

## Todd Graham (MN)

I have worked for 19 years in the fields of applied research and government statistics – first at Minnesota DEED – the labor market research agency for Minnesota – and over the past decade as a regional economist and demographer at Metropolitan Council – a metro planning organization and a SDC coordinating agency. I’ve coordinated Census SDC Network activities for 10 years, and was the Council’s liaison for Census 2010 activities and geodata.

In the past, I’ve been a board member and 2004 annual conference chairman of the Labor Market Information Institute. Since 2014, I am a steering committee member of the SDC Network. Since 2015, I’m a member of the ACS Data Products Redesign Group, convened by Census Bureau and Population Reference Bureau.

Below are answers to the questions for candidates:

### *1) What do you think the primary role of the Steering Committee is or should be?*

The Steering Committee works to support access and use of Census Bureau’s products, to advise the Bureau of network agencies’ concerns and data needs, and to share best practices and value-added products and services created and offered by network member agencies.

The Steering Committee can do more to enable and lead knowledge exchange and best practices sharing within the national SDC network. We’ve taken small steps toward this expanded role, but more work is needed.

### *2) What would your primary goal(s) be as a member?*

My main interests are:

A. improving the relationship with all interested SDC members. This includes “non-lead” members who are very often outside the conversation. I invite the coordinating and affiliate members to contact steering committee members, when they need assistance, information or referral.

B. creating opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange with users of lesser-known Census products (CHAS, CTPP, LEHD/LODES) and with producers of related population and socioeconomic data – for example, state and metro population estimates and population forecasts.

C. promoting follow-through on the ideas and work plans discussed in Steering Committee meetings and with Census Bureau staff.

### *3) What is your vision for the SDC network for 2019 and beyond?*

Census Bureau imagines the SDC network as a distributed network of “retailers” for Census Bureau products. We are that... We can also be a network for knowledge exchange and professional development of population data experts. We can do this through web-based resources, webinars, and peer exchange meetings.

### *4) What do you think the SDC network can do to add value to Census data?*

There are already great research and data shops within the SDC network that are variously involved in presentation and online data access tools, value-added analysis, and data repackaging. Again, I want the Network to be a space for knowledge exchange and best practices sharing.