

NATIONAL STATE DATA CENTER STEERING COMMITTEE

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

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

State Data Center (SDC) Steering Committee Conference Call with DMD March 2, 2010 2:00 pm EST

Participants:

Steering Committee:	Customer Liaison and Marketing Services Office (CLMSO):	Decennial Management Division (DMD):
Amy Bittner Pam Schenker Lenny Gaines Jane Traynham Chip Sawyer Julie Hoang Barbara Ronningen	Frank Ambrose Nelson Colón Barbara LaFleur	Jason Machowski Erin Love Kevin Deardorff Andrea Brinson Annette Davis Randall Neugebauer Guinevere Mills

The Steering Committee scheduled a conference call with Decennial Management Division to discuss the letter from the Director, dated January 13, 2010, in response to the Steering Committee's letter regarding the Census Bureau's Enhanced Planning Database system.

As per the response letter, the Census Bureau will be providing the SDCs with 3-year American Community Survey (ACS) data. The Steering Committee inquired as to how this extract differs from the 3-year data available in American FactFinder (AFF). It is no different than the tables found in AFF, however the extract has the data available in one location; therefore, a search through AFF is not needed. In comments from the SDC annual meeting, attendees said they really wanted more updated data in the Planning Database. Unfortunately, this will not happen due to the Census Bureau's workload at this time. According to DMD, uploading data to the database is not an easy task. The current system requires a reworking of the data set. Also, the timing of this extracted data presents a problem because the 2010 Census questionnaire will soon be coming out and outreach plans have already been made.

The Census Bureau's plan is to continue to maintain the Enhanced Planning Database system over the decade with other ACS data sets. The plan is also to put 5-year ACS data into the database, which will most likely be released post December 2010.

The Steering Committee inquired as to whether the system could include a mapping capability where a person can see the response rate and the Hard-to-Count (HTC) score for an area. For example, if an area has a low-response rate, it would be nice to see its HTC score. Unfortunately, there are no plans right now for mapping because DMD lacks the resources to seriously look into it. DMD wanted to know what geographies the SDCs would like to see in the mapping feature. Those that came to mind were: counties, places, census tracts, block groups, Minor Civil Division (MCDs), and block groups statewide. From DMD's perspective, one thing to consider is that as the geography area gets bigger, the HTC score becomes meaningless. In many cases a Highest Elected Official (HEO) just wants to see their area, not the HTC score for the entire census tract. Areas usually know the locations that are HTC, but want the numbers to back it up.

DMD wants to open up a continuous dialog with the SDCs. They saw the phone call as an opportunity to discuss what can be done now and what can be done in the future. DMD understands the Steering Committee's concerns regarding the current Enhanced Planning Database system, but resources and

time are currently limited. In planning for 2020, DMD would like to know what data would be useful. DMD wants to provide data that all states can use. The Steering Committee is pleased that DMD is opening the door for input, as the SDCs want to be involved in the planning process. For the next step, DMD wants to have an initial conversation before the end of the year, before the 5-year ACS data product is released. DMD and the Steering Committee will touch base in late summer or early fall. There is a possibility that DMD may meet with the Steering Committee at their June meeting at Census Bureau Headquarters.

Call adjourned 2:35 pm EST.