

# NATIONAL STATE DATA CENTER STEERING COMMITTEE

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Amy Bittner (WY), *Co-Secretary*

*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

August 10, 2010  
2:00 pm EST

### Participants:

<b>Steering Committee:</b>	<b>Customer Liaison and Marketing Services Office (CLMSO):</b>	<b>American Community Survey Office (ACSO):</b>	<b>Public Information Office (PIO):</b>	<b>Housing &amp; Household Economics Statistics (HHES)</b>
Amy Bittner Pam Schenker Lenny Gaines Jane Traynham Dan Veroff Sue Copella Chip Sawyer Julie Hoang	Frank Ambrose Nelson Colón Mark Tolbert Samantha Proctor Troy King Barbara Harris Wayne Kei	Cheryl Chambers Susan Hostetter	Michele Lowe	Scott Boggess

### Summary File 1 (SF1) update:

There has been discussion about having a session at the annual meeting regarding the creation of the SF1 profiles. This will provide the SDCs with an opportunity to learn what these profiles are and discuss their value. This session will be especially helpful for those SDC leads and representatives that are not familiar with the profiles. Steering Committee members, Julie Hoang and Jane Traynham, will facilitate the session.

### Steering Committee elections:

To date, 26 states have voted in the Steering Committee election. The deadline for casting votes is August 31. A reminder e-mail will be sent out to the SDCs. *Post conference call: Steering Committee member, Sue Copella, sent out an e-mail reminder about the elections to SDC lead contacts on August 23 and August 30.*

### Enhanced Planning Database (EPD)

Previously, the Steering Committee has had discussions with the Decennial Management Division (DMD) regarding the Enhanced Planning Database. The Steering Committee would like DMD to create a product that will be timely and useful for states. What are the next steps for getting this project rolling? In prior meetings, the Steering Committee has talked about obtaining a need assessment from states about what they would like to see incorporated in the EPD.

### American Community Survey (ACS)

Data delivery for the third and final year of the Rural Statistical Areas (RSAs) pilot project has been delayed due to an issue with the Joint Project Agreement (JPA). The Census Bureau is working on a new JPA to send out to the states that needs to be signed before the release of the third year of data. The Steering Committee feels strongly that the Census Bureau should send out a message alerting

participating states about the delay because the data was originally suppose to have been delivered in June. *Post conference call: Frank Ambrose from CLMSO sent an e-mail to RSA participants on August 13 informing them about the data delay.*

The ACS office (ACSO) participated in the conference call to provide information about the upcoming releases of ACS data. The 2009 1-year ACS data is scheduled to be released September 28. ACSO is planning to release the first 5-year data set at the end-of-the-year (no specific date has been given). And, the 3-year 2007-2009 data will be released early in 2011. The Census Bureau inquired as to whether the SDCs are interested in an ACS webinar. Previously, webinars were provided for ACS data during the embargo period, but since there currently is not an embargo, the question was asked as to whether there will still be value to a webinar. The Steering Committee does feel that ACS webinars would be useful and that they should be held prior to the data release highlighting changes in the ACS data questions, etc. Also, a webinar for the release of the 5-year data should be considered, in addition to a Census to ACS crosswalk.

Update: Some errors were found in the 2008 1-year ACS data, such as statistics on telephone service, number of bedrooms, and some other race. An erratum has been issued for these data. Corrected data will not be inputted into American FactFinder (AFF), but the corrected information will show up in the Comparison Profiles that will be released for the 2009 data. The Steering Committee feels that there should be some kind of notice about these errata, possibly through the ACS alerts that are sent via e-mail.

Cheryl Chambers from ACSO said the way the ACS alerts are sent out in the future will change because a different delivery system will be used. *Post conference call: an e-mail to the ACS subscription list was sent August 23 regarding the new alert system. All current subscribers were switched over to the new alerts.*

The Steering Committee has asked if CLMSO could send all the ACS Compass handbooks to the SDCs. CLMSO will check into it. CLMSO and ACSO have a limited number of bound and printed copies available. These Compass handbooks would also be handy for SDCs to distribute at meetings and presentations. ACSO would like an idea of how many would be needed in total.

In regards to ACS training during the annual meeting, Frank Ambrose from CLMSO shared the ACS agenda topics with ACSO and requested that a good deal of time be allotted for questions during the training/presentation. The Steering Committee feels that for some presentations during the SDC meetings, an adequate amount of time should be available for a Question & Answer (Q&A) segment.

### **October meeting**

Frank Ambrose is in the process of developing a draft agenda for the October annual meeting. There has previously been discussion about having a social activity for the SDCs during one of the nights of the meeting. CLMSO is checking into potential activities such as the Spy Museum, a night bus tour of the city, or a dinner cruise. *Post conference call: Frank e-mailed a draft agenda for the October meeting to the SDCs on August 12.*

### **Local Employment Dynamics (LED)**

Some Steering Committee members asked if CLMSO could look into having all the SDCs on the LED e-mail list. This request was prompted by the current testing of the new OnTheMap Beta version. SDCs could be prime candidates in this testing, but were not notified about it. CLMSO is going to send two e-mails to the SDCs. One requesting volunteers for Beta testing and another letting SDCs know that they are now on the LED e-mail notification list. *Post conference call: these e-mails were sent by Frank Ambrose to all SDC lead contacts on August 13.*

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm EST.