

Alfred Sundara, Maryland

1) Brief biography.

Alfred Sundara is the Manager of Projections and State Data Center, he coordinates the activities of the Maryland State Data Center with the Census Bureau and provides training on specific census related topics. He also oversees the development of socioeconomic and school enrollment projections the department produces. Mr. Sundara has over 15 years' experience working in Pennsylvania and Maryland. He previously worked for the Harrisburg Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) where he oversaw travel demand modeling and air quality analysis for the MPO. He is a certified planner with the American Planning Association and has a master's degree in Regional and Community Planning from Kansas State University.

I've been working for the Maryland State Data Center (MSDC) for over five years. I like to do data analysis, looking at trends and see what the data is indicating and why certain things are happening and passing the information to the people who make policy decisions. I've been actively involved with the FSCPE and FSCPP.

2) What goals or special perspective would you bring as a Steering Committee member?

I work for a State government department and would be able to share my experience from that perspective, regarding what data the people who formulate policy are looking for and how we can provide specific data. I would like to closely work with the Census Bureau and provide feedback on new products and how to disseminate data. We here at the MSDC are actively involved with the 2020 Census activities, as we are muddling our way through various requirements like Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA), Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) and the Complete Count Committee, I'd share my experience or lessons learned with the Steering Committee members.

3) What is your vision for the SDC network and our partnership with the Census Bureau?

One thing I would like to see is have data available in dashboards where the user can access the data interactively and create visualizations like charts or graphs. As the lead for MSDC, I've presented to various educational institutes and at conferences about Census data products, I've always got feedback saying we aren't aware this type of data existed, I would like to work with the Census Bureau to provide outreach for the various products they have available.

4) What can the SDC network do to add value for the data-using public?

The SDC network is platform where we can bounce ideas and get guidance through the listserv before responding when someone at an SDC receives a specific request they haven't worked on before. We use data daily, we can share our best practices so we can provide the data users the data they are looking for efficiently.