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**State Data Center (SDC)  
Steering Committee Conference Call – ACS Review Pilot Project Feedback**

December 9, 2010  
2:00 pm EDT

**Participants:**

<b><i>SDC Steering Committee</i></b>	<b><i>Customer Liaison and Marketing Services Office (CLMSO):</i></b>	<b><i>Federal-State Cooperative for Population Estimates (FSCPE) Steering Committee</i></b>	<b><i>Housing and Household Economic Statistics (HHES)</i></b>
Amy Bittner Bob Coats Lenny Gaines Cliff Holley Warren Brown	Frank Ambrose Barbara LaFleur Mark Tolbert	Linda Gage Jan Vink	Nicole Scanniello Scott Boggess

**Discussion:**

This conference call was scheduled to discuss the American Community Survey (ACS) Review Pilot project. The SDC and FSCPE Steering Committees, CLMSO, and HHES participated in the conference call. The ACS Review Pilot Project was devised to allow SDCs and FSCPEs opportunities to review unresolved ACS measures and provide comments and feedback to the Census Bureau. HHES has been leading this effort on the Census Bureau's end. States supplied feedback on the 2009 unresolved ACS measures and that information was forwarded to the Census Bureau. The overall goal of the project was to get useful feedback and HHES did get that from the Pilot Project. The Pilot Project was successful because SDCs and FSCPEs were able to contribute valuable information. The types of comments that proved to be the most useful include migration issues, such as military deployment. Annexations of geographies, openings and closings of Group Quarters facilities, major residential developments, and economic and business patterns about the area also proved useful.

The ACS Review Pilot Project is considered complete because the Census Bureau received feedback on the unresolved measures. What will the Census Bureau do with the information received from the States? The Census Bureau has a mapping tool that is used to review the measures and analysts can input comments. The information is used in tracking changes at the community level, is entered into a database of geographically referenced items, and typically goes into the review for the following year.

For the future of the project, the Census Bureau is considering the possibility of developing a template for States to use to provide comments. The format in which the information was submitted varied from state-to-state. Right now, there is not an effective mechanism for collecting the feedback data. Overall, HHES would like to have something that States can access and use to enter their information unprompted. For example, if a state knows that there has been a military deployment or a manufacturing plant closed, they can input this information into the database when the impact occurs. This way the information can be available to analysts when they start the ACS review and the feedback does not have to be solicited from

the States. There is a desire to be proactive in getting information in advance of the review. States could also provide information about internet sites that could aid in the review performed by ACS analysts.

If the project is deemed useful by the Steering Committees, one of the next steps include HHES contacting senior management at the Census Bureau to discuss how this project is beneficial, obtain resources for the project, and pursue getting information pre-release. Getting this feedback from the State before the data is released would be ideal. If pre-release data is not available, what can HHES discuss with states, for example could HHES ask the states if there was a plant that closed in a particular county?

Allowing States and local partners to review the unresolved ACS measures is a good opportunity for the Census Bureau to work with local communities. This project allows communities to see that they have a partner because the Census Bureau wants to gain input from local knowledge.

#### **Questions and Comments:**

Could Census Bureau share access with the States to the database comments? HHES will look into it.

In regards to creating a database that States can access to provide comments, would Microsoft SharePoint work? Are states using SharePoint? The Steering Committees should ask among the networks if States are using this program.

Some of the 2008 data in the review file did not match the data that is on American FactFinder (AFF). This is because there were some errors found in the 2008 data that have since been corrected, but the corrected 2008 data was not loaded onto AFF. The 2008 data in the review file are the corrected information.

In regards to military deployments, some local governments think that the Census Bureau already has this information, that this information is shared among federal agencies. Therefore, the States need to communicate to the local governments that the Census Bureau does not automatically get this information and that they can play an important role.

There was a question about discrepancies in the population totals that they did not match up with previous ACS data sets. This may be because the 2009 data is the first time that sub-county population controls were implemented into the data.

In the future, to conduct a review of the unresolved measures, states do need more time to work on the project.

#### **Next Steps:**

The two Steering Committees are interested in developing this project further. Is there a need to development a requirements document? Yes, it would be helpful to have this. HHES will draft a summary of what was discussed during the conference call and also a summary of the feedback they received from the Review.

**Call adjourned 2:30 pm EDT.**