

NATIONAL STATE DATA CENTER STEERING COMMITTEE

Bob Coats (NC), *Chair*
Gregg Bell (AL), *Co-Chair*
Mallory Bateman (UT), *Co-Secretary*
Jennifer Shultz (PA), *Co-Secretary*

*Representing a Network of 1,800
State Data Centers and Affiliates Nationwide*

Mary Craigle (MT)
Erica Gardner (WA)
Michael Moser (VT)
Suzan Reagan (NM)
Pam Schenker (FL)

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

State Data Center (SDC) Steering Committee Conference Call, April 14, 2020

<i>State Data Center Steering Committee</i>	<i>Customer Liaison and Marketing Services Office (CLMSO):</i>	<i>Census Information Centers (CIC) Steering Committee</i>
Gregg Bell Pam Schenker Jennifer Shultz Bob Coats Mary Craigle	Suzan Reagan Michael Moser Mallory Bateman Erica Gardner	Barb LaFleur Todd Webb Termirah Brinkley Brittany Pritchett

- Differential Privacy April 6, 2020 call recap.
 - Monthly conference calls between the Bureau (Michael Hawes of the Differential Privacy team, Shelley Hedrick Communications for the DP team, and Todd Webb from CLMSO). SDC steering committee members - Bob, Gregg and Erica were on the call.
 - Next call scheduled for May 5th.
 - The DP team is conducting revisions and reviews through an AGILE process of 4 weeks development sprint and a two week inter-sprint period
 - They will release metrics following each sprint
 - Epsilon budget – decision will be made by management team based on results of sprints
 - Census interested in feedback on how budget should be spent/ population tables vs housing tables, geographic – political boundaries vs. blocks/tracts, population – single-year of age vs race detail
 - We can comment on content for sprints
 - Calls will continue monthly and ramp up (add a few more SDC members or CIC members) but will not include full steering committees
 - Decisions need to be made by September – so epsilon budget can be determined by the end of the year
 - It is unclear if the recent adjustments due to COVID-19 will affect the timeline
 - Email comments or questions regarding DP to the steering committee
- Update on Annual Meeting
 - The June Annual Meeting will be held virtually rather than in-person
 - Still planning for a mid-June timeframe
 - Timing of meetings will need to be adjusted for time-zones
 - Format will also need to be adjusted since in-person is very different than a virtual meeting
 - Can additional members of the networks participate now that it is a virtual meeting?
 - Is there sufficient bandwidth and phone capabilities to open up the meeting to more attendees? Unknown at this time, so proceed as if it is just the leads at this point.
 - Barb will provide the list of topics for the meeting previously discussed
 - She will also check James Whitehorne if his discussion points are still on track in light of the Bureau’s latest timeline shift
 - The Steering Committee meeting can be moved if needed
 - Possibly, earlier into a May timeframe
 - No decision was reached regarding the timeline for the steering committee meeting
- Discussion/review of regional partnership calls

- Most recent calls occurred last week (1st week of April)
- The steering committee appreciates CLMSO organizing these calls
- Response rate map received a lot of attention and discussion on these recent calls
- Positive Aspects:
 - Useful part of the call comes from the discussion of activities by other partners
 - Denver region discussion was very helpful – how to continue outreach during COVID-19
 - Community Partnership and Engagement Program (CPEP) digest is useful, but must go through internal review process
 - Slide deck was helpful
- Concerns:
 - Partnership staff facilitated calls but not much new information was shared
 - There is no follow-up to questions submitted during calls
 - States are not getting the answers they need timely
 - Conflicting information from Census staff is a problem
- CLMSO has recommended having subject-matter experts participate in calls
- The steering committee can provide feedback to the Bureau on ways to improve future calls
- Use of the response rate tracking – trying to encourage on-line response
 - Response rate tracker is useful, but it could be useful to have archived data or more operational/functional data
 - Mary did an analysis on the relation between delay of update/leave and lack of response. She was contacted by NPR regarding a national story – other states may be contacted
 - There is confusion on the difference between the 2010 response rate tracker and the response rate website – the difference could be 2010 rates were mapped to 2020 geographies
- 2020 operations (New delay until June 1)
 - Timeline Updates:
 - June 1 office re-openings to process new hires
 - June 13 Update Leave will go out.
 - Right before COVID-19 affected the Census, the Bureau had hit target number of applications
 - There could be hiring issues because of COVID-19. There are more people available to work but they may be reluctant to go door-to-door.
 - USAjobs still has partnership positions posted.
 - If states are/were considering writing letters to encourage the Census to delay the timeline.
 - Communication should be with Congress, with cc to the Census Director, since the timeline decision now rests with Congress
 - Elections / redistricting probably the biggest issues arising from the timeline revisions.
 - The Census Bureau still plans to do service-based enumeration – original 3 days plus one night of counting homeless in the street. The timing of each operation may change.
- CEDSI aka Data.census.gov
 - Concerns:
 - Access has been an issue – it seems very sporadic
 - Search criteria are difficult
 - Difficulty finding Tribal Areas
 - Remind partners to submit feedback through the email on data.census.gov (cedsci.feedback@census.gov)
 - Census staff, possibly Data Dissemination Specialists (DDS), are willing to do webinars for data user groups;
 - KaNin Reese is available to do webinars for State Data Centers – they are state specific.

Call ended at 4:06 pm