

# American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review

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# Background

The 2014 ACS Content Review builds upon earlier efforts begun during the comprehensive ACS Program Review to...

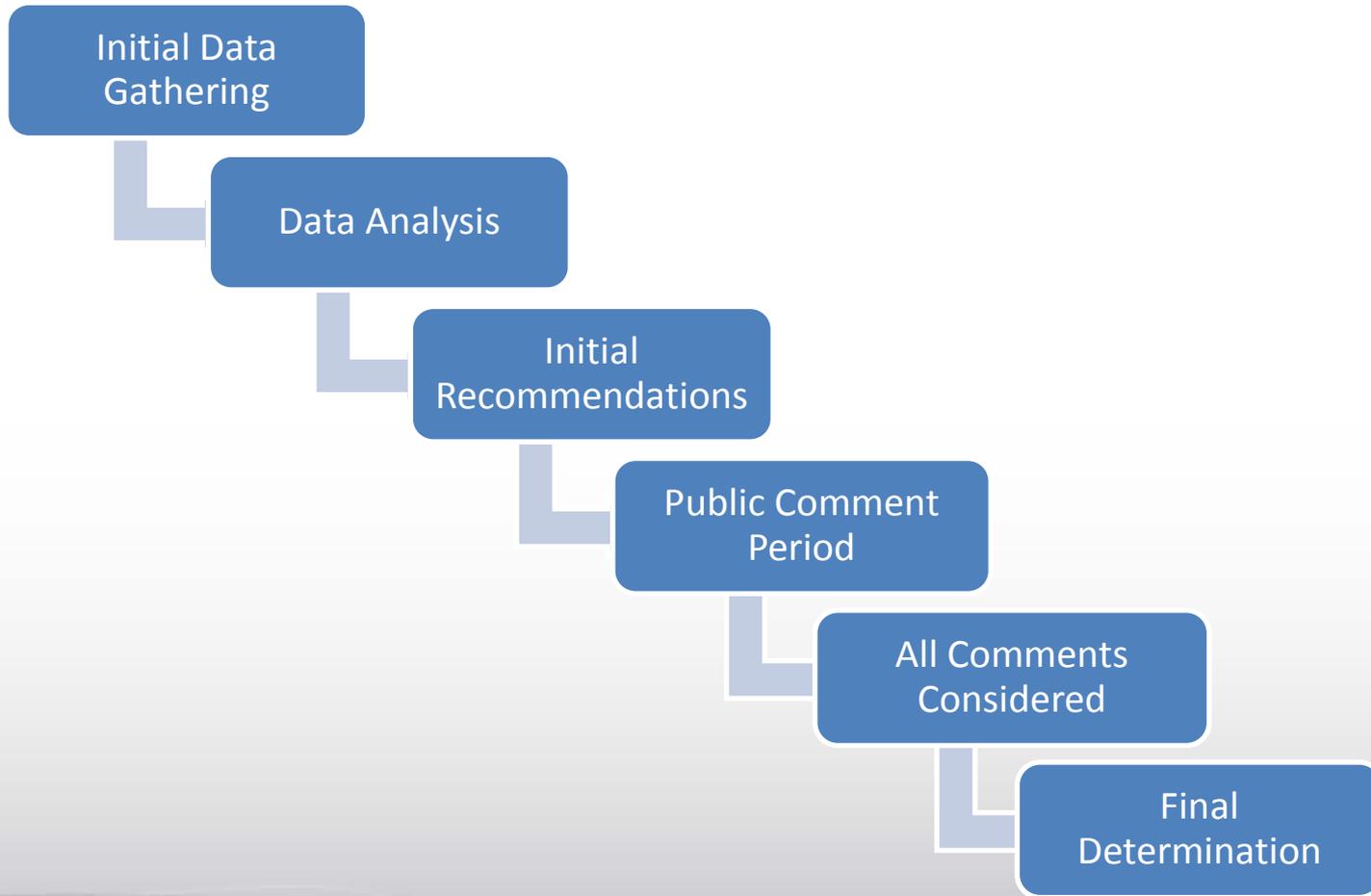
- Examine and confirm the value of each ACS question
- Confirm and update the legal basis for questions
- Gather input from federal agencies and other data users
- Analyze data using pre-specified criteria established by the ACS Subcommittee of the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP)
- **Develop recommendations for ACS content that will provide the most useful information with the least amount of burden to the public**

