UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
Washington, DC 20415

National Background Investigations Bureau

Federal Investigations Notice

Notice No. 18-01 **Date: March 22, 2018**

Subject: FY 2020 Initial Estimated Pricing

The National Background Investigations Bureau (NBIB) remains committed to publishing investigative prices to allow our customer agencies to best account for investigation costs in their out-year budget planning. For FY 2020, the attached document titled "FY 2020 Initial Estimated Pricing and Customer Agency Budget Guidance" is being provided to help customer agencies include NBIB services into their FY 2020 budget requests. Please note all FY 2020 prices in the attached document are initial estimates only. NBIB plans to publish final FY 2020 prices by June 30, 2018.

A major factor that will influence FY 2020 and future out-year NBIB prices is Section 925 of the FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This legislation authorizes the Defense Security Service (DSS) to conduct all security, suitability, and credentialing background investigations for Department of Defense (DoD) personnel. These investigations will be transitioned to DSS via a phased transition plan currently expected to be completed by FY 2021. DoD plans are underway to begin transitioning investigations as early as FY 2019. As a result, NBIB anticipates a decrease in new investigation requests from DoD along with the associated funding. NBIB is actively working with DSS and OMB to mitigate, as much as possible, the impact of this legislation on the costs of investigative products and resulting prices to its valuable agency customers.

In a recent briefing to the Security, Suitability and Credentialing (SSC) Performance Accountability Council (PAC) Enterprise Investment Board (EIB), NBIB estimated a 0.7% price increase in FY 2020 as compared to FY 2019 prices. The attached document represents this 0.7% price increase across all major investigative products. Prior to publication of the final FY 2020 product prices, NBIB will further scrutinize projected FY 2020 costs, new and ongoing initiatives aimed at increasing personnel security efficiencies such as Trusted Workforce 2.0, other policy initiatives, and other factors that may affect our mission so that we are positioned to provide the best, most accurate pricing to our customers for FY 2020. We appreciate the engagement of all stakeholders throughout this process and look forward to working with you on future initiatives to promote quality, effectiveness and cost efficiency in our investigative program.

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Notice Expires:	September 30, 2020, unless superseded
Attachment:	FY 2020 Initial Estimated Pricing and Customer Agency Budget Guidance

FY 2020 Initial Estimated Pricing and Customer Agency Budget Guidance

Section 1: FY 2020 Initial Estimated Prices

Case Type		Case Type Code	FY 2020 Initial Estimated Prices		FY 2019 Prices (10/01/2018 – 09/30/2019)	
			Standard Case Service	Priority Case Service	Standard Case Service	Priority Case Service
NAC	National Agency Check	06	$160	*Not Available*	$159	*Not Available*
T1	Tier 1	63	$199	*Not Available*	$198	*Not Available*
T2	Tier 2	55	$563	$608	$559	$604
T2R	Tier 2 Reinvestigation	56	$267	$288	$265	$286
T2S	Tier 2 *with a Subject Interview*	57	$1,584	$1,711	$1,573	$1,699
T2RS	Tier 2 Reinvestigation *with a Subject Interview*	58	$1,288	$1,391	$1,279	$1,381
T3	Tier 3	64	$443	*Not Available*	$440	*Not Available*
T3R	Tier 3 Reinvestigation	65	$427	*Not Available*	$424	*Not Available*
T4	Tier 4	66	$4,263	$4,604	$4,233	$4,571
T4R	Tier 4 Reinvestigation	67	$2,742	$2,961	$2,723	$2,940
T5	Tier 5	70	$5,746	$6,206	$5,706	$6,163
T5R	Tier 5 Reinvestigation	71	$3,156	$3,408	$3,134	$3,385
RSI	Reimbursable Suitability/Security Investigation	43	*FY 2020 Initial Estimated RSI and SAC Prices are based on the FY 2019 RSI and SAC prices published in FIN 17-05 or available at www.nbib.gov/rates*		*See FIN 17-05 or please visit www.nbib.gov/rates*	
SAC	Special Agreement Check	92				

Major Expanded Coverage Fees	FY 2020 Initial Estimated Prices	FY 2019 Prices (10/01/2018 – 09/30/2019)
International Coverage *Expansion Criteria: International coverage is defined as any casework conducted outside of the United States and its territories.*	$950	$950
Triggered Enhanced Subject Interview (TESI) for T2, T2R, T3 and T3R *Expansion Criteria: Applied to each case when a TESI is added to a T2, T2R, T3 or T3R investigation. The TESI must be completed for charges to apply.*	$1,021	$1,014

Note: For T2/T2R, T2S/T2RS, T4/T4R and T5/T5R case types, priority service (Case Service Code "A") will be available at the higher base price shown. This service prioritizes the processing of the casework ahead of standard service cases. All other case types will be available in standard service only.

FY 2020 Initial Estimated Pricing and Customer Agency Budget Guidance

Section 2: Customer Agency Budget Guidance

The guidance in this section is intended to provide customer agencies with tools needed to develop their FY 2020 background investigations budgets. The following sections outline recommendations for estimating an agency's FY 2020 initial costs for NBIB-produced background investigations, to include accounting for additional fees and adjustments.

