

**NATIONAL
STATE DATA CENTER
STEERING COMMITTEE**

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Leonard Gaines (NY), *Vice Chair*
Amy Bittner (WY), *Co-Secretary*
Warren Brown (GA), *Co-Secretary*

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

Julie Hoang (CA)
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Sue Copella (PA)
Will "Chip" Sawyer (VT)

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

**State Data Center (SDC)
Steering Committee Conference Call
December 14, 2010
2:00 pm EDT**

Participants:

Steering Committee:	Customer Liaison and Marketing Services Office (CLMSO):	Census Information Center (CIC)
Amy Bittner Pam Schenker Bob Coats Cliff Holley Warren Brown Sue Copella	Frank Ambrose Nelson Colón Samantha Proctor Kendall Johnson Renee Jefferson-Copeland Mark Tolbert	Kirk Clay

2010 Census SDC survey – focus group notes

During the October 2010 annual meeting, Steering Committee members met with their respective Tree States for focus group sessions to discuss the 2010 Census. The input from these focus groups will be used to create a survey to send to SDCs to gauge their 2010 Census experience. Steering Committee members should compile and send their notes to Pam Schenker. Perhaps Steering Committee members should look to streamline their notes, pick out particular topics that should be the focus of the survey.

American Community Survey (ACS) Review Pilot Project

The Steering Committee participated in a conference call on December 9, 2010 regarding the ACS Review Pilot Project. The Pilot Project has been deemed a success by the Census Bureau and the States want to move forward with this project. The next step in the project involves the Housing and Household Economic Statistics (HHES) Division, which is spearheading the effort, to speak with upper management about obtaining resources to continue the Review project. For the future of this project, how can feedback from the States be better focused and effective? HHES has stated they would like to have a database available for states to access in order to provide comments about events that might help in the review. The concern with this is it could inundate HHES with information. One suggestion was that the Census Bureau could use data they already receive from the States. The Federal-State Cooperative for Population Estimates (FSCPE) already provides data about Group Quarters to the Census Bureau during the population estimates review. Maybe the focus of feedback needs to be narrower instead of providing any and all information. The Census Bureau is pursuing the use of Microsoft SharePoint as a mechanism for States to supply comments. Maybe the Census Bureau could provide information about how they conduct the review of ACS measures. This could also be a topic for the February Steering Committee meeting. The newer Steering Committee members would like to have more information about how the ACS analysts review the flagged variables. Amy Bittner and Pam Schenker will locate the documentation that had previously been presented to the earlier Steering Committee.

Summary File 1 (SF1) profile update

The profile layout is complete. The Steering Committee just needs the layout from the Census Bureau in order to proceed with coding.

ACS 5-year data release

The ACS 5-year data was released today, December 14, 2010. This is the first time since Census 2000 that detailed economic and demographic data has been available for small areas. According to CLMSO, the data release seems to be going smoothly. For some states, there has been an issue with the slow pace of data downloads. Some Steering Committee members brought up concerns associated with the Margins of Error (MOEs) for small areas that exceed the period estimate. When SDCs come across variables where the MOE is larger than the estimate, they should forward these instances to the Census Bureau.

Statistical Calculator

The SDC Steering Committee sent a letter to the Census Bureau in support of a statistical calculator potentially being incorporated into American FactFinder (AFF). The chair of the FSCPE and CIC Steering Committees also signed on in support of this endeavor. The letter was received by the Director and a date for response is not known at this time. A statistical calculator will enable data users to recalculate the MOEs with ease when combining geographies. **Post conference call, a response was received and dated December 17th. This response and the letter to the Director are posted on the Clearinghouse website.**

Clearinghouse website

There is a list on the Clearinghouse website of SDC experts. This list needs to be updated. The Steering Committee will send out an e-mail to the SDC lead contacts asking for volunteers to be listed as SDC experts, preferably by topic. The SDC leads are also encouraged to share this request with their networks. Amy Bittner will draft an e-mail to send to the SDC Leads.

Calendar – Clearinghouse/CLMSO

A calendar with data release dates is posted on the Clearinghouse website. The calendar should also include project due dates for SDCs. CLMSO is also working on a calendar for the SDCs on their website. This calendar should be available for viewing after the New Year.

Building Permits/Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)

E-mails will be sent regarding when the information is going out for these two follow-up programs.

American FactFinder (AFF)

Username and passwords were sent to SDC Leads to test the new AFF. SDC leads are encouraged to send comments and feedback about the new AFF to the Census Bureau. Feedback should be sent to both the AFF staff and CLMSO. The projected date for the new AFF to go online is the middle of January.

Annual Report

For the annual report, CLMSO is looking for more outcome based data measures. In the past, the annual report has emphasized the number of hits to SDC websites. They would like to take this a step further and see how data users are using the information. CLMSO is developing a template to collect this information for future annual reports. This data will help paint a better picture of the value of the SDC network. The Pennsylvania SDC does their own follow-up survey with people who request data from their office. In the past, CLMSO has talked about doing a case-study in regards to how people use data. The 2010 annual report template will be the same as it was for 2009.

Partnerships

CLMSO has a meeting with the Governments Division in three weeks regarding the development of a partnership with the SDC network. In creating new partnerships, how can SDCs work with the Census Bureau on keeping the Census Bureau on people's radar throughout the decade? Also, how can SDCs work together with CICs? CLMSO would like to see more collaboration and interaction amongst the SDCs and CICs. Maybe there could be some CICs on the Clearinghouse website expert list.

February Steering Committee meeting

The Steering Committee chairs for SDC, FSCPE, and CIC need to get together to determine topics for the joint meeting day during the February Steering Committee meeting. Steering Committee members should send topics to Pam Schenker for the meeting agenda.

Other items

CLMSO would like to know if the SDCs liked the ACS webinar that was broadcast on December 8, 2010. It was useful and the ACS staff did a great job with it. CLMSO is looking into doing more webinars for all the major data releases.

Embargo status

The embargo access for the SDCs is looking good for reinstatement in the New Year.

Meeting adjourned 2:55 pm EDT.