

NATIONAL STATE DATA CENTER STEERING COMMITTEE

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*Representing a Network of 1,800
SDC/BIDC Data Centers and Affiliates Nationwide*

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We Bring Value-Added Census Data and Education to the User

State Data Center (SDC) Steering Committee Conference Call

May 11, 2010

2:00 pm EST

Participants:

Steering Committee	Customer Liaison and Marketing Services Office (CLMSO)
Amy Bittner	Frank Ambrose
Pam Schenker	Barbara Lafleur
Will "Chip" Sawyer	Nelson Colón
Dan Veroff	Samantha Proctor
Sue Copella	
Barbara Ronningen	

Census 2010 evaluations:

The Steering Committee would like to solicit information and feedback from the SDCs about the 2010 Census. The Steering Committee needs to decide what aspects of Census 2010 to focus on for feedback and how to start developing the evaluation. For example, should the focus be on the how well the Census Bureau worked with SDCs for Census 2010? Or, should the SDCs comment on the Census Bureau's outreach and working relationship with its census partners? The Steering Committee needs to determine the focus of the evaluation. The agenda for the upcoming June Steering Committee meeting includes a planning session that allows for work on the Census 2010 SDC evaluation. The Pennsylvania SDC has offered to bring information to the June meeting about what has been done in that state to evaluate Census 2010. There will also be time to discuss the evaluation during the planning session scheduled for the day prior to the meeting with only Steering Committee members involved.

Steering Committee elections:

Steering Committee elections will take place at the end of the summer and into the fall. In the past, elections have begun in earnest around July 1. It was decided that after the June Steering Committee meeting a message should be sent to SDCs soliciting applications for nominations. For previous elections, the Missouri SDC has coordinated the voting process. If the Missouri SDC is unable to facilitate the voting this time, the Vermont SDC has volunteered to coordinate. Last year, nominations for Steering Committee members were due August 1 and the SDCs had the opportunity to vote until September 11.

October annual SDC meeting:

The Steering Committee decided that a save-the-date message should be sent to SDCs regarding the annual meeting that will take place in October. Currently, it is unknown as to whether another Boot Camp

will take place; this decision will be made down the road. Offering a Boot Camp session to new SDC members depends upon how much turnover there is in the SDC network. As for the content of the meeting, that is still in the very early planning stages. The Steering Committee would like to have training sessions available for the SDCs, such as using the new American Fact Finder program (DADS II). *On May 14, Frank Ambrose sent a Save-the-Date e-mail to the SDC network for the October meeting. The meeting will take place October 13-15 in Suitland, MD.*

Census Designated Place (CDP) Delineations:

An e-mail was sent out to Steering Committee members last week from CLMSO regarding CDP Delineations. States should submit any complaints about CDP Delineations to CLMSO, which will then be forwarded to the Geography Division (GEO). The complaints stem from concerns that the Census Bureau is not accepting some CDP delineations from Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) participants or that the Census Bureau is making changes to the submissions. Steering Committee members should contact their State to let them know that complaints should be e-mailed to CLMSO.

Building Permits:

Recently, CLMSO sent out e-mails to the SDC network regarding the Building Permits follow-up. This follow-up consisted of SDCs contacting local governments that are delinquent in reporting building permit data. There is a concern about the lack of the participation by SDCs. More information about the Building Permits follow-up will be provided during a session of the June Steering Committee meeting.

American Community Survey (ACS) Review Pilot project:

On May 4, the SDC Steering Committee joined the monthly conference call of the Federal-State Cooperative for Population Estimates (FSCPE) Steering Committee to discuss the ACS Review Pilot project. The proposed pilot project will allow FSCPEs and SDCs to review and comment on unresolved ACS measures. The main obstacle to this project has been logistics, i.e. how SDCs access the data and provide comments and also if the data is confidential or published. The Steering Committee needs to determine whether this is a worthwhile project to pursue. For the next step, the SDC Steering Committee Chair will contact states that have unresolved ACS measures and solicit feedback on the data. The unresolved measures were provided to attendees of last year's annual SDC meeting. During the annual meeting, there was a session on the ACS Review Pilot project and a list of unresolved ACS measures by state was provided.

June Steering Committee meeting:

CLMSO provided an update on the agenda for the June Steering Committee meeting. There will be a session on the Corporate Priority Setting Process, which is something that is new and will be implemented throughout the Census Bureau. The Census Bureau divisions are encouraged to submit individual or cross-divisional proposals that offer an opportunity to reduce costs and increase operational efficiency for its programs/surveys. New funding for program improvements will become more difficult in the future (post 2010 Census), so the process' intent is to eliminate duplicative or unnecessary activities and implement more cost-effective methods. This topic is being presented during the meeting because the SDC Steering Committee does want to be included in the early stages of planning by the Census Bureau and this new program may affect the SDC network. A suggestion was made to have this session resemble a more informal discussion, where Steering Committee members could provide input.

For the June meeting presentations, CLMSO suggested that Steering Committee members should submit questions in advance for the different meeting sessions. The DADS II demonstration was removed from June agenda because a hands-on DADS II training will be held for SDCs during the October annual meeting.

Embargo Status:

Frank Ambrose is on a team that is working to prepare a document for the Census Bureau Director, Dr. Robert Groves, and Steve Jost, Associate Director for Communications, regarding the reinstatement of the embargo status for the SDC network. The document will be submitted July 1. If the request is approved, embargo access would not start until the first of next year. In addition, if approval is granted, the Census Bureau will make a request for beta testers.

Rural Statistical Areas (RSAs):

Data for the third year of the pilot project will probably be provided to participants towards the end of May and reports will be due September 1. For the third year of the project, a request will be made to the SDCs from the ACS Office to include a map of the RSAs in the report.

2010 Census Activities/Procedures:

Updates on the operations for Non-Response Follow-Up, Field Verification, and Vacant Delete Check will be provided to the Steering Committee during the June meeting.

2010 Census Product Planning:

As of now, there are no changes to Census 2010 products schedule.

Summary File 1 (SF1) profiles:

Steering Committee members, Jane Traynham and Julie Hoang, have formed a work group to help develop SF1 profiles for Census 2010. They have SDC volunteers working on the SAS and SPSS codes. They are also looking into sending out a survey to the SDCs in regards to the SF1 profiles, to determine what data would be useful.

Stat USA subscription:

In previous conference calls, the Steering Committee has asked if the Census Bureau can provide a Stat USA subscription for the lead SDCs. CLMSO is waiting to hear back from the Dept. of Commerce on this matter.

CLMSO updates:

The CLMSO staff is working on the 2010 Census SDC evaluation that will be sent out later this week. CLMSO is using this evaluation to gather feedback from the SDCs about Census 2010. *The evaluation was e-mailed to SDCs on May 14. CLMSO would like the survey returned by May 28.*

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm EST.