# Project Scope & Phases

**Scope:** All questions (and subparts) currently on the 2013 ACS Questionnaire

- **Phase I** – assess full survey content and identify questions for removal in 2016 survey year
- **Phase II** – assess availability of other sources
- **Phase III** – research modifications to existing questions

# Phase 1 Process



# Inputs

Federal Inputs	Other Inputs
Letter from the acting Deputy Secretary of Commerce to federal agencies informing them of Content Review	Survey of over 1,000 Field and Call Center Representatives
Department of Commerce Office of General Counsel (OGC) Letter to agency OGCs	Website tool to collect input on questions from non-federal data users
Spring Summit with 23 federal agencies to develop understanding of purpose, process, and desired outcomes for Content Review	National Advisory Committee Content Review Working Group provided input on data use and ACS questions
Dedicated extranet site to collect input on questions from all federal agencies	

# National Advisory Committee ACS Content Review Working Group

## Process of the Working Group

- Members met weekly from May – July 2014
- Members used data collection tool to examine ACS questions by major topic categories – social, economic, financial, and physical
- Gave input on needed survey questions based on specific data usage

## Results of the Working Group

- Presented feedback to the full NAC Committee on August 6, 2014 via webinar

# What drives our analysis?

## LEGAL

- Mandatory – a federal law explicitly calls for use of decennial census or ACS data on that question
- Required – a federal law (or implementing regulation) explicitly requires the use of data and the decennial or the ACS is the historical source; or the data are needed for case law requirements imposed by the U.S. federal court system
- Programmatic – the data are needed for program planning, implementation, or evaluation and there is no explicit mandate or requirement

