

# Public Discussion Draft — Federal Data Accuracy for Black America

The case for voluntary disaggregated Black ancestry and lineage reporting

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## Status and public-use disclaimer

This proposal is published for public review and coalition-building. It has not been introduced in Congress and should not be read as endorsed, accepted, or reviewed by any office, agency, organization, political party, or elected official unless expressly stated.

## How to read this public packet

This packet is for residents, experts, civic organizations, community leaders, researchers, and public officials who want to review the idea on the merits. It is intentionally separate from office-facing materials and any materials prepared for legislative staff.

What this is	What this is not	How to participate
A public discussion draft and plain-language review packet about federal data accuracy for Black ancestry and lineage reporting.	Not a government form, not a benefits application, not a citizenship proposal, not an official filing, and not an endorsement claim.	Read the proposal, review the guardrails, share feedback, suggest reviewers, and join the voluntary coalition intake path if you want follow-up.

## The problem

Federal data systems often use the broad category "Black or African American." That category is important, but it can group together people and communities with distinct histories, migration patterns, policy needs, and civil-rights monitoring contexts.

Less precise data can produce less precise policy. A public discussion draft gives residents and experts a way to review whether federal reporting systems should capture more detail, voluntarily and carefully, where race and ethnicity data is already collected.

## The proposal

Require federal agencies to collect voluntary, self-reported, privacy-protected, disaggregated Black ancestry and lineage data in major reporting systems where race and ethnicity data is already collected, including employment, health, education, housing, lending, and civil-rights compliance systems.

### Core policy lane

This is a data-quality and civil-rights-monitoring proposal. It is not a citizenship proposal, not a benefits-eligibility proposal, and not an ancestry-proof requirement.

## Policy guardrails

- Voluntary and self-reported.
- Privacy-protected and reported publicly only in aggregate.
- No genetic, genealogical, documentary, or historical proof required.
- Not used by itself to determine eligibility for federal programs, benefits, loans, employment, education, housing, or civil-rights remedies.
- No detailed identity assignment by visual observation, surname, proxy inference, algorithmic inference, or record matching.
- Designed for statistical, research, policy-planning, and civil-rights monitoring purposes.

## Proposed response framework

Where a covered federal collection includes "Black or African American," the discussion draft proposes detailed voluntary options that support select-all-that-apply responses and a write-in field.

- Black American / American Freedmen / Descendant of persons enslaved in the United States
- African-origin Black
- Caribbean-origin Black
- Afro-Latino Black
- Another Black ancestry, lineage, ethnic, national-origin, or community identity: write in

### Model instruction

Providing this information is voluntary. Select all that apply. No documentation, genetic test, genealogical proof, or historical proof is required. Responses would be used for statistical, research, civil-rights monitoring, and policy-planning purposes, subject to applicable privacy protections.

## What this draft does not do

- It does not change United States citizenship.
- It does not create a racial purity test.
- It does not require proof of ancestry.
- It does not make any person eligible or ineligible for federal benefits.
- It does not erase African-origin, Caribbean-origin, Afro-Latino, or other Black identities.
- It does not claim that any office, agency, political party, or elected official has endorsed or reviewed the proposal.

## Public review focus areas

Public review should improve the draft before any official action is requested or claimed. Feedback is especially useful in the following areas:

- Terminology: whether the identity and lineage terms are accurate, understandable, and inclusive.
- Privacy: how to protect sensitive demographic information and prevent misuse.
- Question design: whether response options, examples, write-in fields, and select-all-that-apply instructions are clear.
- Data quality: how to reduce confusion, nonresponse, or misclassification.
- Civil-rights usefulness: where better data could improve employment, health, education, housing, lending, or enforcement analysis.
- Community impact: whether the framing builds solidarity while recognizing distinct histories.

## Reviewer lanes

- Historians and genealogists.
- Public-health, education, fair-housing, lending, and labor researchers.
- Black civic organizations, faith leaders, student leaders, and community leaders.
- African-origin, Caribbean-origin, Afro-Latino, and Black American reviewers.
- Policy, legal, privacy, civil-rights, data-governance, and implementation reviewers.

## How to participate

1. Read the public review packet and discussion draft bill.
2. Share feedback on terminology, privacy, implementation, question wording, and possible unintended consequences.
3. Suggest historians, genealogists, researchers, civic organizations, faith/community leaders, and policy reviewers who should be invited into the review process.
4. Join the voluntary coalition intake path if you want follow-up or want to help organize public review.
5. Do not treat the proposal as officially introduced, endorsed, accepted, or under review unless a public update expressly says so with evidence.

## Source notes

This public review package relies on official federal source materials and the discussion draft text. Readers should verify official standards against authoritative government sources.

- OMB 2024 Statistical Policy Directive No. 15:  
<https://spd15revision.gov/content/spd15revision/en/2024-spd15.html>
- Federal Register: Revisions to OMB Statistical Policy Directive No. 15:  
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/03/29/2024-06469/revisions-to-ombs-statistical-policy-directive-no-15-standards-for-maintaining-collecting-and>
- KelvinForGeorgia.org: <https://kelvinforgeorgia.org>