

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 Steering Committee Conference Call September 12, 2006

AGENDA

- ACS Discussion with Lisa Blumerman and Debbie Griffin
- Agenda for Annual Meeting
- Reminders

The conference call was initiated with an introduction to the new Interim Chief of the Customer Liaison Office, Jeri Green.

ACS DISCUSSION

Lisa Blumerman and Debbie Griffin joined the call to discuss our needs for ACS training at the annual meeting. Bob Scardamalia suggested a minimum of a half-day was needed to address topics like, how to use, understand, and help the media with ACS. Users need to know when comparisons to Census 2000 are possible and how to recognize and explain anomalies in the data. Lisa Blumerman further suggested the best way to address user needs might be with a panel discussion rather than with a PowerPoint presentation. Debbie Griffin suggested that the SDC network should compile a list of questions to be addressed by the panel. In what areas were we as a network unprepared during the last two ACS releases? What training do we need? The Steering Committee will solicit input from the network.

Barbara Ronningen stressed that we need training that is beyond how to extract data from American FactFinder and the geographies receiving data in the 2005 ACS. When can we use comparisons? What are the pitfalls? Is it appropriate to make comparisons of household counts from Census 2000 to ACS? Is it possible to subtract the total for metropolitan areas from a state to derive quality measures on the non-metropolitan portion in a state?

Annette Watters mentioned the need for a discussion on statistical terminology. The formulas are not particularly useful to those without a statistics background, but the need for training exists on how to interpret these quality measures.

AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

ACS is already on the schedule in a couple of places on the draft agenda for the annual meeting. It was discussed to try to move things around to make enough time for the panel discussion on ACS rather than remove content from the agenda.

We need to identify participants for the CIC/SDC Show and Tell. It was suggested that we might be able to turn the case studies into show and tell sessions.

The federal agency topic tables will be conducted by SDC members with experience in the areas of Immigration Statistics (Barbara Ronningen), HUD (Richard Rathge), and BEA (Carol Rogers). There will be three concurrent sessions lasting around 15 minutes at which time users can move to another session.

CLO polled some of the registrants from the annual meeting on the possibility of touring the new building. However, considering the transportation and time required for a tour it will not be possible to fit it in.

REMINDERS

In anticipation of an increase in state SDC meetings as Census 2010 approaches, Renee Jefferson-Copeland would like to remind states to plan early if you would like someone from Census to attend. Please contact CLO with as much advance notice as possible to schedule arrangements.

Xan Wedel reported that a reminder email went out on Monday to remind leads that the polls are still open for the Steering Committee election. As of Monday, 24 states had cast a ballot. Polls will remain open until midnight on Tuesday, September 19, 2006.