## GEOGRAPHY

- Block Group/Tract Level
- Place/County/MSA Level
- State/Nation Level

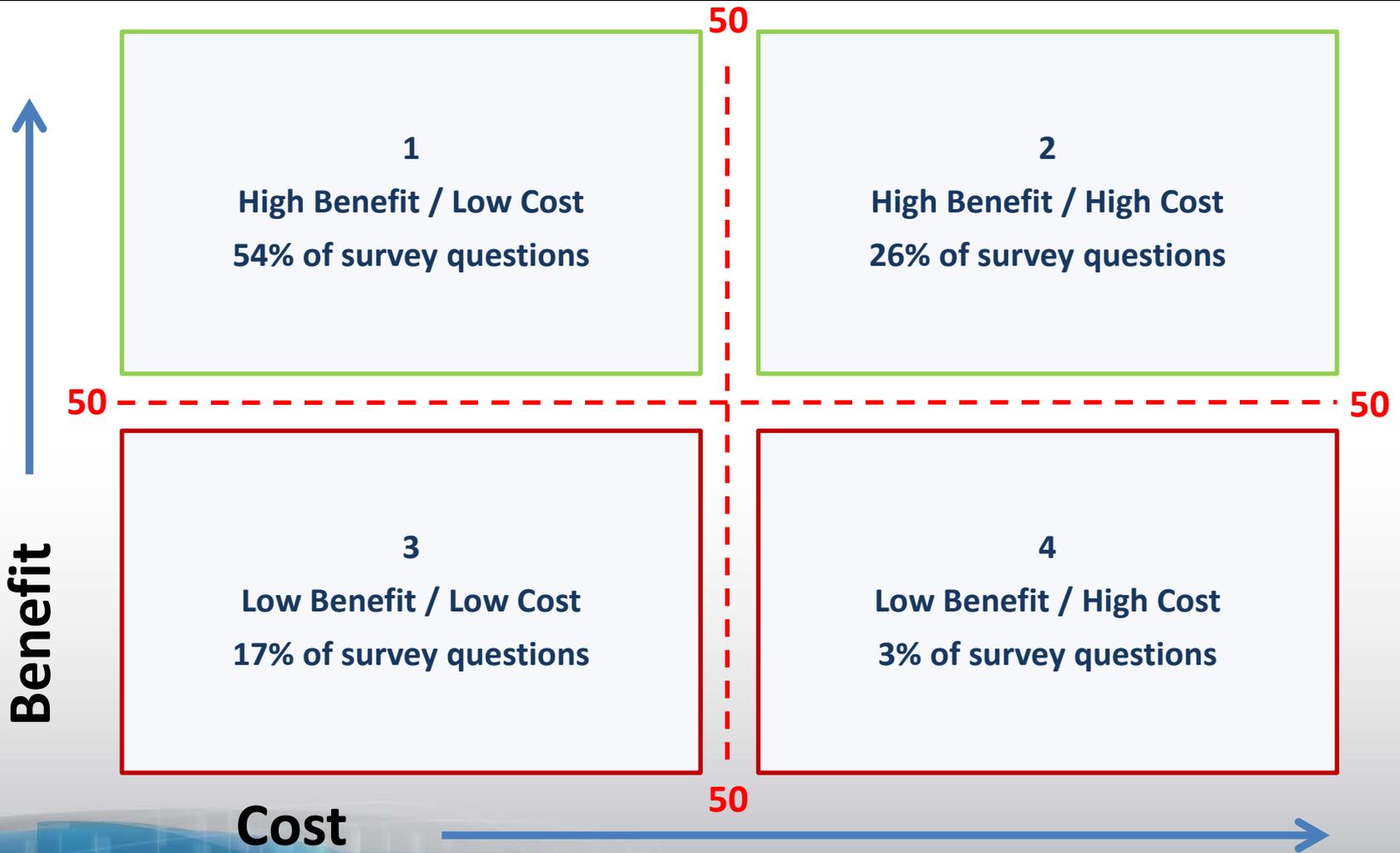
# Examining Benefits

1. Uses at Block Group/Tract Level-Mandatory
2. Uses at Place/County/MSA Level-Mandatory
3. Uses at State/Nation Level-Mandatory
4. Uses at Block Group/Tract Level-Required
5. Uses at Place/County/MSA Level-Required
6. Uses at State/Nation Level-Required
7. Uses at Block Group/Tract Level-Programmatic
8. Uses at Place/County/MSA Level-Programmatic
9. Uses at State/Nation Level-Programmatic
10. County-Level Interquartile Range in Values
11. Used to Select Frame for a Federal Survey
12. Other Data Sources Exist
13. Median County-Level Coefficients of Variation

