

Erica Gardner, Washington

1) Brief biography.

Ms. Gardner works for the population unit within the Forecasting and Research Division at Washington State's Office of Financial Management. She has been the lead contact for Washington's SDC since 2009. In addition to fielding general census questions from the public, she helps those in state government understand and interpret census data that is needed to inform state budget and policy deliberations. She supports various decennial census based forecast and estimate projects within the population unit.

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

With Disclosure Avoidance methodologies threatening the quality of census data for the next decade, I think it is important to have people on the Steering Committee with knowledge of the many state and local applications of census data. With over a decade of experience as an SDC lead, I can communicate state and local data needs and provide feedback from my unit's experience participating in various Census Bureau programs and from working with state and local users of census data.

The perspective I would bring is that of someone who has worked for an agency that has been a long term participant of both the SDC and FSCPE networks. We rely heavily on Census Bureau data to produce our annual population estimates, county level growth management projections, and state level race projections. We also have a MOU with the Census Bureau to share all the municipal boundary changes that occur within the state. Other state agencies look to us for advice on how to use the ACS for their budget and planning needs.

My agency has also been very involved in planning for and promoting the 2020 Census. We have been involved in promoting and responding to the various 2020 Census geography programs, including the LUCA, PSAP, New Construction, BAS, and Count Review programs. In addition, my unit has also provided support for Washington State's Statewide Complete Count Committee and the State Agency Complete Count Committee.

3) What aspects of the SDC program do you value most?

As an SDC member, I have the opportunity to talk to the Census Bureau program experts and get answers to the questions that I or my affiliate members have about census data and programs. I get to serve as an ambassador, sharing the information that I learn through the SDC program with others.