

NATIONAL STATE DATA CENTER STEERING COMMITTEE

Robert Scardamalia (NY)
Chair
Annette Waters (AL)
Vice-Chair
Xan Wedel (KS)
Secretary

*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)
Richard Rathge (ND)
Carol Rogers (IN)
Barbara Ronningen (MN)
Dan Veroff (WI)
Jane Traynham (MD)

SDC Conference Call July 11, 2006

AGENDA FOR JUNE MEETING

- 1) Discussion of Coordinating Agencies signing MOU/AWP
- 2) Distance Learning
- 3) Peer Partners
- 4) ACS Product Gaps
- 5) Elections Update
- 6) Other Business

COORDINATING AGENCIES

In following up on discussions from the June meeting, Bob Scardamalia found the MOU from 1996 and forwarded a copy to the committee. This MOU did not require a signature from coordinating agencies, but did include an Action Work Plan that coordinating agencies were asked to sign. In 1998 when the Action Work Plan was dropped it appears that having a formal agreement with coordinating agencies also lapsed. The Bureau does not want to dictate how individual states manage their SDC network, but would encourage communication between lead, coordinating, and affiliate organizations. Are there communication gaps between lead and coordinating agencies? It was suggested that we create a survey on the clearinghouse web site to poll coordinating agencies.

DISTANCE LEARNING

Annette Watters will chair a subcommittee to investigate tools for distance learning and remote presentations. The Census Bureau is currently using Microsoft LiveMeeting, but the subcommittee will be open to all knowledge sharing tools.

PEER PARTNERS

This item was also a follow-up discussion from the June meeting. The 1998 Action Plan contained the following description of a "peer partnership":

A peer-partnership program system will be a new component of the Data Center program. The Data Center liaisons will work with each lead agency to develop a database of Data Centers by expertise areas (for example, GIS, Web, SAS programming, affiliate agreements and training, etc.). The purpose of the partner program is to increase information sharing across the Data Center network, and when possible, to create an economy of scale for training, project development, and planning. The CLO will maintain the "database of expertise" on the secure server and also coordinate matching or pairing of Data Centers in consultation with the lead agencies in order to identify states willing to share their expertise and those who need it, when this is deemed necessary.

This description is very similar to the database of network resources we discussed at the June meeting. Future consideration to be given to creating this as an online database that could be accessed from the clearinghouse web site.

ACS PRODUCT GAPS

At the June meeting, we identified some possible ACS Product Gaps (listed below). Bob Scardamalia will draft a letter to the Census Bureau on behalf of the network to create awareness and start a dialogue in hopes of filling these gaps. Julie Hoang is putting together some bullet points on the key issues surrounding ACS PUMS. It is anticipated these points will be incorporated into a future letter to the Bureau. Barbara Ronningen received a letter last week from a prisoner inquiring about the demographic breakdown of the general population. This request brought to the surface a new ACS gap as the ACS Demographic profile only contains a percent of the population rather than a count plus a percent.

ACS Product Gaps discussed at the June meeting:

- 1-page example(s) on the use of ACS
- Advanced Query application for ACS
- PUMS software tool
- Crosswalk between Summary Files from Census 2000 and ACS
- SF4-like data

ELECTIONS

Xan Wedel reported that the first email went out after the June meeting to try to spark some interest in people who may wish to run for election to the SDC Steering Committee. A second letter calling for nominations will go out this week. Xan also spoke with John Blodgett (MO) and he is willing to host the online voting application again this year. Once nominees are in, information about the candidates will be posted in the SDC Clearinghouse web site along with a link to the voting application for all lead agencies to submit one vote on behalf of their state.

OTHER BUSINESS

Renee Jefferson-Copeland briefed us on the Congressional activity taking place this week. At the time of the conference call, a \$58.3 million budget cut to the Census Bureau had passed the U.S. House of Representatives and would be on the floor of the U.S. Senate for debate later in the week. Consequences of such a budget cut will not begin to be known until a final budget is passed.