

NATIONAL STATE DATA CENTER STEERING COMMITTEE

Bob Coats (NC), *Chair*
Gregg Bell (AL), *Co-Chair*
Mallory Bateman (UT), *Co-Secretary*
Jennifer Shultz (PA), *Co-Secretary*

*Representing a Network of 1,800
State Data Centers and Affiliates Nationwide*

Mary Craigle (MT)
Erica Gardner (WA)
Michael Moser (VT)
Suzan Reagan (NM)
Pam Schenker (FL)

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

State Data Center (SDC) Steering Committee Conference Call, August 11, 2020

<i>State Data Center Steering Committee</i>	<i>Customer Liaison and Marketing Services Office (CLMSO):</i>	<i>Census Information Centers (CIC) Steering Committee</i>
<i>Bob Coats</i> <i>Mallory Bateman</i> <i>Jennifer Shultz</i> <i>Mary Craigle</i>	<i>Erica Gardner</i> <i>Suzan Reagan</i> <i>Pam Schenker</i>	<i>Brittany Pritchett</i>

On this call are Steering Committee members and Brittany Pritchett

- Many CLMSO staff are unavailable
- Thank you to Brittany for setting up the skype call quickly
- We're all trying to stay on top of all the developments and inform our local partners.

CQR Federal Register Notice

- Erica asked if the Steering Committee should take action in response to the notice
- Need to work with local governments so they understand differential privacy and how it will affect counts
- Bob sent out notice to NC league of cities and counties, told them to pay attention – he will share with the committee.
- How are local governments going to challenge on this when the only vehicles are housing units and group quarters counts? And currently we are being told person per household data will not be available.

Reaction to shortened timeline

- New Mexico response rates very low and behind 2010 rates due to tribal area closures because of COVID-19 – tribal members often feel they are not counted
- Concerns about rural communities – some had no NRFU because of COVID-19 or minimal because of shortened timeline compounded with the differential privacy
- In Montana, 3 tribal areas just shut down again, fully locked down.
- Last update leave packet delivered last week.
- In some rural areas residents have not received initial packets
- What is the impact of this on redistricting if there is a serious undercount
- Difficulty getting to group quarters with shortened timeline, rural concerns and COVID?
 - Colleges/Universities
 - 60% responded but Census cannot provide who hasn't responded
 - Off campus students were not there in March and may not come back or if they do they may be in different location
 - Nursing Homes may be difficult to count because of COVID and access to internet
 - How will DP effect quality of data?
- We're all aware there are many concerns and the Census Bureau is working hard to complete it's work even though there are many obstacles

- We should provide some guidance to the network on how to move forward and what can be done at the local level – Bob will develop a draft for the committee to edit – some items to include
 - NRFU has started
 - Census needs to protect confidentiality – don't want reporters following Census workers
 - Census workers are out going door-to-door with protective equipment
 - Encourage people to Be Counted safely – online and phone
 - It was noted that phone was the least used, but it is the most available and safe
 - Provide information about avoiding scams
- We should also promote our work within the network and to Census – we have stepped in to fill a gap
- When providing feedback/concerns it is recommended to contact Director Dillingham, Secretary Ross, and congressional delegations.

Response to shortened timeline

- House Oversight committee requested Census Bureau officials to testify
- The case in New York has been moved to 3-judge panel
- There is a possibility that Republicans might include some extension of timeline in a relief package
- Erica mentioned that interviews with Census Bureau officials don't seem to have happened yet

Media coverage of Steering Committee letter

- Thanks to Bob for drafting the letter and his interaction with the New York Times
- There may be consequences to the program because of the media coverage
- The NY Times article is on the Clearinghouse site linked to the letter
- Pam will link additional articles

Will need to shift to “What worked/What didn't work?”

- Document the work of the SDC network during the 2020 Census
- What questions could be added?
 - Change the gender question
 - Do you own a second home? Where is it?
- This is a long-term project

Which states will be affected by delay in release of redistricting data?

- NCSL collected information and reported here <https://www.ncsl.org/research/redistricting/2020-census-delays-and-the-impact-on-redistricting-637261879.aspx>
- Additional information here <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/how-changes-2020-census-timeline-will-impact-redistricting>

How will state administrative data be used

- The Census Bureau proposed using statistical sampling in the 2000 Census to address the “undercount”. The Supreme Court ruled that statistical sampling could not be used for congressional apportionment - <https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/525/326>
- Here is an ACS presentation on using administrative data <https://www.census.gov/data/academy/webinars/2020/acs-administrative-record-research.html>

Agenda items for the October meeting

- Not just a recap of timeline changes but how operationally these changes are being carried out
- How is NRFU being handled in a COVID environment

How is NRFU going in HTC communities - tribal areas, rural areas, group quarters

How does shortened deadlines impact the thoroughness of NRFU

- Some areas have not received Census materials |

How was the Update/Leave operation handled during COVID

Though ACOs may have been opened were field operations limited in some areas due to COVID

- What's the Census Bureau's assessment of the quality/completeness of 2020 data collection
- What is the Census Bureau doing to tabulate and report reliable data to meet preCOVID delivery dates
- What is the methodology for clearing up the count of student populations between April/May responses and August/September responses and any mobile populations during collection
- What administrative records are being used to supplement data collections

How complete are the state submission

- Data.census.gov

Changes in geographic reporting are "buggy"

What geographic and functional features does the Bureau plan to have in place for the release of 2020 data

- Differential Privacy

Are the September and December deadlines for epsilon budget still in place

How can local governments make CQR challenges against DP population numbers

Call ended at 4:1 pm