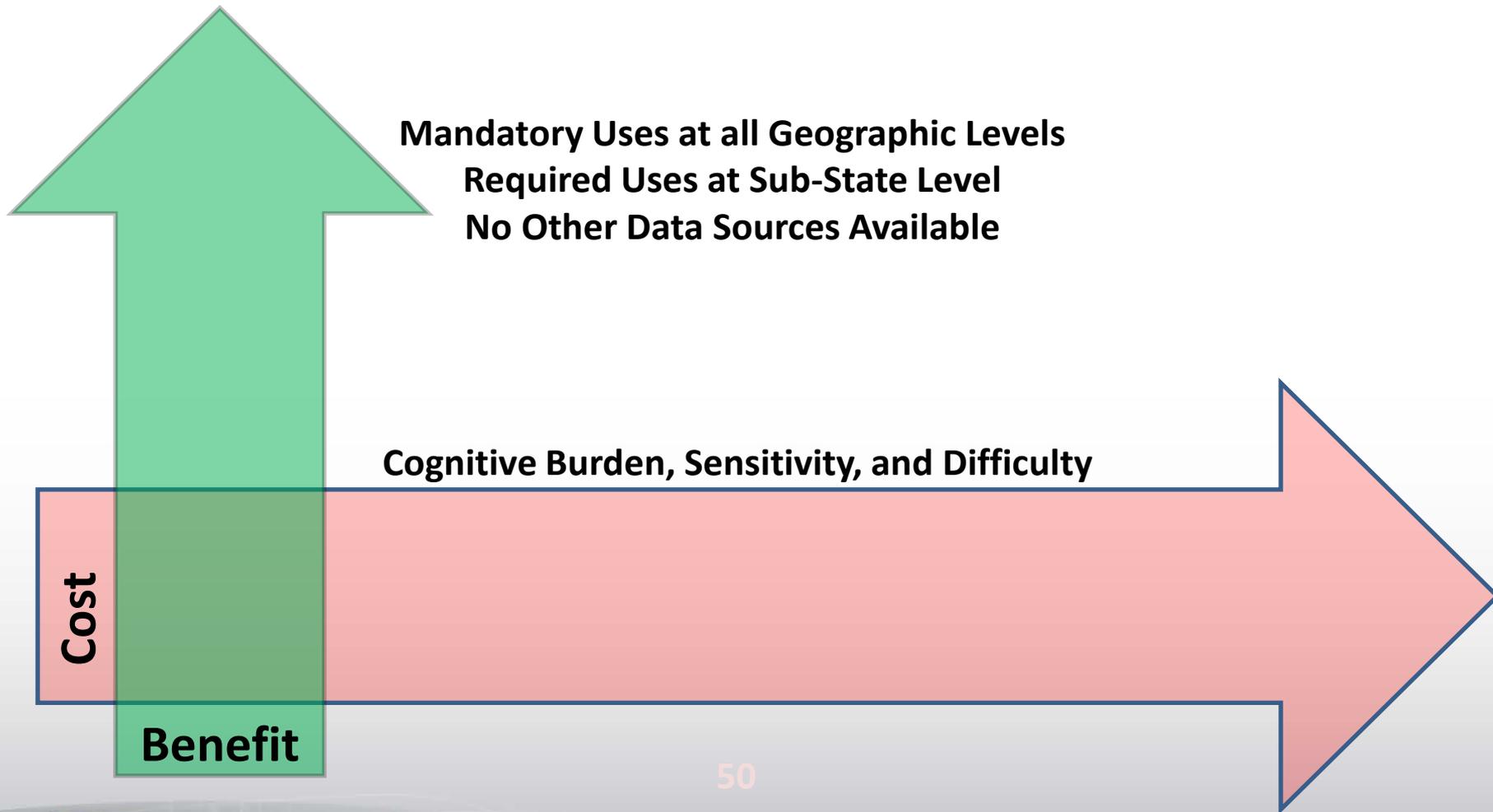
# Examining Costs

1. Cognitive Burden Score
  2. Sensitivity Score
  3. Overall Difficulty Score
  4. Number of Complaints to Census Bureau HQ
  5. Median Seconds to Answer
  6. Median County-Level item Response Rate
- Interviewer Survey