Estimating Initial Costs for NBIB Background Investigation Products and Services

Case prices shown in Section 1 are applied to an agency's monthly invoices upon receipt of the complete investigation request. Therefore, although the actual final charge may vary based on the actual work conducted, NBIB recommends multiplying your anticipated requests for each case type by the "FY 2020 Initial Estimated Price" shown in Section 1. In addition to the case types shown in Section 1, two additional case types should be considered when estimating costs:

1) Reimbursable Suitability/Security Investigation (RSI) – Case Type 43
    a. NBIB prices and applies RSI requests to monthly invoices according to the specific RSI codes requested by the customer.
        i. Upon the scheduling of an RSI request, the customer will receive an invoice for the processing fee; itemized fees for requested work completed will be invoiced when the items are completed and the RSI is closed.
    b. NBIB recommends using an average of $1,100 per RSI request.
2) Special Agreement Check (SAC) – Case Type 92
    a. SAC requests are priced and applied to monthly invoices according to the specific SAC codes requested by the customer.
    b. Over 95% of SAC requests are electronic fingerprint submissions.
    c. If a fingerprint SAC is submitted in advance of the higher level investigation on the same subject, a credit may be applied to the higher level case in the amount of the initial fingerprint SAC. To receive this credit, the requester must:
        i. Submit the fingerprint SAC at least 1 day, but no greater than 120 days, in advance of the higher level investigation, and
        ii. Include FIPC Code "I" (letter i) on the higher level investigation.
    d. Since many SAC requests will ultimately be credited for on a higher level investigation, agencies should only budget for SAC requests that <u>will not</u> link to a higher level investigation (i.e. "Standalone" SAC).
    e. NBIB recommends using an average of $25 per "Standalone" SAC request.
    f. NBIB recommends separately breaking out their Continuous Evaluation SAC (CE SAC) requests and using a price of $45 per CE SAC request.

Accounting for Additional Fees and Adjustments

While most additional fees and adjustments are nominal and would have little impact on your overall budget estimate, two major expanded coverage fees should be considered:

1) International Coverage
    a. Applied to each case when casework is conducted outside of the United States and its territories
        i. May be applied to all case types, excluding SAC requests
    b. Applied no more than one time per case
    c. Estimate the percentage of all cases that will receive casework conducted outside of the United States and its territories and apply the estimated fee shown in Section 1
2) Triggered Enhanced Subject Interview (TESI) for T2, T2R, T3 and T3R
    a. Applied to each case when a TESI is completed on a T2, T2R, T3 or T3R investigation
    b. Applied no more than one time per case
    c. Estimate the percentage of T2, T2R, T3 and T3R cases that will receive a completed TESI and apply the estimated fee shown in Section 1
        i. NBIB recommends using a percentage ranging from 25% to 35% of all T2, T2R, T3 and T3R cases an agency expects to submit

See "FY 2020 Budget Guidance Worksheet" to further assist in developing your FY 2020 budget estimate.

FY 2020 Initial Estimated Pricing and Customer Agency Budget Guidance

FY 2020 Budget Guidance Worksheet

Step 1: Estimate Base Case Costs

Line	Product		Case Type/ Service Code	Base Price	x	Cases Ordered	=	Cost
1	NAC	Standard	06A	$160	x		=	
2	T1	Standard	63B	$199	x		=	
3	T2	Priority	57A	$608	x		=	
4	T2	Standard	57C	$563	x		=	
5	T2R	Priority	58A	$288	x		=	
6	T2R	Standard	58C	$267	x		=	
7	T2S	Priority	57A	$1,711	x		=	
8	T2S	Standard	57C	$1,584	x		=	
9	T2RS	Priority	58A	$1,391	x		=	
10	T2RS	Standard	58C	$1,288	x		=	
11	T3	Standard	64B	$443	x		=	
12	T3R	Standard	65B	$427	x		=	
13	T4	Priority	66A	$4,604	x		=	
14	T4	Standard	66C	$4,263	x		=	
15	T4R	Priority	67A	$2,961	x		=	
16	T4R	Standard	67C	$2,742	x		=	
17	T5	Priority	70A	$6,206	x		=	
18	T5	Standard	70C	$5,746	x		=	
19	T5R	Priority	71A	$3,408	x		=	
20	T5R	Standard	71C	$3,156	x		=	
21	**Subtotal: Base Case Costs** (sum "Cost" amount from lines 1 through 20)						=	

Step 2: Estimate RSI and SAC Costs

Line	Product	Avg Cost	x	Cases Ordered	=	Cost
22	RSI - Case Type 43	$1,100	x		=	
23	SAC - Case Type 92 (*see note below)	$25	x		=	
24	Continuous Evaluation SAC (CE SAC)	$45	x		=	
25	**Subtotal: RSI and SAC Costs** (sum "Cost" amount from lines 22 through 24)				=	

Due to the Fingerprint SAC Credit, only include "Standalone" SAC requests not linked to higher-level investigations

Step 3: Estimate International Coverage Fee Costs

26	Estimated number of cases ordered to receive International Coverage		
27	International Coverage Fee Amount		$950
28	**Subtotal: International Coverage Fee Costs** (multiply line 26 by line 27)	=	

Step 4: Estimate Costs for TESI on T2, T2R, T3 and T3R

29	Total T2/T2R/T3/T3Rs ordered (sum "Cases Ordered" from lines 3, 4, 5, 6, 11 & 12)		
30	Estimated percent of T2/T2R/T3/T3Rs to receive a TESI (recommend 25% to 35%)		
31	Number of TESI adjustments (multiply line 29 by line 30, round up to whole number)		
32	TESI on T2, T2R, T3 and T3R Fee Amount		$1,021
33	**Subtotal: TESI on T2, T2R, T3 and T3R Costs** (multiply line 31 by line 32)	=	

Step 5: Estimate Total Cost for NBIB Orders in FY 2020

34	**Grand Total Cost Estimate: Sum lines 21, 25, 28 and 33**	=	

******Available in MS Excel 2010 format upon request ******

For additional information regarding billing rates, please visit www.nbib.gov/rates