

An Introduction to the State Data Center (SDC) Program

For the State Data Center National Boot Camp

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What is the State Data Center Program?

- Partnership between the Census Bureau and the states
- Network of data users who provide data assistance locally
- Local support for Census Bureau programs
- Source of feedback on statistics and programs
- Source of feedback about data users' needs and operational issues

SDC's Joint Working Relationship

- Memorandum of Agreement
 - <http://www.census.gov/sdc/genmoa.pdf>
- Premier Local Partner
- Official Source of Census Bureau Data

SDC Program History

1978 – The Census Bureau establishes the State Data Center Network with four states – Alabama, Arizona, Louisiana, and North Carolina.

1980 Census – Most statistical data available from the census was in machine-readable format.

1990s – CD-ROM technology reduces the need for external data processing.

2000 Census – Most statistics from the census were made available on the Internet, which changed the emphasis for SDCs from data disseminators to local contacts and experts.

2005 – The elimination of the Long-Form Census Questionnaire and the full implementation of the American Community Survey (ACS) foster a new emphasis of SDC training and education on Census Bureau products and data, which now include ACS Statistics.

2010 Census – With the development of Census Data Visualization, the Census Data Application Programming Interface (API) and the use of Social Media, the SDCs, CICs, and many other Census Partnerships are now empowered to reach data users in a great number of ways.

State Data Center Program

- **Operational Authority**

- **Title 13 –**

https://www.census.gov/history/www/reference/privacy_confidentiality/title_13_us_code.html

- **Title 26 –**

https://www.census.gov/history/www/reference/privacy_confidentiality/title_26_us_code_1.html

Critical SDC Program Materials

- **Strategic Plan** –

http://www2.census.gov/about/partners/sdc/resources/strategic_plan.pdf

- **Guidelines** –

<http://www2.census.gov/about/partners/sdc/resources/guidelines.pdf>

SDC Network Structure

- 56 Lead SDCs
- SDC Steering Committee
- State Data Center Individual Network
 - Coordinating Agencies
 - The number of coordinating agencies is determined by the lead; usually 1-3 per state
 - Affiliate Agencies
 - Each state has a number of affiliates commensurate with their states population

Business and Industry Data Center Network (BIDC)

- Network within a network focused on economic data
- Size and Participation in BIDC
- Relationship between the SDC and the BIDC program

Who are the State Data Centers?

SDC network member organizations include:

- State Government Offices
- Local Government Offices
- Universities
- State Libraries
- Chambers of Commerce
- Policy Institutes

SDC Network Program Administration

SDC STEERING COMMITTEE

- **9 Person Steering Committee** – The Steering Committee is made up of 9 seats of elected individuals from the network of States and Territories.
- **Each elected to a three-year term** – Each seat on the committee is elected to a three-year term and allowed to serve two consecutive terms before rotating off the committee.
- **Steering Committee Officers** – A Steering Committee Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Co-Secretaries are elected by the newly Elected Steering Committee during the first Steering Committee Meeting prior to the Annual Conference.
- **Tree State Representative Structure** – Each seat on the committee is assigned six or seven state networks to facilitate communication to the Steering Committee or to CLMSO.

Annual Meeting and Annual Report

- **ANNUAL MEETING** (State Data Center User Conference) – Although it is not required, each State Data Center network is strongly encouraged to have an Annual Meeting.
- **ANNUAL REPORT** – The Annual Report is an extremely important process to be completed by each State Data Center Network each year.
 - **Annual Report Form** – This is a set of questions that are divided into sections that are meant to determine how an SDC network has performed over the previous calendar year.
 - **CLMSO's Role** – Annually, CLMSO will start the process by announcing that the Annual Report Form is ready for completion and submission.
 - **Surveying Your Network** – Each lead agency is responsible for surveying their network affiliates to obtain much of the data to fill out the online form.

Census Bureau Mission Statement

The Census Bureau serves as the leading source of quality data about the nation's people and economy. We honor privacy, protect confidentiality, share our expertise globally, and conduct our work openly. We are guided on this mission by our strong and capable workforce, our readiness to innovate, and our abiding commitment to our customers.

How Does The Census Bureau Equip The SDCs For Their Role As Data Disseminators?

- Embargo access
- Training
- Access to subject-matter experts
- Full-time staff
- Presentations for your meetings
- Notifications from the Bureau

Census Bureau Resources

- **Special Online Resource**
 - **The Census Bureau Webpage** – This webpage (<https://www.census.gov/about/partners/sdc.html>) is part of the Census.gov website and includes all of the information about the State Data Center Program:
 - ❑ SDC Program Guidelines (Operational Manual)
 - ❑ SDC Strategic Plan
 - ❑ The Census Depository Library (CDL) Program
 - ❑ Link to the Census Information Centers (CIC) Program
 - ❑ DataFerrett
 - ❑ Link to the logon for the SDC secure website

State Data Center Mission Statement

To provide efficient access to U.S. Census Bureau data and data products, provide training and technical assistance to data users, and provide a mechanism for feedback to the Census Bureau on data usability, state and local government data needs, data users needs and operational issues.

SDC Network Resources

- **What are the SDC Resources for a SDC Lead Agency?**
 - **Online Resources**
 - **SDC Clearinghouse Website** – This website (<https://sdcclearinghouse.wordpress.com>) is maintained by the National SDC Steering Committee:
 - SDC Network Presentations
 - Map of SDC Tools
 - Steering Committee Meetings
 - Links to SDC Webinars
 - **SDC Facebook Site** – This website (<https://www.facebook.com/censusSDC>) is also self-maintained by the entities within and related to the SDC Network.

SDC/Census Bureau Personnel

- **What are the SDC Resources for an SDC Lead Agency?**
 - **Personnel Resources**
 - **SDC Steering Committee Tree State Representative** – Every SDC Lead Agency has a designated Tree State Representative who can be contacted for any issue related to SDC activity.
 - **Customer Liaison and Marketing Services Office (CLMSO-DUB)** – The Data Users Branch of CLMSO is dedicated to the assistance of SDC lead agencies in the operation of their member networks.
 - **Direct Contact with Other SDC Lead Agencies** – As the State Data Center program is a network of lead and affiliate agencies it is encouraged that these agencies network with each other.
 - **Berkeley Listserv** – The Berkeley Listserv is a dedicated e-mail listing, managed by the University of California Berkeley, which allows SDC network members to have discussions among themselves or to post questions that other network members can answer.
 - **Partnership and Communication with Your Data Dissemination Specialist (DDS)** – It is also important to communicate and partner with the Data Dissemination Specialist.

Expectations

- **What is expected from the SDC Lead Agency?**
 - **Provide administration for your network to the best of your ability**
 - **Work to fulfill your obligation to the MOA** – As a signatory of the MOA, you are obligated to fulfill your responsibilities to the SDC/Census Bureau partnership.
 - **Be attentive and responsive to your network of affiliates** – One of the simplest ways of being successful is to pay attention and be responsive to affiliate needs and/or feedback.
 - **Communicate with your Steering Committee, CLMSO, DDS, etc.** – In communicating issues of concern to your support resources, these concerns can be examined and appropriately handled to find a solution that works for all, if possible.
 - **Be an advocate for the Census Bureau and its products and data** – Primarily, the State Data Center partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau was created not only as a partnership for data and product dissemination, but also as an advocating resource for Census Bureau data and products.

State Data Center Program

QUESTIONS?