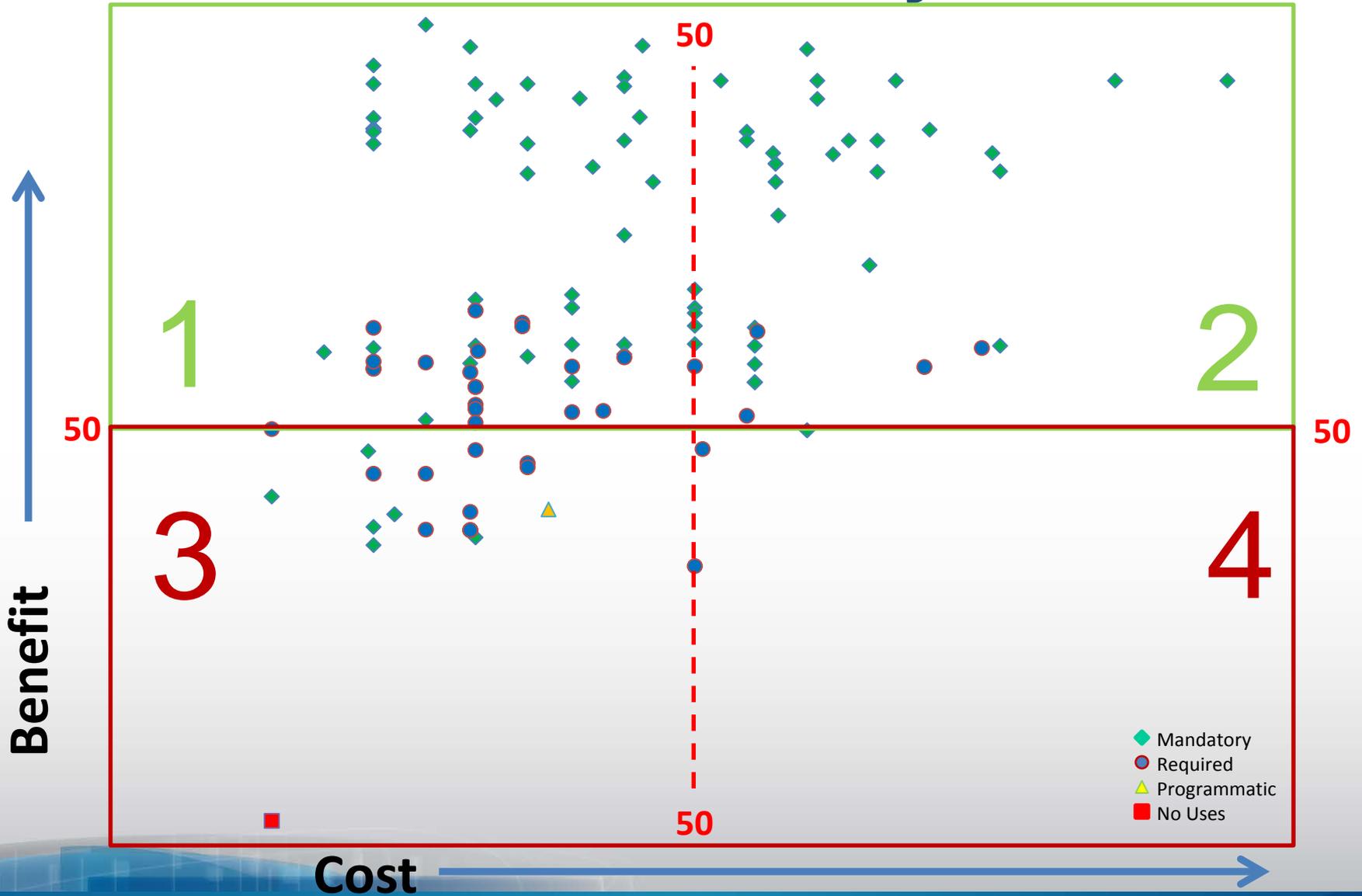
# Quadrant Analysis



# Driving Factor for Benefits and Costs

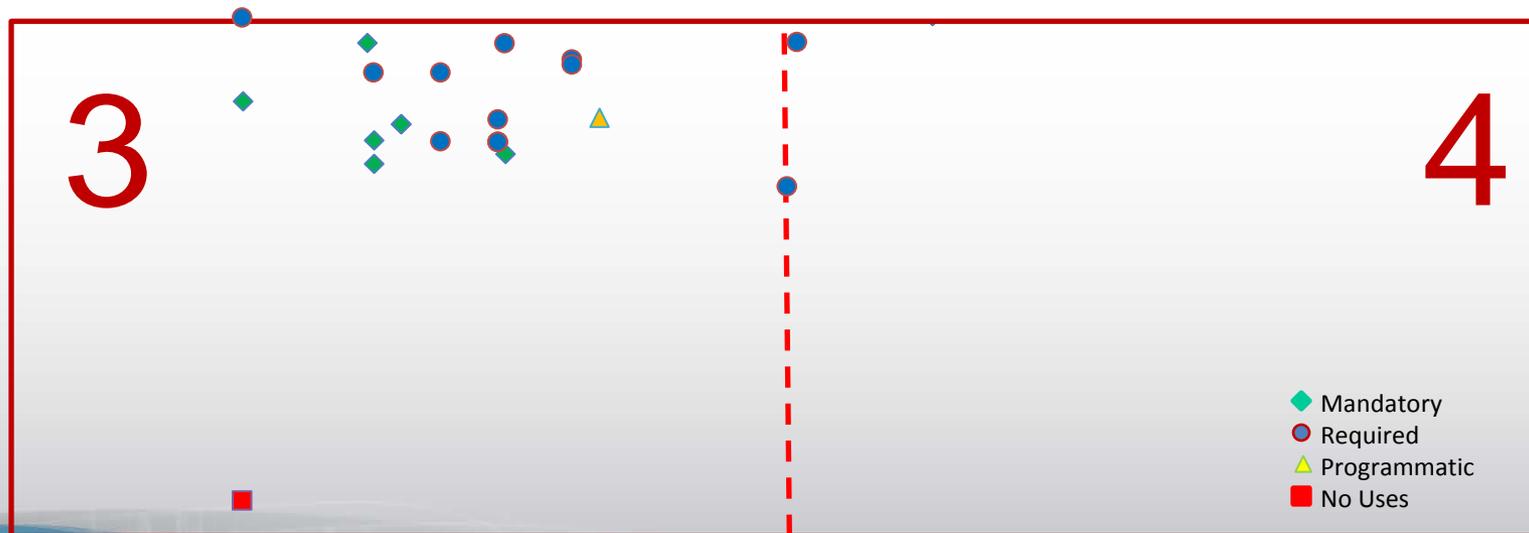


# Quadrant Analysis



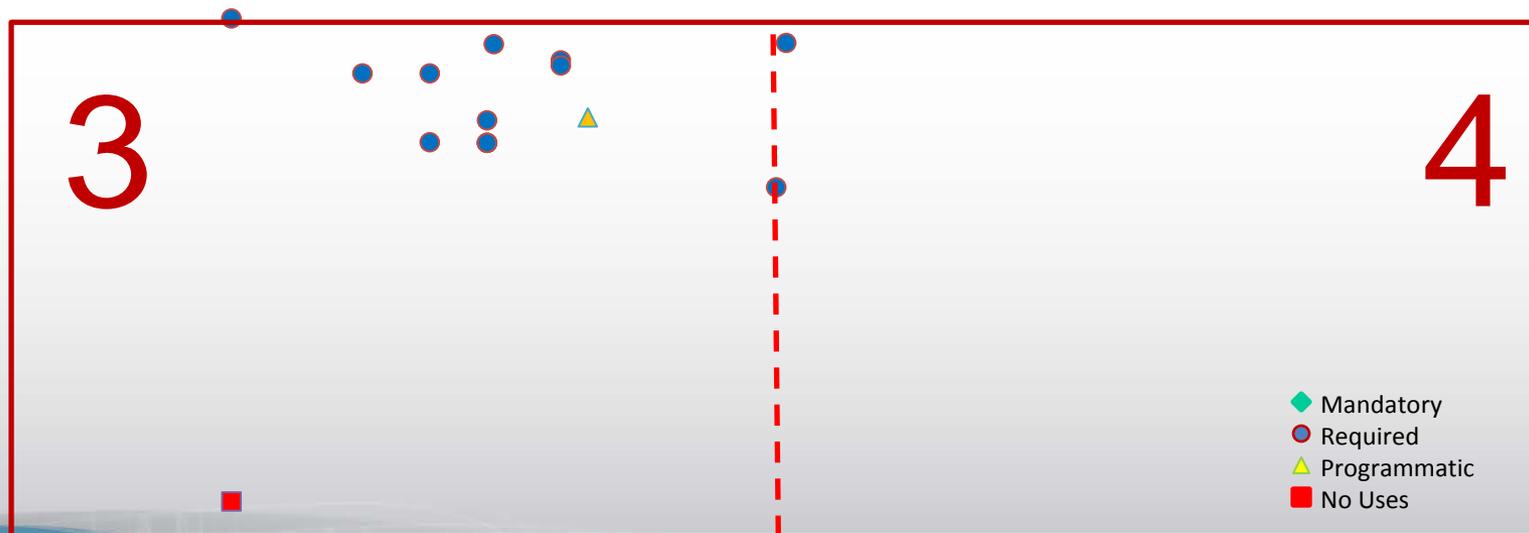
# Quadrants 3 & 4 Analysis

- Begin with full array of M, R, P, and X (no uses)
- Exclude M from consideration for removal
- Exclude R with Sub-state Uses from consideration for removal



