

NATIONAL STATE DATA CENTER STEERING COMMITTEE

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

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

Julie Hoang (CA)
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SDC Steering Committee Conference Call March 7, 2006

Agenda items:

- Group Quarters
- Mid-March Meeting: Service Centers Update and Meeting Evaluation
- Annual Report Update
- LUCA Dress Rehearsal

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY AND GROUP QUARTERS

Joining the conference call were Karen Humes, Nancy Torrieri, and Cheryl Chambers to brief the committee on group quarters and ACS. The definition for group quarters is expected to be finalized by January 2007 at the latest.

The firm, RTI, has been contracted to conduct focus-group research across the country this summer. There will be two components to the focus groups. The first will be focus groups held in six areas with representatives of assisted living and group homes, hospices, residential schools for the disabled and boarding schools, and seasonal workers. In New Mexico the focus groups will include representatives from Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) schools. The second component of the focus group research will be conducted in Austin, Texas after the 2006 test and group quarters enumeration. This research will concentrate on getting feedback from a diverse group of group quarter administrators from service-level organizations, college and university student housing representatives, and privately-owned college dormitories.

There are three types of group quarters for which there are no information as yet. There are domestic violence shelters, military group quarters, and crews of maritime vessels. Work is underway to ensure the confidentiality of the location of domestic violence shelters as well as a way to work with the military to obtain a count for military GQ's.

The ACS began collecting data on group quarters in the past couple of months. Prisons and large colleges and university have already been identified as problem areas. Materials are being prepared to go out to college/university presidents and head administrators of prisons to help inform them about the ACS and encourage their participation.

MID-YEAR/SPRING MEETING

Planning for the spring meeting is coming to a close. The SDC service centers will be:

- Understanding the Statistics used in ACS
- GIS/Geocoding
- Web

Julie Hoang has revised the meeting evaluation form to accommodate a rating for both the speaker and the content of each presentation. It was suggested that the evaluation be available on the SDC/BIDC web site so an email could be sent out to all attendees following the conference asking them to reply. Upon further discussion, it was decided to place the evaluation form on the Census Bureau's SDC portal so that people could complete the forms on-line after they returned home from the meetings.

ANNUAL REPORT UPDATE

The annual report will be available to the committee for testing by Friday. This year's annual report will be available for lead's to complete online. There will be an Excel file for lead's to distribute and collect information for their network. Once collected each lead will then have the opportunity to submit the total's for their state in an online application.

LUCA DRESS REHEARSAL.

Since the SDC Committee meeting last month, there has been continued discussion of state participation in the 2008 LUCA dress rehearsal. At this time, it appears that a formal process for state participation will proceed.
