
- Total estimated cost to government- \$29,700

15. Explanation of program changes/adjustments in Items 13 or 14 on OMB Form 83-I.

Figures have been adjusted to reflect the current estimates for yearly examinations of 254 leveraged examinations plus 69 non-leveraged examinations (total 323 examinations), based upon the expected examination schedule.

	Requested	Program Change Due to New Statute	Program Change Due to Agency Discretion	Change Due to Adjustment in Agency Estimate	Change Due to Potential Violation of the PRA	Previously Approved
Annual Number of Responses for this IC	323				323	0
Annual IC Time Burden (Hour)	307				307	0
Annual IC Cost Burden (Dollars)	\$52,778				\$52,778	0

16. Collection of information whose results will be published.

Not applicable. The results of this collection of information will not be published.

17. Expiration date for collection of information.

Not applicable. The expiration date will be displayed.

18. Exceptions to certifications in Block 19 on OMB Form 83-1.

Not applicable. There are no exceptions to the certification statement identified in Item 19, "Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions," of OMB 83-1.

B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods

This collection of information does not employ statistical methods.