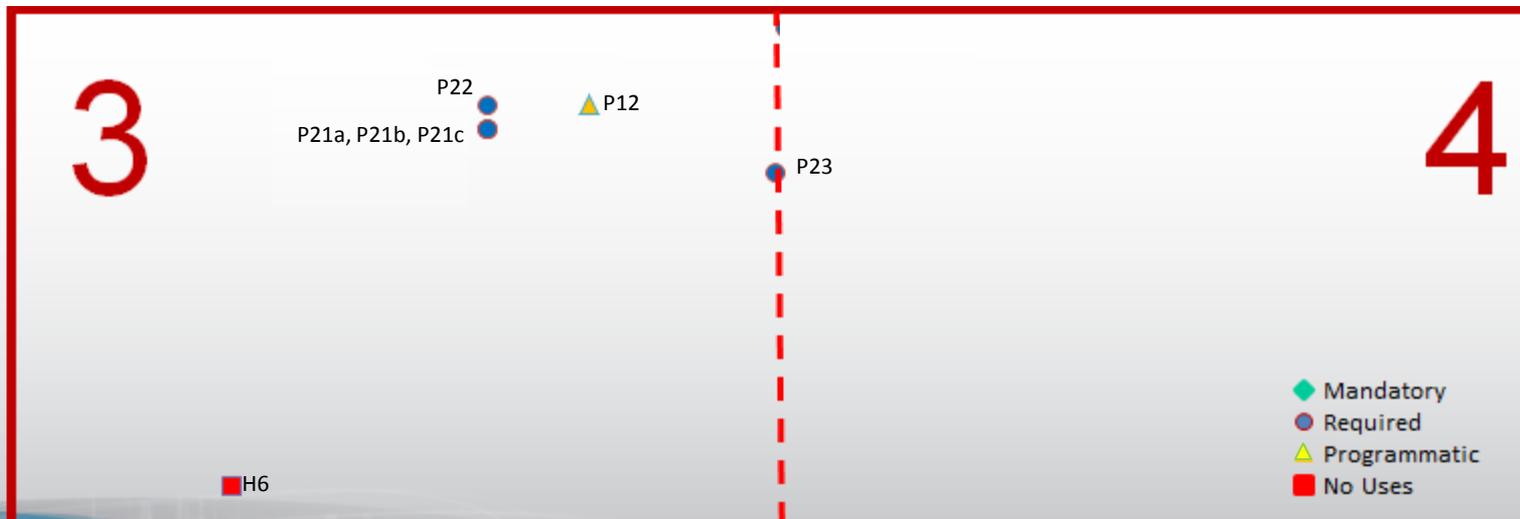
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# Attributes of Candidates for Removal

Attribute	Agency Impacted/Comments	Other Agencies with Programmatic Uses
<b>No Uses</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H6 – Business/Medical Office on Property (X)</li> </ul>	No current agency uses; supports comparative estimates	N/A
<b>No M and No R Uses</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>P12 – Undergraduate Field of Degree (P)</li> </ul>	NSF – used to target sampling frame for National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG); also supports STEM migration analyses	EPA, NTIA, HHS, DOL, DOT, EEOC
<b>No M and No R Uses at Block Group/Tract Level or Place/County/MSA Level</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>P21a – Get Married (R)</li> <li>P21b – Get Widowed (R)</li> <li>P21c – Get Divorced (R)</li> <li>P22 – Times Married (R)</li> <li>P23 – Year Last Married (R)</li> </ul>	SSA – State-level actuarial targeting	FCC, NSF, HHS, EEOC FCC, NSF, HHS, EEOC FCC, NSF, HHS, EEOC FCC, NSF, HHS FCC, NSF, HHS

# Stay Involved!

- **View the ACS Content Review Web Page:**

[http://www.census.gov/acs/www/about\\_the\\_survey/acs\\_content\\_review/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/about_the_survey/acs_content_review/)

- **Sign up for GovDelivery ACS Subscriber Notices:**

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCENSUS/subscriber/new>

- **Review *Federal Register* Notice**

- **60-day notice planned for mid-October to mid-December**

# Questions for Discussion

Now that you have seen what the ACS Content Review Working Group has provided, we want members to consider the following questions...

- 1. Were the results what you expected?**
- 2. Are there any topics you feel still need to be addressed?**
- 3. What would you like to happen in the next steps of the Content Review?**

# Questions?